

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

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January 6, 1995

**DRAFT AGENDA**  
**116th Plenary Session**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**January 10-15, 1995**  
**Hilton Hotel**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Tuesday, January 10, 1995 (beginning at 10:30 a.m.) and convene their normal plenary session at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 1995, at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. Other meetings to be held during the week are:

Committee/Panel

Beginning

Observer Oversight Committee	10:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 8
Advisory Panel	8:00 a.m., Monday, Jan. 9
Scientific and Statistical Committee	10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 9
Industry IFQ Implementation Team	6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9
Enforcement Committee	6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11

All meetings except Council executive sessions are open to the public. Other committee and workgroup meetings may be scheduled on short notice during the week. All meetings will be held at the hotel unless otherwise noted.

## INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Those wishing to testify before the Council on a specific agenda item must fill out a registration card at the registration table **before** public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional cards are generally not accepted **after** public comment has begun. A general comment period is scheduled toward the end of the meeting, time permitting, for comment on matters not on the current agenda.

Submission of Written Testimony During Council Meeting. Any written comments and materials provided during a meeting for distribution to Council members **should be provided to the Council secretary. A minimum of 18 copies is needed to ensure that every Council member, the executive director, NOAA General Counsel and the official meeting record each receive a copy.** While we try to accommodate requests for copying, we cannot guarantee availability of staff. Some agenda items may have a formal, published deadline for written comments. For those items, written comments submitted after the published deadline or at the Council meeting, other than simple transcripts of oral testimony, will be stamped "LATE COMMENT." They will not be summarized or analyzed in preparation for the Council meeting, nor will they be placed in Council member notebooks. All "LATE COMMENTS" will be placed in a special notebook, marked as such, and made available to Council members upon their request. Information on testifying before the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee is found on the next page.

### FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE ADVISORY PANEL

The Advisory Panel has revised its operating guidelines to incorporate a strict time management approach to its meetings. Rules for testimony before the Advisory Panel have been developed which are similar to those used by the Council. Members of the public wishing to testify before the AP must sign up on the list for each topic listed on the agenda. Sign-up sheets are provided in a special notebook located at the back of the room. The deadline for registering to testify is when the agenda topic comes before the AP. The time available for individual and group testimony will be based on the number registered and determined by the AP Chairman. The AP may not take public testimony on items for which they will not be making recommendations to the Council.

### FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

The usual practice is for the SSC to call for public comment immediately following the staff presentation on each agenda item. In addition, the SSC will designate a time, normally at the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of the SSC meeting, when members of the public will have the opportunity to present testimony on any agenda item. The Committee will discourage testimony that does not directly address the technical issues of concern to the SSC, and presentations lasting more than ten minutes will require prior approval from the Chair.

### COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

<b>ABC</b>	Acceptable Biological Catch	<b>MMPA</b>	Marine Mammal Protection Act
<b>AP</b>	Advisory Panel	<b>MSY</b>	Maximum Sustainable Yield
<b>ADF&amp;G</b>	Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	<b>mt</b>	Metric tons
<b>BSAI</b>	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands	<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>CDQ</b>	Community Development Quota	<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm.
<b>CRP</b>	Comprehensive Rationalization Program	<b>NPFMC</b>	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
<b>EA/RIR</b>	Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review	<b>OY</b>	Optimum Yield
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone	<b>POP</b>	Pacific ocean perch
<b>FMP</b>	Fishery Management Plan	<b>PSC</b>	Prohibited Species Catch
<b>GOA</b>	Gulf of Alaska	<b>SAFE</b>	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document
<b>IPHC</b>	International Pacific Halibut Commission	<b>SSC</b>	Scientific and Statistical Committee
<b>ITAC</b>	Initial Total Allowable Catch	<b>TAC</b>	Total Allowable Catch
<b>MFCMA</b>	Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act		

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**116th Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
January 10-15, 1995\*  
Hilton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**\*NOTE: The Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on January 10.**

	<u>Estimated Hours</u>
A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER	
(a) Approval of Agenda.	•
(b) Approve minutes of previous meeting(s).	•
B. REPORTS	
B-1 Executive Director's Report	•
B-2 NMFS Management Report (includes status of amendments and regulatory actions)	• (1 hour for A/B items)
C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS	
C-1 <u>Halibut Charterboats</u> Committee report. Decide next steps.	(3 hours)
C-2 <u>Comprehensive Rationalization Plan</u> Review available information on implementation, administration and enforcement costs.	(3 hours)
C-3 <u>Inshore-Offshore Allocations and CDQs</u> Progress report on development of analysis.	(3 hours)
C-4 <u>Seamount Fisheries</u> Initial review of regulatory changes to monitor/manage seamount fisheries.	(1 hour)
C-5 <u>Sablefish and Halibut IFOs</u> (a) Implementation Team Report. (b) Final review of exclusion of CDQ compensation from block requirements and final review of one-time transfer of CDQ compensation.	(3 hours)
C-6 <u>State Oil and Gas Lease Sale</u> Comment on proposed sale.	(.5 hours)
C-7 <u>Observer Plan</u> (a) Observer Oversight Committee report. (b) Discuss issue of observer training and minority hire.	(2 hours)

- C-8 International Fisheries ( 1 hour)  
Status report. Develop comments on Law of the Sea.
  
- D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS
  
- D-1 Scallop Management (2 hours)  
Review proposed rule for fishery management plan, including issues of management jurisdiction over vessels not registered with the State of Alaska, crab bycatch limits, and inclusion in the Council's observer fee plan.
  
- D-2 Groundfish Amendments
  - (a) Grid Sorting (2 hours)  
Initial review of regulatory amendment requiring grid sorting.
  
  - (b) Crab Bycatch Issues (3 hours)  
Review bycatch issues involving king and Tanner crab and determine next steps.
  
  - (c) Salmon Bycatch (5 hours)
    - 1. Review Salmon Research Foundation.
    - 2. Final decision on BSAI groundfish amendment to protect chum salmon.
  
- D-3 Staff Tasking (3 hours)  
Review amendment proposals (including SSC overfishing amendment).
  
- E. FINANCIAL REPORT
- F. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Total Agenda Hours - 32.5

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**TIME SUMMARY**

Total agenda hours	32.50 hours
Lunches - 4 days (1.25 ea)	6.25 hours
Breaks (4/day, 20 min ea)	<u>6.66 hours</u>
Total hours required:	45.41 hours

Meeting as follows:

8 am - 5:30 pm, 5 days x 9.5 hours = 47.5 hours

The logo for ProFish, featuring the word "ProFish" in a stylized, serif font. The "P" and "F" are significantly larger and more prominent than the other letters. The text is white and set against a dark, rectangular background.

January 6, 1995

Dr. Clarence Pautzke  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Post Office Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RE: Council Meeting Agenda


Dear Clarence:

In regards to the draft agenda for the upcoming council meeting, I would like to give notice that several council members, myself included, will be asking to agenda the Moratorium for discussion at this meeting.

Our reason for making this request is our concern, based on written comments that the council has received from the public, that possibly improper procedures were followed in making modifications to the crossover provisions at our last meeting. We feel that it is important to discuss whether or not this is a valid concern, and if so, what the council must do to rectify the situation.

I would appreciate it if this notice could be included in our "big book".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wally".  
Walter T. Pereyra


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December 29, 1994

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 Post Office Box 103136  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Rick:

I believe the Council made two errors at the December meeting in its haste to recommend a vessel moratorium that will be approved. The Council's December agenda and staff memo indicated that the moratorium issue would not be an action item.<sup>1</sup> The Council also neglected to rescind its September final action on the moratorium before voting on the new moratorium. I am writing because the Columbia, a fishing vessel owned by Trident, would be adversely impacted by the Council's December moratorium.

The Columbia was built as a crab vessel. In 1985 it was converted to a trawl vessel. In the spring of 1994, Trident spent approximately one hundred and fifty thousand dollars modifying the Columbia to be a combination crab/trawl vessel. (The vessel will deliver crab during the opilio fishery this winter and would have fished bairdi crab this fall except for the need to work on the main engine.) The Council's June 1992 recommended moratorium allowed "cross-overs" and, at the time Trident modified the Columbia to a crabber/trawler, I expected the 1992 moratorium would be approved. In any event, I could be confident the Columbia would be allowed to fish both crab and groundfish under any moratorium because the vessel has a large catch record in both fisheries.

In August of 1994 the 1992 moratorium was disapproved. At the September 1994 meeting the Council voted to restrict the qualifying years under a moratorium from 1988 through 1992, but cross-overs were permitted. In December the Council was scheduled to receive a status from the National Marine Fisheries Service on the progress of its September moratorium recommendation. The moratorium issue was presented to the Council on Sunday morning and, in addition to receiving a status report, a motion was made to restrict cross-overs (while maintaining the more narrow restriction on qualifying years).

Active public participation is an important benefit of the council process, especially when a council has given indications it is taking one direction and then changes course. This issue is unique because of length of time between the Council's 1992 moratorium recommendation and its eventual disapproval by the Secretary. Obviously, Trident spent a large sum of money based on the Council's 1992 moratorium. Had we even known that the Council was considering voting to restrict cross-overs at the December meeting we

<sup>1</sup> The Staff Memorandum and the Council agenda indicate that the Council may "comment on proposed rule for revised [September] moratorium", not vote to recommend an entirely new moratorium.

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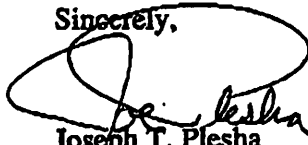
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Richard B. Lauber  
December 29, 1994  
Page Number 2

could have foregone work on the Columbia's main engine and instead fished crab with the vessel.

I do not know if there are others which share my concerns over the Council's December moratorium action, however, I respectfully request that the Council schedule the moratorium issue for final action so that public will be noticed and can give full comment to the Council on how it may be impacted by the proposed action.

Sincerely,



Joseph T. Plesha  
General Counsel

### Meeting of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Advisory Council was established in December 1993 to advise NOAA's Sanctuaries and Reserves Division regarding the management of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

**TIME AND PLACE:** Friday, December 9, 1994 from 8:30 until 4:00. The meeting location will be at the Half Moon Bay Community Center, 535 Kelley Avenue, Half Moon Bay, California.

**AGENDA:** General issues related to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary are expected to be discussed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The meeting will be open to the public. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Kathey at (408) 647-4201 or Elizabeth Moore at (301) 713-3141.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program  
Dated: November 7, 1994.

**Frank Maloney,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.*

[FR Doc. 94-28370 Filed 11-16-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

[I.D. 110494B]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of committee meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has scheduled the following committee meetings:

The Full Retention/Full Utilization and Harvest Priority Committee will meet November 17-18, 1994, in the Regency Room at the Meany Tower Hotel, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue, NE., Seattle, WA. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., each day. The committee has been tasked with evaluating and fleshing out alternatives

designed to reduce bycatch and waste of North Pacific fishery resources. For more information on this meeting contact: Dave Witherell, NPFMC, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

The NPFMC's Enforcement Committee has scheduled a meeting for November 28-29, 1994, at the NMFS Regional Office, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, AK. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on November 28. It will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on November 29, and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. The committee will review the following issues:

1. Revision of 50 CFR part 301 regulations to accommodate changes for the NPFMC halibut-sablefish individual fishing quota program,
2. License limitation alternatives under consideration by the NPFMC,
3. Halibut grid-sorting amendment,
4. King crab closed area,
5. Seamount fishery restrictions,
6. Trawl mesh regulations,
7. Total weight measurement amendment, and
8. Salmon area closures.

For more information on this meeting contact: Jane DiCosimo, NPFMC; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Judy Willoughby, (907) 271-2809.

Dated: November 9, 1994.

**David S. Crestin,**

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 94-28328 Filed 11-16-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

[I.D. 110494D]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will hold meetings the week of December 4, 1994, at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of a meeting of the Nominating Committee and an executive session to be held during the lunch hour one day during the meeting week. All meetings will be held at the hotel and are scheduled as follows:

The Council Advisory Panel meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m., on December 4,

and the Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet, beginning at 10:30 a.m., on December 5.

The Council meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m., on December 7. Each meeting will continue until business is completed. There may be other workgroup and/or committee meetings held during the week. Notice of meetings will be posted. Time permitting, the Council will address, and may take appropriate action on, the following agenda items:

1. Reports from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NMFS on the current status of fisheries and regulations; reports from NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard on fisheries enforcement activities;

2. Appointments to the Council's Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee for 1995;

3. Comments on a proposed rule for the revised moratorium;

4. Review of additional analyses for the Council's license limitation program for groundfish and crab; identification of elements and alternatives of most interest and approval of documents for public review;

5. Receipt of committee reports on full utilization and harvest priority programs, and consideration of the next steps in addressing the waste and discard issue;

6. Review of potential scope of analysis for extension of inshore-offshore allocations and pollock community development quota program, and further direction to staff;

7. 1995 Final Groundfish Specifications: Review and approve final Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation reports for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Island groundfish fisheries and set final 1995 groundfish specifications, bycatch rates, Vessel Incentive Program rates, and discard mortality rates for halibut in the groundfish fisheries;

8. Review of proposed rule for scallop fishery management plans (FMPs), including the issue of management jurisdiction over vessels not registered with the State of Alaska;

9. Review of actions to protect red king crab in Bristol Bay, including a report on opilio bycatch and consider next steps, and

10. Review of proposals for amendments to groundfish FMPs; give staff further direction.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These meetings are physically accessible to



people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Judy Willoughby, (907) 271-2809, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 9, 1994.  
 David S. Crestin,  
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service*  
 [FR Doc. 94-28329 Filed 11-16-94; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

**Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bangladesh**

November 10, 1994.  
 AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 17, 1994.  
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:  
 Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted, variously, for swing and special shift.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see Federal Register notice 58 FR 62645, published on November 29, 1993). Also see 59 FR 4039, published on January 28, 1994.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the bilateral agreement, but are designed to assist

only in the implementation of certain of its provisions.

Rita D. Hayes,  
*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements  
 November 10, 1994.  
 Commissioner of Customs,  
*Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.*

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on January 24, 1994, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported during the twelve-month period which began on February 1, 1994 and extends through January 31, 1995.

Effective on November 17, 1994, you are directed to amend the directive dated January 24, 1994 to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided under the terms of the current bilateral agreement between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of Bangladesh:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
336/636 .....	309,189 dozen.
341 .....	1,879,700 dozen.
347/348 .....	1,758,757 dozen.
351/651 .....	516,511 dozen.
363 .....	20,317,339 numbers.
369-S <sup>2</sup> .....	1,210,241 kilograms.
635 .....	244,429 dozen.
638/639 .....	930,684 dozen.
645/646 .....	245,591 dozen.
847 .....	594,321 dozen.

<sup>1</sup> The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after January 31, 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,  
 Rita D. Hayes,  
*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 94-28460 Filed 11-16-94; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

**Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China**

November 10, 1994  
 AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing certain limits and a sublimit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 1994.  
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Aldrich, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-6703. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:  
 Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

The current limits for Categories 336, 369-L, and 641 and sublimit for Categories 338-S/339-S are being increased for swing.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see Federal Register notice 58 FR 62645, published on November 29, 1993). Also see 59 FR 3847, published on January 27, 1994.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding dated January 17, 1994, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of its provisions.

Rita D. Hayes,  
*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements  
 November 10, 1994.  
 Commissioner of Customs,  
*Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.*

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on January 24, 1994, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in the People's Republic of China and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1994 and extends through December 31, 1994.

Effective on November 15, 1994, you are directed to amend further the directive dated January 24, 1994 to increase the limits and sublimit for the following categories, as provided under the terms of the

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



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

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Certified: Neil Benderson  
Date: 12/30/94

## MINUTES Scientific & Statistical Committee December 5-7, 1994

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met December 5-7, 1994 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. All members were present except Marc Miller:

Terrance Quinn, Chair  
Keith Criddle, Co-chair  
William Aron  
Susan Hill

Doug Eggers  
Dan Huppert  
Richard Marasco  
Phil Rigby

Jack Tagart  
Harold Weeks  
Al Tyler

### C-4 COMPREHENSIVE RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM (CRP)

The SSC heard a Council staff presentation detailing progress on the CRP analysis. The SSC also heard public testimony concerning the CRP from John Gauvin, Paul McGregor, and Carl Ohls. In addition, the SSC reviewed Appendices VII and VIII to the analytical package for license limitation. The SSC is pleased to note that the Council has followed our recommendations to narrow the number of alternatives. These Appendices are partial analyses of specific options identified by the Council.

Council staff reported that the industry sector and community profiles have been completed. The Social Impact Analysis (SIA), however, will not be available before February 1995. The SSC stands firm on its desire to review the analysis before public release. In order to accommodate scheduling difficulties, and to expedite release of the analytical package for public review, the SSC is prepared to assemble a sub-committee to conduct the necessary review as soon as the SIA has been completed and possibly meet as a whole via teleconference.

The Council needs to establish a framework for the eventual conversion of groundfish licenses to Quota Shares (QS). The Pacific Fishery Management Council which didn't have their framework in place has run into problems in its effort to implement a QS program. Clarification of Council intentions is especially important if the Council chooses to establish tradable licenses. For example, the Council could declare that any future QS allocation will be based upon catch histories over a qualification period, and that catch histories will be assigned to initial license holders or subsequent purchasers. This would make the license or endorsement sale equivalent to a catch history sale. Alternatively, the Council could declare that future QS allocations will not go to purchasers of licenses and endorsements, but rather will be based on personal (or vessel) catch history.

Economic analysis of license limitation typically focuses on net benefits (efficiency) and equity issues. By defining the qualification criteria for licenses or QS, the Council determines the initial distribution of economic opportunities. The analytical package developed by Council staff characterizes potential distributional consequences of alternative license allocations, but does not quantify the net benefits of the license limitation program. The SSC does not consider the lack of net benefit assessment to be a critical shortcoming in the analytical package because experience with license limitation programs indicates that they are unlikely to provide significant longrun net economic benefits.

If license limitation is combined with Community Development Quotas (CDQs), some attempt should be made to examine the net benefits associated with the existing program.

### **C-5 FULL RETENTION/FULL UTILIZATION AND HARVEST PRIORITY**

The SSC reviewed the Harvest Priority and Full Retention/Full Utilization Committee report and heard public testimony from Scott Highleyman, John Gauvin, Fran Bennis, and Paul Seaton.

The September 1994 SSC Minutes identify several issues that need to be resolved by the Council before analysis of Full Retention/Full Utilization and Harvest Priority can proceed. These issues remain to be addressed. To proceed with further analysis, the ten basic questions from Joe Terry's discussion paper need to be addressed. For example, tradeoffs in reductions of bycatch of different species may need to be made. Some objective function will be necessary to compare, say, a vessel with a low bycatch rate of crab to a vessel with a lower bycatch rate of halibut and a higher bycatch rate for crab.

One tool that could be used to help the Council and industry identify fisheries that are good candidates for bycatch/discard reduction through standards or incentives is a statistical analysis of the components of the variance in past bycatch/discard rates. Observed differences in bycatch rates could be due to the fishing practices of the individual vessel operator or to unpredictable variations in the distribution of bycatch species. Fisheries that are characterized by high variability in bycatch rates between vessels relative to the magnitude of variability within season and through time for individual vessels offer higher potential for bycatch reductions than fisheries where individual vessels have highly variable bycatch rates. A multifactorial analysis of variance/covariance could be conducted on existing data to identify the significance of these alternative sources of bycatch variance.

### **C-6 INSHORE-OFFSHORE**

The SSC considered the likely analytical needs in support of an amendment to continue the inshore-offshore and CDQ fishery allocations. The first issue is one of problem statement. If the problem addressed by a continuation is that Comprehensive Rationalization Planning has taken longer than originally intended and that an extension of existing interim measures is needed to maintain management stability pending completion of CRP, then a relatively simple qualitative impact assessment analysis may be adequate. Such an analysis would include a description and characterization of various segments of the industry for 1994. This part of the analysis could also be supplemented with a similar description for 1991. The second part of the analysis would be a qualitative assessment of impacts that might arise as a result of termination of current inshore/offshore splits. Addressed in the qualitative assessment would be the effects of alternatives under consideration on efficiency, equity and management stability indicators.

If the problem is stated in more ambitious terms, i.e. modification of the inshore/offshore split, change in the CDQ allocation or permanently establishing splits, it is likely that a more complex evaluation,

including possibly a quantitative retrospective analysis, would be needed to satisfy analytical requirements.

## **D-2 GROUND FISH AMENDMENTS**

### **1. Red King Crab Emergency Action Request**

The SSC received a staff report on the Council's November request for emergency closure to trawling of the area from 164° to 162° W longitude and 55°45' to 57° N latitude to reduce red king crab bycatch. Public testimony from Dave Fraser, John Gauvin, Laura Jensen and Mark Kandianis expressed substantial concern that the closure may not measurably benefit red king crab, yet could impose substantial impacts on other PSC species.

Measures to protect rebuilding red king crab stocks principally involve issues of allocating the burden of conservation among the various crab and groundfish fisheries; this will be a long-term problem. We re-iterate our September suggestion that the crab and BS/AI Groundfish Plan Teams examine bycatch issues jointly and report to the Council on the following:

- a) conservation benefits to red king crab of bycatch control measures,
- b) the impacts on groundfish fisheries which may be affected by additional time/area closures, and
- c) the impacts on bycatch of other species by potentially displaced groundfish fisheries.

### **2. Opilio Crab Bycatch**

The SSC considered the discussion paper on opilio bycatch at its September meeting and suggests that a joint crab - BS/AI Groundfish Plan Team meeting be held to address the issues raised in that paper.

### **3. Other Trawl Category VIP Standards**

The SSC had no comment.

## **D-3 GENERAL GROUND FISH SAFE CONCERNS**

The SSC thanks the Teams for considering the three general concerns itemized in the September SSC minutes.

1. The SSC agrees with the Team that further evaluation of the conservatism of F=M is needed. Perhaps this can be done within the general evaluation of the overfishing definition described in the next section.
2. The SSC believes that Grant Thompson's "A Brief History of ABC and OFL Definitions in the North Pacific Groundfish FMP's" prepared for the Plan Teams (Attachment 1) provides a convenient summary of the various attempts to provide alternatives to the Council's current procedures. In particular, NMFS's Overfishing Definition Review Panel prepared a report (Rosenberg et al., 1994) that recommends three changes to the Council's overfishing definition:

- (1) provide a buffer between ABC and OFL,
- (2) clarify the reference level  $F_{30\%}$  and
- (3) elaborate on the acceptability of parameter estimates.

The SSC recommends that the Council proceed with a Plan Amendment to consider these changes and has submitted a proposal to initiate such action. The proposal is attached (Attachment 2) and provides further justification. Although neither the Plan Team nor the PAAG had the opportunity to review this proposal, the issue is of sufficient importance to the Council's credibility that we recommend it go forward.

3. The SSC notes that its request that information about the take and status of marine mammals be included in the Ecosystem chapter has been satisfied.
4. At its January 1995 meeting, the SSC will consider goals for next year's SAFE documents. Issues related to the expression of uncertainty about parameter estimates, ecosystem considerations, and types of needed information among others need attention.

### **D-3 FINAL GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS FOR 1995**

#### **D-3 (b) GULF OF ALASKA**

##### **GOA - Pollock**

Sandra Lowe described revisions to pollock stock assessment since our September meeting. Pollock stock abundance is estimated using the stock synthesis model. New elements considered in the assessment included pollock abundance estimates from Alaska Department of Fish & Game coastal crab surveys, updated estimates of discard and catch and FOCI predictions of upcoming year class strength. Additionally, stock assessment authors provided a third model (Model C) which used 1993 bottom trawl age composition data, 1992 egg production estimate and a revised estimate of 1992 recruitment.

The effect of these revisions was a modest increase in the stock assessment authors estimate of ABC (91,000 mt for W-C GOA, up from 90,000 mt in September) and no change in the Plan Team's ABC recommendation of 62,000 mt for W-C GOA and 3,360 mt for the Eastern GOA. The SSC concurs with the Plan Team's recommendation. The overfishing level for this ABC is 266,000 mt in the W-C GOA and 14,400 mt in the Eastern Gulf.

The SSC wishes to commend the stock assessment authors for their incorporation of FOCI predictions of year class strength. When presented in conjunction with available data from the surveys and fishery, these data strengthened our inference on projected stock biomass.

##### **GOA - Pacific Cod**

The SSC reviewed the application of a length-based stock synthesis model for GOA Pacific cod. There was substantial discussion of the estimates of key parameters affecting natural mortality and fishery selectivity. At the center of these concerns were various hypotheses regarding the larger (older) Pacific cod.

A lengthy discussion was held over this assessment. We are concerned that the Plan Team recommended ABC increased by a factor of two (50,400 mt from 1994 to a new 108,000 t for 1995) even though the stock has been declining since 1987. However, the biomass is still above the management target stock size. Yet with an average recruitment rate the stock is projected to decline under any catch rate.

The jump to the higher ABC level came partly from the new Stock Synthesis model application that no longer used knife edge recruitment, and that had fitted survey selectivity of catch along with natural mortality rate. There was a long discussion on the resulting survey selection curve for the range of fish sizes versus the estimates of natural mortality that change as gear selectivity estimates change. Also discussed was the level of uncertainty in the survey estimates of biomass for Pacific cod due to patchiness in their distribution. In addition, the SSC noted the possible influence of age determination error, since age classification is based on length distributions. It was decided the model was the best that could be developed given the levels of uncertainty in the data.

The SSC accepted the stock assessment author's estimate of natural mortality,  $M=0.37$ , but not the author's choice of fishery selectivity. Both parameters were fixed in the assessment. The SSC recommends a terminal selectivity value of 1.0 (asymptotic selectivity), rather than the 0.5 (dome shaped selectivity) that was chosen by the author. The assumption of asymptotic selectivity is consistent with the Bering Sea survey and is a more conservative assumption than dome shaped selectivity, which results in higher abundance. Recent stock assessment literature indicates that when recruitment is less certain or variable,  $F_{40\%}$  is more suitable than  $F_{35\%}$ . The SSC advises using the more conservative  $F_{40\%}$  exploitation rate. The resulting ABC is 69,300 mt with overfishing level of approximately 80,800 mt. This ABC is estimated from the ratio of the  $F_{35\%}$  ABCs at  $S_{term} = 1.0$  and  $S_{term} = 0.5$ , (80,200/108,000), multiplied by the  $F_{40\%}$  ABC for  $S_{term} = 0.5$  (93,300), which gives the value 69,283. The OFL is estimated similarly.

Other model runs and models that would be instructive are (1) a lower constant value of  $M$ , (2) a lower value for  $M$  for younger ages, but higher for older ages (increasing  $M$  with age), both with terminal selection value of 1.0 (asymptotic), and (3) models stratified by gear type.

### GOA - Flatfish

The SSC recommends that the ABCs for species in this complex be set at levels proposed by the Team (flatfish -deepwater- 14,590 mt, Rex sole - 11,210 mt, flatfish - shallowwater - 52,270 mt, flathead sole - 28,790 mt, and arrowtooth flounder - 198,130 mt). The SSC concurs with the Plan Team's recommendation that ABCs for species in this group be apportioned among the three regulatory areas in proportion to the biomass distributions in the 1993 trawl survey.

With the exception of Greenland turbot and Dover sole, the best estimates of current exploitable biomass were assumed to be the same as the 1993 survey biomass, since the non-exploitable component is small and because of the partial selectivity of the non-exploitable sizes. The complete bathymetric range of Dover sole was not sampled in 1990 or 1993, as sampling included depths only to 500m. The exploitable biomass of Dover sole is calculated using the 1993 estimate for 1-500m and the 1987 trawl survey estimate from 501-1,000m discounted by the rate of decline observed between 1987 and 1993 in the 1-500m depth interval (for a total of 116,574 mt). For Greenland turbot, the 1987 exploitable biomass is used in this year's assessment. Exploitable biomass estimates used to calculate ABCs were deepwater - 116,710 mt, Rex sole - 89,660 mt, shallow water 355,590 mt, arrowtooth - 1,585,040 mt, and flathead sole - 198,470 mt.

Fishing mortality rates used to calculate ABCs were: deepwater (0.125), Rex sole (0.125), rock sole (0.147), yellowfin sole (0.149), shallow water (0.145), flathead sole (0.145) and arrowtooth (0.125). Overfishing mortality rates used were Deep water (0.146), Rex sole (0.146), rock sole (0.172), yellowfin sole (0.175), other shallow water (0.159), arrowtooth (0.146), and flathead sole (0.159). Overfishing catch levels are deep water - 17,040 mt, Rex sole - 13,090 mt, shallow water - 60,260 mt, arrowtooth - 231,420 mt, and flathead sole - 31,560 mt.

#### GOA - Sablefish

The SSC concurs with the Plan Team's recommendations for ABC (21,500 mt) and OFL (28,040 mt). We support the Plan Team's adoption of a 5-year exponential weighting scheme to apportion ABC to management regions and areas. This method provides consistency across areas and captures the geographic distribution of the resource while buffering changes which may result from survey error.

The SSC discussed the potential for sablefish fishery-survey interference with implementation of ITQ management. The SSC believes that this issue warrants further consideration, but we do not have a basis for making a recommendation to the Council at this time.

#### ROCKFISH

The SSC received an overview of rockfish stock status from members of the Gulf Team. Analytical methods are similar to those applied last year, except that a new length-based synthesis model was applied to thornyhead rockfish. The 1984, 1987, and 1990 trawl survey population estimates have been revised, and substantially increased rockfish catches in the 1993 trawl survey resulted in increased estimates of biomass and yield for most species compared to the prior year. Survey and catch data were updated, resulting in minor changes to some rockfish specifications from the September document. After substantive discussion with the Plan Team, the SSC agreed with the Team's ABC determinations, except for POP and black rockfish.

#### GOA - Pacific Ocean Perch

For the second year, a stock synthesis model was used and results in an estimates of current exploitable biomass of 142,470 mt, which is an increase above last year's estimate of 101,800 mt. The model incorporated revised 1987, 1990, and 1993 triennial trawl survey data and updated fishery length catch data. The 1993 survey biomass of 453,605 mt was a large increase compared to the 1990 survey estimate. The survey age composition is composed of a majority of young (ages 6 through 9 years) POP in the Western and Central Areas. In September the SSC expressed concern over the unexpectedly large increase in survey biomass and the potential harvest of young fish. The SSC requested that the Team look more closely at the age of maturity and changes in reproductive capacity with fish size. The application of the model considerably dampened the influence of the most recent survey (see Figure 5-4). Additional maturity data were provided in December by the analysts (see Table 5-12). The ABC was calculated using the optimal fishing mortality ( $F_{msy}$ ) of 0.078 adjusted by the ratio of the current (116,334 mt) to target (150,000 mt females) spawning biomass to provide for rebuilding (see Figure 5-9), which results in an ABC of 8,230 mt. Because this ABC is equal to the overfishing level the plan team further reduced this number by  $F_{35\%}/F_{30\%}$  to provide a buffer between the ABC and OFL. As in September the SSC did not agree with the latter adjustment and, as it did last year, recommended that ABC equal OFL. Some discussion occurred regarding ways to increase the OFL rather than reduce the ABC; however, at this time the Council is prohibited from doing so without a plan amendment. As mentioned earlier, the SSC is proposing a Plan Amendment to alter the definition of overfishing.

Because of the high degree of uncertainty associated with the survey and the disproportionately increased biomass estimated in the Central area, the Team modified the ABC apportionment. Therefore, the ABC was apportioned by management area based on the area biomass estimates from the 1987, 1990, and 1993 trawl surveys and weighting each previous survey at 2/3 of the next later survey. The SSC concurred with the ABC area allocations for the Western, Central, and Eastern Areas respectively for the SSC are 1,480 mt; 3,950 mt; and 2,800 mt and for the Team are 1,180 mt; 3,130 mt; and 2,220 mt. Under the POP rebuilding plan, TAC is calculated from the average of the optimal F and the fishing mortality rate sufficient to provide for unavoidable bycatch (based on 1992 rates). For 1995 this fishing mortality is 0.054 and corresponds to  $F_{55\%}$ . This rate is further reduced by the ratio of current biomass to optimal biomass, which gives  $F=0.041$  and a TAC of 5,631 mt.

In public testimony Fran Bennis of Alaska Marine Conservation Council questioned allowing a directed fishery on a rebuilding species, particularly with an average discard of over 60% for 1993 and 1994. She also requested that observers collect age structures from POP.

The SSC discussed some management issues such as potential disproportionate harvests of older age POP and potential increased bycatch of shortraker, rougheye, thornyhead and rockfish. The SSC expressed its intent that the ABC was a target ceiling and its expectation that catches will not be allowed to exceed the ABC, which should alleviate these management problems.

The SSC received a report on GOA rockfish from Barry Bracken (ADF&G). Issues included the high discard of POP, potential disproportionate harvest of older POP, and possible increased bycatch of other rockfish species. The SSC views most of the issues presented as those which might be accommodated by TAC adjustment, however, the TAC is specified by formula in the FMP and cannot be changed without a Plan Amendment.

#### GOA - Northern Rockfish

The exploitable biomass estimate of 87,845 mt was based on the average 1987, 1990, and 1993 trawl surveys. An  $F=M$  (0.06) strategy provided an ABC of 5,270 mt allocated as 640 mt - Western, 4,610 mt - Central, and 20 mt - Eastern based on averaged 1987-1993 survey biomass proportions.  $OFL = F_{30\%} = 9,930$  mt.

#### GOA - Other Slope Rockfish

Species specific natural mortality rates range between 0.04 and 0.01. Using  $F=M$  and averaged trawl survey biomass estimates by species provided a combined ABC of 7,100 mt (180 mt-western, 1,170 mt-central, and 5,760 mt-eastern). Redbanded rockfish were removed from the demersal shelf category and added for this assessment, increasing the ABC by 166 mt. For OFL,  $F_{30\%}$  (0.08) for sharpchin and  $M$  for the other species were used, resulting in  $OFL = 8,400$  mt.

#### GOA -Shortraker/rougheye

The recommended ABC for the shortraker/rougheye group is 1,914 mt (173 mt-Western, 1,213 mt-Central, and 528 mt-Eastern). The ABC was obtained by applying an  $F=M$  strategy and allocated to regulatory areas based on the averaged 1987, 1990 and 1993 trawl survey estimates of exploitable biomass. Natural mortality (shortraker 0.03 and rougheye, 0.025) times the estimated biomass from the averaged trawl surveys (shortraker 23,689 mt and rougheye 48,123 mt) yielded the combined ABC. For rougheye  $F_{30\%}$  (0.046) and  $F=M$  (0.03) for shortraker were applied to the respective biomass estimates for a combined Gulf-wide OFL of 2,925 mt.



### GOA - Pelagic Shelf Rockfish

The exploitable biomass (57,644 mt) for this complex was derived by averaging the biomass estimates from the 1987, 1990, and 1993 surveys. An exception, this ABC is a decrease from last year's biomass (76,500 mt). An  $F=M$  strategy using the natural mortality for dusky rockfish (0.09) was used to calculate a combined ABC of 5,190 mt (910 mt-Western, 3,200 mt-Central, and 1080 mt-Eastern). Apportionment was based on the average percent biomass in each area for the 1987, 1990, and 1993 surveys.  $F_{30\%}$  (0.151) provides an OFL of 8,704 mt.

The SSC discussed the Plan Team's recommendations to separate black rockfish from these groups in the Central Area and create an ABC based on average commercial catch for 1991, 1992, and 1993 (335 mt). Reasons for separation include some targeting on this species, its relatively separate near-shore distribution, the lack of assessment information collected by the NMFS trawl survey, and the potential for localized depletion. The SSC sympathized with the Plan Team's recommendation and suggested that if separated, catches used to calculate ABC should include bycatch as well as directed catches. However, if a separate ABC is established, unanticipated management problems might occur. For example, the directed jig fishery or the trawl fishery could preempt the other, because an overfishing level would be created for this species. Recent harvests are below ABC for the complex, and ADF&G manages the harvest of black rockfish in state waters of the Central area. The SSC recommends that the Team provide more information on present management programs and look at a means of preventing the potential preemption discussed above.

### GOA - Demersal Shelf Rockfish

The SSC accepts the Plan Team recommendations for ABC and OFL based on  $F=M$  and  $F_{30\%}$ , respectively. The SSC notes that new line transect surveys were completed in 1994. The resulting biomass estimate is lower, which is most likely due to better survey coverage and methodological improvements.

### GOA - Thornyheads

In September the SSC recommended phasing in the ABC derived from a new synthesis model because the ABC was much greater than for the prior year and because the synthesis model used a domed shaped selectivity curve without presenting evidence in the assessment for the existence of the larger fish. A revised assessment presented in December was expanded to include longline survey size and biomass data, revised trawl survey estimates, and gear specific selectivities, and a more conservative  $F_{40\%}$  (0.063 rate), rather than  $F_{35\%}$ , was used for this long lived species. The exploitable biomass and Gulfwide ABC derived were 30,341 mt and 1,900 mt, respectively.  $OFL = F_{30\%} = 0.088$ . The analysts and Plan Team accounted for the SSC's previous concerns, so the SSC agreed with the Team's recommendations.

### GOA - Atka Mackerel

Atka mackerel was separated from the "other species" category, and the ABC, OFL, and TAC set for the species during the 1994 fishing year. For the 1994 fishing year the calculated ABC was reduced by 3/6 and subsequent annual reductions were to be decreased by 1/6 (stair stepping). This conservative approach was recommended because of uncertainty in the abundance of Atka mackerel and concerns for marine mammals. Atka mackerel is an important prey species for sea lions and occurs in abundance near important sea lion rookeries. The SSC recommends that the stairstepping procedure be frozen at the 1994 level, consistent with the approach for calculating ABC for Bering

Sea/Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel. The SSC notes that stock status of GOA Atka mackerel is closely related to that of BSAI area.

Following this procedure, the ABC is 3,240 mt ( $M/2=0.15$  times the projected 1995 biomass of 21,600 mt). The SSC agrees with the Team's overfishing level of 11,700 mt.

The SSC notes that biomass has declined substantially from the 32,100 mt in 1990 to 21,600 mt in 1993. This decline was due in part to the very high harvest (13,834 mt) in 1992. The 1994 fishery occurred in the Davidson Bank area in close proximity to a sea lion rookery with a 10 nm buffer zone in place. Although the reductions in ABC due to the stair-stepping procedure provide some protection to marine mammals, the Council should consider additional management measures to reduce potential impacts on marine mammals in view of the estimated decline in abundance of Atka mackerel. These measures include: seasonal closures (November through March), hot spot closure or delayed seasonal opening, setting a limited (1-2 day) fishing season, expanding the buffer zone around sea lion rookeries, and setting other fishing zones to limit impinging on sea lion habitat.

### D-3(d) BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

#### BS/AI - Pollock

##### Eastern Bering Sea

The SSC was presented with revised assessment of the EBS pollock resource and received a presentation from Rick Methot. Analytical methods for assessment of pollock abundance are based on age-structured VPA, CAGEAN and stock synthesis models, using hydroacoustic and bottom trawl survey data to tune the models. Although biomass trends are similar in each model, there are modest differences in estimates of recent abundance. ABC and overfishing levels are computed based on abundance estimates from the VPA model. While the recent trend in biomass shows a decline, the projected population appears to be increasing, in numbers if not biomass, and the stock is regarded as healthy. Projected 1995 stock biomass is 8.08 million mt and exceeds estimates of  $B_{MSY}$  (6 million mt). The fishery is supported by a strong 1989 year class, and early indications suggest the 1992 year class will be above average.

The Plan Team has recommended and the SSC concurs with an ABC of 1.250 million mt based on a  $F_{0.1}$  exploitation strategy. The overfishing level is estimated to be 1.5 million mt based on  $F_{MSY}$  harvest strategy.

The Plan Team report contains a minority report that expresses concern that the proposed ABC is not sufficiently conservative. The SSC discussed the nature of exploitation on EBS pollock noting that historically rates have varied from 6% to more than 20%. The proposed ABC would result in a 15% exploitation rate and is regarded as conservative. Additionally, concerns were raised in the minority report related to the accuracy of year class strength projections. The SSC believes that the  $F_{0.1}$  harvest strategy provides a low enough exploitation rate to allow analysts time to validate projected year class strength without compromising conservation of the stock.

The SSC did express concern about the potential exploitation of EBS stock in the US/Russia transboundary area, NW of the Pribilof Islands. We would like to see available data on Russian removals from this area and the size and/or age composition of these catches. Public testimony from Wally Pereyra noted that there may be a long history of Russian catches in this zone.

Finally, the SSC received public testimony from John Gauvin, AFTA, regarding economic impacts of a 5% change in the distribution of pollock TACs between the A and B seasons. The SSC had inadequate time to review Mr. Gauvin's analysis.

### Aleutian Islands

The SSC accepted the Plan Team's recommendations for the Aleutian Islands pollock ABC, 56,600 mt. This ABC is based on a projection of 1991 survey biomass to 1994 and an assumption of no change since that time. The overfishing level is 60,400 mt.

While the SSC accepts this ABC estimate, we feel strongly that future estimates of stock status should incorporate age structured modeling to more thoroughly assess this important resource. We expect that with the recently completed bottom trawl survey, that this would be an opportune time to extract available size and age data and evaluate them with an age-structured model. We look forward to such an analysis in the next status of stocks cycle.

### Bogoslof Area

The Plan Team, using their standard process as represented in the SAFE summary, has recommended a Bogoslof ABC of 115,000 mt. This value is based on an estimated stock abundance of 442,000 mt and an  $F_{35\%}$  exploitation rate (26%).

The SSC continues to believe that the Bogoslof stock, a part of the Aleutian basin stock, is severely depleted. Following principles to reduce exploitation rates in proportion to the ratio of current stock size to  $B_{msy}$ , the SSC has previously advised using an exploitation rate of  $M/4$  (0.05) which results in an ABC of 22,100 mt. We continue to support this more conservative ABC.

### BS/AI - Pacific cod

The SSC concurs with the Plan Team's recommendations for ABC (328,000 mt for the BS/AI) and OFL (390,000 mt for the BS/AI). The SSC notes that the considerably higher biomass estimate (because the 1994 trawl survey biomass estimate was nearly twice that of 1993) is understandable given the patchy distribution of Pacific cod and the series of above average year classes (1989-1992).

The SSC believes that the natural mortality rate of 0.37 and the asymptotic selection curve are reasonable but again point out that, as in the GOA, age determination errors could affect estimates. The effect of the new mesh size restrictions and of area closures are not known.

With an increasing population and the ecosystem consideration that Pacific cod are top fish predators, an overly conservative harvesting strategy may not be warranted.

The only public testimony was from Thorn Smith of the Longliners Association. They will ask for a TAC of 260,000 mt which is the maximum they expect to be able to take under ideal conditions due to halibut bycatch. Mr. Smith also detailed several steps the Association is taking to reduce halibut bycatch mortality; the SSC supports such efforts.

### BS/AI - Flatfish

The SSC recommends that the ABCs for species in this complex, with the exception of Greenland turbot, be set at levels proposed by the Team.

### BS/AI - Yellowfin sole

The Team's recommended ABC (277,000 mt) for this species was developed by applying an  $F_{35\%} = 0.13$  to the estimated exploitable biomass of 2,127,300 mt obtained from the stock synthesis model. The overfishing level (319,000 mt) was determined by applying  $F_{30\%} = 0.15$  to the exploitable biomass estimate.

### BS/AI - Greenland Turbot

The SSC continues to recommend an ABC of 7,000 mt. Information presented in the SAFE indicates that the total biomass has decreased annually from a high in 1972 of 944,092 mt to 163,091 in 1994. The 1995 projection is 150,122 mt. Numbers at age data presented indicate that the 1994 year class is stronger than the 1991, 1992, and 1993 year classes. However, it is well below levels experienced during the 1970s. Given the absence of evidence of strong recruitment and the downward biomass trend, the SSC concluded that the ABC should remain unchanged.

### BS/AI - Arrowtooth Flounder

The recommended ABC (113,000 mt) for this species was developed by applying  $F_{35\%} = 0.18$  to the estimated 1995 exploitable biomass (625,000 mt). This biomass was estimated by adding 1991 survey biomass estimates for the slope (28,000 mt) and the Aleutian Islands (43,500 mt) to the 1994 survey biomass estimate for fish at least 28cm in length (553,600 mt). The overfishing level (138,000 mt) was calculated by applying the  $F_{30\%} = 0.22$  to the exploitable biomass estimate.

### BS/AI - Rock sole

The Team's recommended ABC (347,000 mt) for this species was developed by applying a  $F_{35\%} = 0.18$  to the estimated exploitable biomass of 1,940,100 mt obtained from the stock synthesis model. The overfishing level (388,000 mt) was calculated by applying the  $F_{30\%} = 0.20$  to the exploitable biomass estimate.

### BS/AI - Other Flatfish

As in the case of flathead sole, 1994 trawl survey biomass estimates were used to calculate ABC for this group of species. The  $F_{35\%}$  (0.17 for Alaska Plaice and 0.19 for miscellaneous species) and  $F_{30\%}$  (0.20 for Alaska Plaice and 0.23 for miscellaneous species) were used to calculate ABC (117,000 mt) and OFL (137,000 mt), respectively.

### BS/AI - Flathead Sole

The 1994 trawl survey biomass estimate was used along with a  $F_{35\%} = 0.19$  to calculate the 1995 ABC, 138,000 mt. The overfishing level for flathead sole is 167,000 mt ( $F_{30\%} = 0.23$ ).

### BS/AI - Sablefish

The SSC concurs with the Plan Team's recommendations for ABC (1,600 mt in the EBS, 2,200 mt in the AI) and OFL (4,900 mt for the EBS and AI combined). We support the Plan Team's adoption of a 5-year exponential weighting scheme to apportion ABC to management regions and areas. This method provides consistency across areas and captures the geographic distribution of the resource while buffering changes which may result from survey error. The SSC notes that alternate weighting schemes have been proposed and requests the Plan Team to consider alternative schemes next year.

The SSC heard a report at the September meeting that the Japanese cooperative longline survey would be discontinued. The SSC's principal concern is that there is adequate information to standardize the more recent domestic survey with the older cooperative survey. The loss of Greenland turbot, rockfish, and sablefish stock assessment information from the cooperative survey in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands is also a concern. We request a report at a future meeting discussing how past domestic and cooperative survey information will be calibrated to ensure an uninterrupted series of comparable assessments.

#### BS/AI - POP Complex

For the Eastern Bering Sea the complex is split into POP (Sebastes alutus) and four other red rockfish (ORR) species. For the Aleutian area the ORR are separated into two groups, northern plus sharpchin and rougheye plus shortraker. The assessment methods are essentially the same as last year, except that  $F_{44\%}$  rather than  $F_{35\%}$  was applied to determine ABC for POP. The resulting ABCs are essentially the same as for 1994. The SSC agreed with the Team's recommendations. The SSC recommends that the Plan Team analyze Aleutian survey and catch data with regard to creating harvest subareas similar to those for Atka mackerel.

#### BS/AI - Other Rockfish

As with the POP complex, the SSC agreed with the Team recommendations.

#### BS/AI - Atka mackerel

For the 1992 fishing year the SSC recommended reducing the calculated ABC by 5/6 with subsequent annual decreases of 1/6 (stairstepping), because of uncertainty in the abundance of Atka mackerel and concerns for marine mammals. Atka mackerel is an important prey species for sea lions and occurs in abundance near important sea lion rookeries. In addition, Atka mackerel is highly aggregating species, occurs in shallow water, and is difficult to survey.

Because data from the 1994 trawl survey and age composition of the 1993 fishery were not available, the Team was not able to assess the current stock level and the magnitude of the incoming year class. Because of the further uncertainty about stock status, the SSC recommends the stairstep be frozen at the level used to reduce the calculated ABC for 1994 (reducing the calculated ABC by 1/2). Following this procedure, the ABC is 125,000 mt ( $M/2=0.15$  times the projected 1995 biomass of 832,000 mt). The ABC should be distributed among subareas based on the biomass distribution and should be 13,500, 55,900, and 55,600 for the Eastern, Central, and Western subareas, respectively. The SSC agrees with the team's overfishing level of 335,000 mt.

#### BS/AI - Squid and Other Species

The SSC supports the Plan Team's recommendations for ABC (squid - 3,100 mt; other species - 27,600 mt) and OFL (squid - 3,100 mt; other species 136,000 mt). In September, we supported the Plan Team's recommendation to combine these two categories; however, we now understand that a plan amendment would be required to accomplish this.

## **ECOSYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS**

The SSC commends the Plan Teams and additional contributors for beginning the effort toward expanded consideration of ecosystem concerns. The section discussing objectives and definitions of ecosystem management generated much discussion on appropriate goals and the feasibility of ecosystem management. The SSC will discuss the subject more extensively at the January meeting.

## **PLAN TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

The SSC notes that the Council relies heavily on the staff of the AFSC for membership on its Plan Teams and that such participation is critical for maintenance of the Plans. In this light, the SSC notes that AFSC scientists Jon Heifetz and Jim Ianeli, who have been nominated for Plan Team membership, have impressive credentials and would be suitable for either Team.

## **HALIBUT PSC LIMITS**

The SSC heard a report from Bob Trumble. The SSC concurs with the Plan Teams that the rates listed in Appendix C are appropriate for use in 1995.



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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**DRAFT**

Certified \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES DECEMBER 4-8, 1994 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

### Advisory Panel members in attendance:

Bruce, John (Chair)  
Benson, Dave  
Cotton, Bruce  
Drage, Steve  
Falvey, Dan  
Jones, Spike  
Kaldestad, Kevin  
Little, David  
Madsen, Stephanie  
Maloney, Pete

Nelson, Hazel  
Ogden, Doug  
Paddock, Dean  
Pagels, Penny  
Pfundt, Bryon  
Roos, John  
Sevier, John  
Sparck, Harold  
Stevens, Mick  
Stewart, Beth (Vice Chair)  
Wurm, Robert

Absent was Al Burch. Robert Wurm was not in attendance until Monday afternoon and Bryon Pfundt was not in attendance until Tuesday morning.

### C-4 Comprehensive Rationalization Plan (CRP)

#### Groundfish

#### License Classes

The AP recommends that the Council proceed with analysis of a single license reserving the "B" license option so that if the end product of the license limitation program is very restrictive a "B" license could be developed. Motion passes 18/1.



Nature of Licenses

The AP recommends severable endorsements be issued by FMP subareas for the fisheries listed in Box 2. Motion passes - no opposition.

Box 2	Fisheries Specified Under Option 900,000
<u>BSAI Fishery Licenses:</u> Pollock, Pacific Cod, Atka Mackerel, Yellowfin Sole, Other Flatfish Rockfish, Squid (Fixed Gear), Rocksole, Turbots	<u>GOA Fishery Licenses:</u> Pollock, Pacific Cod, Deep Water Flats, Shallow Water Flatfish, Atka Mackerel, Flathead Sole, Rockfish
Additionally, BSAI trawl sablefish will be bycatch only for any BSAI licensed vessel and Arrowtooth in any sub-area is open to any vessel holding a sub-area license.	

The AP recommends that the last sentence at the bottom of Box 2 be amended to read: "Arrowtooth in any subarea is open to any vessel holding a subarea license." Motion carries - no opposition.

The AP recommends that options 100,000, 200,000 (as amended to include non-severable area-combination) and 900,000 (as amended to include severable endorsements, see Box 2) be highlighted as their preferred alternatives. Motion passes - no opposition.

The AP recommends licenses be issued for FMP areas (i.e., GOA and BSAI). Vessels that qualify in both areas would receive a non-severable North Pacific license (added to the Nature of Licenses). Motion passes 17/2.

License Recipients

The AP recommends that the License Recipients be restricted to current owners (10,000). Motion passes 13/5.

License Designation

The AP recommends that option 5,000 (Catcher vessels & Catcher/processors and vessel length) be highlighted and amended to apply vessel length to catcher/processors. Concern was generated by catcher/processor definition. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP also recommends that option 8,000 be highlighted and amended to include size limits for catcher/processors and be applied to pollock and Pacific cod as in current regulations. Motion carries 12/4.

Qualifying Periods

The AP recommends that options 400 and 500 be highlighted as preferred alternatives. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP requests that public comment be specifically solicited on the feasibility of using different qualifying criteria for small and large vessels in order to better address overcapitalization and mitigate socio-economic impacts. Motion passes 14/4.

Landings Requirements for General License Qualification

The AP recommends that options 10 and 50 be highlighted as preferred alternatives. The AP believes the Council should consider vessel size categories for this category. Motion carries 18/1.

Landings Requirements for Endorsement Qualification

The AP recommends that options 1 and 2 be highlighted as preferred alternatives. Motion passes with no opposition.

Who May Purchase Licenses

The AP recommends that option 2 be highlighted as preferred alternative. The AP would like explicit language of both statutes (51% and 76% U.S. ownership) and analysis by the Coast Guard and NMFS enforcement of who would be able to enforce. Motion passes with 1 opposed.

Vessel License Linkage

The AP recommends option 2 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

Options Regarding the Separability of Species and/or Area Designations

The AP recommends option 3 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

Vessel Replacement and Upgrades

The AP recommends option 3 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

License Ownership Caps

The AP recommends options 1, 2, 3, and 4 be highlighted as preferred alternatives amended to include a review of how the anti-trust laws would apply to license consolidation (using the surf clam fishery as an example). Motion passes with no opposition.

Vessel License Use Caps

The AP recommends option 1 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

Vessel Designation Limits

The AP recommends option 1 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

Buy-back/Retirement Program

The AP recommends option 1 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes 11/8.

Two-tiered Skipper License Program

No AP recommendation. Note: The AP voted down a motion to highlight option 2 by a vote of 7/9 and then took no further action.

Community Development Quotas

The AP recommends deleting option 1 and leaving options 2 - 5. Motion passes 8/4.

Community Development Licenses

The AP recommends deleting the entire section (options 1-5). Equity. Motion passes 10/6.

### Other Provisions

The AP recommends adding new area 610, 620, 630 and include 640 for endorsements (combines West Yakutat and ½ of the Central Gulf). Motion passes 9/3.

The AP recommends option 4 (implement a Skipper Reporting System) be highlighted as preferred alternative. The AP also recommends deleting option 5 and wait until the Magnuson Reauthorization is finalized. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Crab

#### License Classes

The AP recommends option 100,000 (a single class of licenses) be highlighted as preferred alternative. The AP recommends that the Council proceed with analysis of a single license reserving the "B" license option so that if the end product of the license limitation program is very restrictive a "B" license could be developed. Motion passes with no opposition.

#### Nature of Licenses

The AP recommends option 30,000 (licenses for each species/area combination using ADF&G management areas) be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

#### License Recipients

The AP recommends option 1,000 (current owners) be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

#### License Designations

The AP recommends options 300 (vessel length) & 400 (catcher vessels & catcher/processors and vessel length) be highlighted as preferred alternative. Note vessel length categories should apply to catcher vessels and catcher processors. Motion passes with no opposition.

#### Qualifying Period

The AP recommends options 20, 30 and 40 be highlighted as preferred alternatives and then the AP created two new options as follows:

- Option 30: 6/28/89 - 6/27/92 (6/29/80 - 6/25/83 for D.H. red and 6/29/85 - 6/25/1988 for Pribilof blue. These two groups must also have made a landing in any Federally managed crab fishery between 1/1/92 - 12/31/94. For Norton Sound Red and Blue King Crab fisheries must have one landing between 6/28/93 - 7/30/94.
- Option 40: 1/1/92 - 12/31/94 (6/29/80 - 6/25/83 for D.H. Red and 6/29/85 - 6/25/1988 for Pribilof Blue. These two groups must also have made a landing in any Federally managed crab fishery between 1/1/92 - 12/31/94. For Norton Sound Red and Blue King Crab fisheries must have one landing between 6/28/83 - 7/30/94.

Motion passes with no opposition.

### Minimum landings

The AP created a third option which would require 3 landings of king or Tanner crab including Norton Sound. The AP recommends highlighting all three options. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Who May Purchase Licenses

The AP recommends option 2 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Vessel License Linkages

The AP recommends option 2 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Options Regarding the Separability of Species and/or Area Designations

The AP recommends option 3 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Vessel Replacement and Upgrades

The AP recommends option 3 be highlighted as preferred alternative. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Buy-back/Retirement Program

No AP recommendation. The AP voted down a motion to highlight option 1 by a vote of 8/10. The AP then voted on a motion to highlight option 3 which also failed on a vote of 7/7.

### Two-tiered Skipper License Program

No AP recommendation. The AP voted down a motion to highlight option 1 on a vote of 8/8.

### Community Development Quotas

No AP recommendation. The AP voted down a motion to highlight options 2-5 and delete option 1 by a vote of 4/12. The AP also voted down a motion to highlight option 1 by a vote of 5/9 with 1 abstention.

### Community Development Licenses

The AP recommends deleting the entire section (options 1-5). Motion passes with no opposition.

### Other Provisions

The AP recommends option 4 be highlighted as preferred alternative and to delete option 5. Motion passes with no opposition.

### Individual Transferable Pot Quota System

The AP recommends that the entire section be deleted. Motion passes 17/2.

### License Ownership Caps

The AP recommends duplicating the groundfish License Ownership Caps section to the crab section. The AP further recommends options 1, 2, 3, and 4 be highlighted as preferred alternatives amended to include

a review of how the anti-trust laws would apply to license consolidation (using the surf clam fishery as an example). Motion passes with no opposition.

### **C-5 Full Utilization, Retention and Harvest Priority**

The AP believes that significant reductions in waste and bycatch are possible in the short term. We request the Council create fishery focus work groups for the following fisheries:

1. Rocksole (BSAI trawl)
2. Mid-water pollock (BSAI)
3. Pacific cod (BSAI longline)
4. GOA trawl shallow water flats

These work groups would identify and develop specific proposals including Harvest Priority/Full Utilization/ Full Retention and traditional management tools to achieve reductions in the short term. The AP requests NOAA General Counsel to suggest how to best achieve the short term goal and bring back an analysis by April 1995. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP recommends that the Council direct staff to examine PSC bycatch rates based on retained versus total catch and report by January 1995. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP recommends that the staff begin the regulatory process as soon as possible and NMFS designate which area a vessel is fishing (BSAI or GOA) in the publication of vessel bycatch rates on the weekly BBS. The AP further recommends that NMFS publish discard rates for vessels on the weekly BBS. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP recommends ADF&G give a presentation in January summarizing the John McNair study comparing CDQ bycatch and discards with bycatch and discards in the open access fisheries. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP recommends that Council begin the regulatory process to include the longline Pacific cod fishery BSAI in the VIP program. Motion passes 10/6.

### **Minority Report C-5 Harvest Priority**

We, the undersigned members of the Advisory Panel, urge the Council to continue to develop a framework for Harvest Priority in order to minimize bycatch and discards in North Pacific fisheries. We urge the Council to direct NMFS staff to work with AMCC to further develop the ten (10) decision points presented in NMFS' preliminary analysis of Harvest Priority in order that guidelines could be set for potential Harvest Priority proposals.

Further, we recommend the Council solicit from NOAA General Counsel a recommendation on possible ways to tailor a Harvest Priority program so it could work.

We remain concerned that the committee assigned to address options of Harvest Priority, full retention and full utilization and their application to specific fisheries as set forth by the Council in September, did not complete their task of fleshing out the alternatives and details of each program.

Signed: Penny Pagels                      Doug Ogden  
          Hazel Nelson                      Dean Paddock

## C-7 Other Business

### Trawl Mesh

The AP recommends that the Council adopt Alternative 3, single layer, square or diamond mesh top panel codend with minimum mesh sizes between knot measurements of:

- 3.25 inches for pollock in GOA and BSAI directed pollock fishery
- 6 inches for cod in the GOA and BSAI directed Pacific cod fishery
- 6 inches for rocksole in the BSAI directed rocksole fishery

This motion includes the Trawl Mesh Committee's comments on configuration of the codend, including: definition of a codend (number of meshes), 3 and 4 foot panels for smaller and larger vessels, the number of riblines, and size of chafing gear under these riblines. The staff would have to change the VIP rates in the rocksole fishery to account for the increased escapement of non-targeted fish. The AP is extremely interested in continuing to identify, analyze, and modify all gear types with an eye to reducing bycatch. Also, the AP commented that they felt NMFS should continue working with industry when writing regulations. Motion passes with no opposition (20/0).

### D-1 Scallop Management

The AP recommends to the Council that the Scallop FMP include the following crab bycatch limits:

Bering Sea crab (all species)	500 crab
Bering Sea Tanner crab (all species)	260,000

Motion passes 13/2. The AP did not have current data available at the time to set rates above. The low recommendation on king crab is a reflection of public testimony on what was taken in 1994.

The AP recommends that the Council include the scallop fishery in the research plan. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP concurs with recommendation 3 (Vessel Permit requirements §673.4) on page 2 of the letter dated November 30, 1994 from NMFS to the Council. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP reaffirms the Council's previous action on qualifying years.

### D-3(a-b) GOA Specifications

The AP makes the following recommendation regarding the apportionment of halibut PSC.

<u>For Trawl Gear</u> (same as 1994)		<u>For Hook and Line*</u>	
1st quarter	600 mt	1st trimester	250 mt
2nd quarter	400 mt	2nd trimester	30 mt
3rd quarter	600 mt	3rd trimester	20 mt
4th quarter	400 mt		
	<hr/> 2000 mt		<hr/> 300 mt

\*with 10 mt reserved for the DSR fishery

For Trawl:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Shallow Water Complex</u>	<u>Deep Water Complex</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	500 mt	100 mt	600 mt
2	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
3	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
4	No Apportionment		400 mt

The AP recommends that the Council adopt IPHC's suggested 1995 halibut discard and mortality rates.

The AP also makes these additional recommendations:

1. The issue of potential conflicts between the hook and line sablefish survey and the sablefish IFQ fishery be referred to the IFQ implementation team for comment.
2. Thornyhead and shortraker/rougheye should be placed on bycatch only status.

#### Minority Report

##### D-3 (a-b) Gulf of Alaska Specifications GOA POP

We, the undersigned members of the Advisory Panel, believe that the proposed 121% increase in the Gulf POP TAC is inconsistent with sound conservation and management policies. Much of this increase is an artifact of the '93 trawl surveys influence on the POP stock assessment model. We note that when similar large increases in quota for a critical stock have resulted from the incorporation of data in a model, ecosystem and economic considerations have been invoked for the purpose of reducing or stair stepping the TAC to better achieve OY (e.g., Atka mackerel, '95 Gulf P. cod). Unfortunately, the rebuilding plan for POP precludes the normal incorporation of uncertainty, ecosystem considerations and market preference in determining the TACs for POP. The authors of this minority report maintain that the sensitivity of the rebuilding plan to influence by 1 year of new data was unforeseen as was the inability to modify TAC to incorporate sound conservation principles. Therefore, we believe that a greatly reduced TAC or a "bycatch only" management policy for the Gulf POP fishery in '95 is necessary to incorporate these considerations and achieve OY.

Signed: Dan Falvey Hazel Nelson  
Penny Pagels Dean Paddock

#### Minority Report

##### D-3(a-b) Gulf of Alaska Specifications Other Slope Rockfish

We, the undersigned members of the Advisory Panel, believe the Other Slope Rockfish TAC should be reduced to a level which meets bycatch needs, yet does not encourage the development of a directed fishery. The species in this complex overlap with other fully utilized rockfish species such as Pacific Ocean perch, rougheye/shortraker and demersal shelf rockfish. It is unlikely that a directed fishery can be prosecuted without high bycatch of these species. We note that the 1994 fishery had a 65% discard rate. Additionally, the species within this complex have dissimilar natural mortality rates making them vulnerable to single-species over exploitation. For these reasons, we maintain the TAC for this complex should be reduced to preclude development of a directed fishery.

Signed: Dan Falvey Penny Pagels  
Hazel Nelson

### D-3 (c-d) Bering Sea Specifications

The AP requests SSC comment on the conservation impact of using a different distribution formula for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands sablefish ABC.

1. 3-year unweighted average of survey, derived Relative Population Weights (RPW), or
2. 3-year unweighted average catch in the commercial fishery.

Questions to be addressed are:

1. What are the impacts of using survey versus catch data.
2. What are the impacts of giving different weight to earlier years?
3. Other observations SSC may have.

Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP believes that the red king crab and bairdi trawl bycatch caps are too high and a plan amendment to reduce those caps should be prepared immediately. Motion passes 14/4.

The AP believes that Council should take steps to establish mortality rates for king crab and Tanner crab bycatch in all trawl fisheries. Motion passes 18/0 (21 present).

The AP recommends the following fixed gear apportionment for 1995 Pacific cod:

#### Fixed Gear Apportionment by Trimester:

First trimester	68,000 mt
Second trimester	18,000 mt
Third trimester	7,500 mt
Reserve	<u>16,500 mt</u>
	110,000 mt

PSC and TAC rollover from first and second trimester would be placed in third quarter. Motion passes 12/0.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt a 40/60% split between the roe and non-roe seasons in the pollock fishery. Initially, a motion was made recommending a 40/60% split for the roe/non-roe seasons. A substitute motion was then made to change the split to 45/55% and was passed on a 10/8 vote. A motion was made to reconsider the vote which passed 12/7. The motion was amended to reflect the 40/60% split which passed on a 12/8 vote.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the IPHC recommendations for 1995 mortality rates for halibut bycatch for BSAI and GOA Trawl as shown in Table 2, page 3 of agenda item D-3(a)(3) (Table 2 reproduced on page 11). Motion passes 18/1.

The AP had no recommendation on the BSAI Hook and Line except for Pacific cod (see below).

The AP recommends the Council adopt the IPHC 1995 recommendations for the GOA Hook and Line. Motion passes 14/4.

The AP also recommends the Council adopt the IPHC recommendation for BSAI Pot, Pacific cod. Motion passes with no opposition.

The AP had no recommendation for the GOA Pot, Pacific cod.



The AP recommends that the halibut mortality rate for halibut bycatch in the BSAI Pacific cod longline fishery be set at 12.5% through March 31, 1995. At that time, the rate will move and be adjusted to the 1st trimester of 1994 assessed rate by the IPHC. If the assessed rate is not calculated by March 31, 1995, the rate moves to 18%. This should be reviewed at the April Council meeting. Motion passes 14/3. (Note: the original motion to use 12.5% was reconsidered twice before this motion passed.)

**Table 2. IPHC recommendations for Preseason Assumed Discard Mortality Rates for monitoring halibut bycatch mortality in 1995. Rates shown under "Used in 1994" for hook & line fisheries represent rates applied to observed/unobserved vessels.**

Region/Target	1990	1991	1992	1993	1992-93 Average	Used in 1994	Recommendation for 1995
<b>BSAI TRAWL</b>							
MWT Pollock	81	81	87	90	89	80	89
Atka mackerel	69	73	62	56	59	70	59
Rock sole/Oflats <sup>1</sup>	58	68	78	72	75	70	75
Pacific cod	68	60	67	62	65	60	65
BT Pollock	65	59	76	78	77	60	77
Rockfish	62	54	59	78	69	60	69
Yellowfin sole <sup>1</sup>	73	74	77	75	76	70	76
Arrowtooth	57	41	-	-	-	40	49 <sup>2</sup>
Grnld. turbot	58	38	-	-	-	40	48 <sup>2</sup>
<b>GOA TRAWL</b>							
MWT Pollock	63	74	69	63	66	75	66
Rockfish	61	65	69	62	66	60	66
BT Pollock	65	56	67/72 <sup>3</sup>	81/54 <sup>3</sup>	74/63 <sup>3</sup>	55	74/63 <sup>3</sup>
Shallwtr. flatfish	62	61	62	66	64	60	64
Pacific cod	61	55	59	56	58	55	58
Deepwtr. flatfish	57	52	59	59	59	55	59
<b>BSAI H&amp;L</b>							
Pacific cod	17	21	18	18	18*	18/18	18*
Sablefish	13	18	19	14	17	12.5/15	17
Rockfish	18	29	-	-	-	12.5/15	24 <sup>2</sup>
Grnld. turbot	-	-	17	21	19	12.5/15	19
<b>GOA H&amp;L</b>							
Pacific cod	13	17	30	9	20	16/16	20
Sablefish	11	28	23	26	25	14/17	25
Rockfish	15	20	-	-	-	11.5/14	18 <sup>2</sup>
<b>BSAI POT</b>							
Pacific cod	7	3	12	4	8	5	8
<b>GOA POT</b>							
Pacific cod	10	5	16	20	18	5	18

<sup>1</sup>During 1990 and 1991, "Other flatfish" was grouped with yellowfin sole. Since 1992, the target has been grouped with rock sole.

<sup>2</sup>Average of 1990 and 1991, the two most recent years.

<sup>3</sup>For the GOA BT pollock fishery, the first value represents at-sea processors, the second value represents vessels delivering to shoreside processors.

\* See Advisory Panel recommendation on page 10.

**TABLE 2. GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH ABCs and TACs  
FINAL 1995 Plan Team, SSC, and AP recommendations (metric tons)**

Species	Area	1994			Plan Team 1995 ABC	SSC 1995 ABC	Advisory Panel 1995 TAC
		ABC	TAC	Catch*			
Pollock	W (61)	22,130	22,130	20,020	30,380	30,380	30,380
	C (62)	23,870	23,870	22,725	15,310	15,310	15,310
	C (63)	56,000	56,000	62,326	16,310	16,310	16,310
	E	7,300	7,300	6,865	3,360	3,360	3,360
	Total	109,300	109,300	111,936	65,360	65,360	65,360
Pacific Cod	W	16,630	16,630	14,712	31,300	20,100	20,100
	C	31,250	31,250	31,084	71,200	45,650	45,650
	E	2,520	2,520	1,707	5,400	3,450	3,450
	Total	50,400	50,400	47,503	108,000	69,200	69,200
Flatfish, Deep Water	W	460	460	48	670	670	460
	C	12,930	7,500	3,544	8,150	8,150	7,500
	E	3,120	3,120	1,467	5,770	5,770	3,120
	Total	16,510	11,080	5,059	14,590	14,590	11,080
Rex Sole	W	800	800	49	1,350	1,350	800
	C	9,310	7,500	3,525	7,050	7,050	7,050
	E	1,840	1,840	85	2,810	2,810	1,840
	Total	11,950	10,140	3,659	11,210	11,210	9,690
Flatfish, Shallow Water	W	20,290	4,500	189	26,280	26,280	4,500
	C	12,950	12,950	3,694	23,140	23,140	12,950
	E	1,180	1,180	11	2,850	2,850	1,180
	Total	34,420	18,630	3,894	52,270	52,270	18,630
Flathead Sole	W	9,120	2,000	498	8,880	8,880	2,000
	C	23,080	5,000	2,043	17,170	17,170	5,000
	E	3,650	3,000	13	2,740	2,740	3,000
	Total	35,850	10,000	2,554	28,790	28,790	10,000
Arrowtooth	W	28,590	5,000	1,173	28,400	28,400	5,000
	C	186,270	20,000	21,178	141,290	141,290	25,000
	E	21,380	5,000	846	28,440	28,440	5,000
	Total	236,240	30,000	23,197	198,130	198,130	35,000
Sablefish	W	2,290	2,290	556	2,600	2,600	2,600
	C	11,220	11,220	9,536	8,600	8,600	8,600
	W. Yakutat	4,850	4,850	4,541	4,100	4,100	4,100
	E. Yak./SEO	7,140	7,140	6,879	6,200	6,200	6,200
	Total	25,500	25,500	21,512	21,500	21,500	21,500
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	680	571	165	1,160	1,460	rebuilding plan 1,014
	C	850	714	922	3,150	3,950	2,702
	E	1,500	1,265	814	2,230	2,800	1,914
	Total	3,030	2,550	1,901	6,540	8,210	5,630
Shorthead/Rougheye	W	100	100	109	170	170	170
	C	1,290	1,290	887	1,210	1,210	1,210
	E	570	570	597	530	530	530
	Total	1,960	1,960	1,593	1,910	1,910	1,910
Rockfish, Other Slope	W	330	199	102	180	180	180
	C	1,640	988	713	1,170	1,170	1,170
	E	6,330	1,048	798	5,760	5,760	5,760
	Total	8,300	2,235	1,613	7,110	7,110	7,110
Rockfish, Northern	W	1,000	1,000	1,394	640	640	640
	C	4,720	4,720	4,521	4,610	4,610	4,610
	E	40	40	55	20	20	20
	Total	5,760	5,760	5,970	5,270	5,270	5,270
Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf	W	1,030	1,030	290	910	910	910
	C	4,550	4,550	1,697	3,200	3,200	3,200
	E	1,310	1,310	997	1,080	1,080	1,080
	Total	6,890	6,890	2,984	5,190	5,190	5,190
Black Rockfish	Gulfwide	NA	NA	681			
	C				333		252
Rockfish, Demersal Shelf	SEO	960	960	515	580	580	580
Thornyhead	Gulfwide	1,180	1,180	1,209	1,900	1,900	1,900
Atka Mackerel...	Gulfwide	4,800			6,400	3,240	
	W		2,500	2,661			2,310
	C		1,000	910			925
	E		5	0			5
			3,505	3,571			3,240
Other Species	Gulfwide	NA	14,504	3,449	NA	NA	13,577
<b>GULF OF ALASKA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>553,050</b>	<b>304,594</b>	<b>242,119</b>	<b>535,155</b>	<b>494,480</b>	<b>285,119</b>

\* Catch through October 29, 1994

and marine fisheries resources (MFR) and SSC

DRAFT

# DRAFT

## BERING SEA AND ALUETIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH Final 1995 Recommendations and Apportionments (mt)

Species	Area	Council	Council	Plan Team	SSC	AP
		TAC 1994	ABC 1994	ABC 1995	ABC	TAC
Pollock	EBS	1,330,000	1,330,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
	"A"	45%				40%
	"B"	55%				60%
	AI	56,600	56,600	56,600	56,600	56,600
	518	1,000	31,750	115,000	22,100	1,000
Pacific cod	BS/AI	191,000	191,000	328,000	328,000	250,000
Yellowfin sole	BS/AI	150,325	230,000	277,000	277,000	190,000
Greenland turbot	BS/AI	7,000	7,000	18,500	7,000	7,000
	BS	67%				
	AI	33%				
Arrowtooth	BS/AI	10,000	93,400	113,000	113,000	10,227
Rock sole	BS/AI	75,000	313,000	347,000	347,000	60,000
Flathead sole	BS/AI	included in other flats		138,000	138,000	30,000
Other flatfish	BS/AI	56,000	225,000	117,000	117,000	19,540
Sablefish	EBS	540	540	1,600	1,600	3,800
	AI	2,800	2,800	2,200	2,200	total
POP complex						
True POP	EBS	1,910	1,910	1,850	1,850	1,850
Other POP	EBS	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,260
True POP	AI	10,900	10,900	10,500	10,500	10,500
Sharp/Northern	AI	5,670	5,670	5,670	5,670	5,103
Short/Rougheye	AI	1,220	1,220	1,220	1,220	1,098
Other rockfish	EBS	365	365	365	365	329
	AI	770	770	770	770	693
Atka mackerel	BS/AI	68,000	122,500	250,000	125,000	80,000
	Western	10,000	53,900	111,000	55,600	16,500
	Central	44,525	55,125	112,000	55,900	50,000
	Eastern	13,475	13,475	27,000	13,500	13,500
Squid	BS/AI	3,110	3,110	3,110	3,110	1,000
Other species	BS/AI	26,390	27,500	27,600	27,600	20,000
<b>BS/AI TOTAL</b>		<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>2,656,435</b>	<b>3,066,385</b>	<b>2,836,985</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

"A" season for pollock: January 20 to April 15. "B" season: August 15 to December 31.

ITAC = recommended TAC less the 15% reserve.

## Advisory Panel Final 1995 BSAI Trawl Fisheries PSC

### Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances

Fishery Group	Assumed Mortality\1	Halibut Mortality Cap (mt)	Herring (mt)	Red King Crab (animals) Zone1	C. bairdi Zone1	C. bairdi Zone2
Yellowfin sole January 20 - August 2 August 3 - December 31	76%	750 280 470	315	50,000 35,000 15,000	225,000	1,525,000
Rocksole/other flatfish January 20-March 29 March 30 - June 28 June 29-December 31	75%	690 428 180 82		110,000	475,000	510,000
Turbot/sablefish/ Arrowtooth	48%/49%	120				5,000
Rockfish Jan. 1 - Mar. 29 Mar. 30 - June 28 June 29 - Dec. 31	69%	110 30 60 20	8			10,000
Pacific cod January 20-June 28 June 29-December 31	65%	1,550 1,450 100	24	10,000	225,000	260,000
Pollockmackerel/o.species January 20-April 15 April 16- December 31	77%/59%/60%	555 455 100	169	30,000	75,000	690,000
# MW Pollock (Herring)	89%		1346			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,375</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

\1 Mortality rates of halibut based on IPHC recommended mortality rates for 1995.

### Advisory Panel Recommendations

#### Final 1995 Recommendations for Non-Trawl PSC Bycatch Allowances

Fishery Group	Assumed Mortality**	Halibut Mortality (mt)	Seasonal Apportion (mt)
Pacific Cod Jan 1 - April 30 May 1 - August 31 Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	12.5% see minutes see minutes	725	475 40 210
Other Non-Trawl*	no recommend	175	
Groundfish Pot	8%	Exempt	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>900 metric tons</b>	

\* Includes Hook & Line sablefish, rockfish, and Greenland turbot, respectively.

\*\* Mortality rates based on IPHC recommended mortality rates for 1995.

## DRAFT MINUTES

**114th Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
September 28-October 5, 1994  
Red Lion Hotel - SeaTac  
Seattle, Washington**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met September 28 through October 5, 1994 at the Red Lion Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee began meeting on September 26. The following members of the Council, staff, SSC and AP attended the meetings.

### Council

Richard Lauber, Chairman  
Alan Millikan for Robt. Turner  
CAPT Bill Anderson for RADM Rufe  
Linda Behnken  
David Fluharty  
Dave Hanson  
Ron Hegge

Walter Pereyra, Vice Chair  
Bob Mace for R. Rosen  
Steve Pennoyer  
Steve Rideout for D. Allen  
Carl Rosier  
Robin Samuelsen  
Clem Tillion

### NPFMC Staff

Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director  
Darrell Brannan  
Marcus Hartley  
Jane DiCosimo  
Jon McCracken  
David Witherell

Chris Oliver, Deputy Director  
Judy Willoughby  
Helen Allen  
Gail Bendixen  
Linda Roberts

### Support Staff

Lisa Lindeman, NOAA-GCAK  
Ron Berg, NMFS-AKR  
Earl Krygier, ADFG  
Steve Meyer, NMFS Enforcement  
Jay Ginter, NMFS-AKR  
Jeff Passer, NMFS-Enforcement  
Seth Macinko, ADFG

Sue Salvesson, NMFS-AKR  
Phil Smith, NMFS-AKR  
Jessie Gharrett, NMFS-AKR  
Sally Bibb, NMFS-AKR  
Kim Rivera, NMFS-AKR  
Loh-lee Low, AFSC  
Sandra Lowe, AFSC  
John Lepore, NMFS-AKR

### Scientific and Statistical Committee

Terrance Quinn, Chair  
Doug Eggers  
Rich Marasco  
Susan Hills  
Hal Weeks  
Bill Aron

Keith Criddle, Co-Chair  
Jack Tagart  
Phil Rigby  
Dan Huppert  
Al Tyler  
Marc Miller

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**Advisory Panel**

John Bruce, Chair  
Dave Benson  
Al Burch  
Bruce Cotton  
Steve Drage  
Dan Falvey  
Spike Jones  
Kevin Kaldestad  
David Little  
Stephanie Madsen  
Pete Maloney

Beth Stewart, Vice Chair  
Hazel Nelson  
Doug Ogden  
Dean Paddock  
Penny Pagels  
Byron Pfundt  
John Roos  
John Sevier  
Harold Sparck  
Mick Stevens  
Robert Wurm

**Other Attendees**

The following people signed the attendance register:

Jake Jacobsen  
Larry Cotter  
Lennie Gorsuch  
C. Jensen  
Dick Powell  
Steve Hughes  
Chris Blackburn  
Scott Matulich  
Karl Hellberg  
Diane Lauber  
Paul Seaton  
Scott Highleyman  
Thorn Smith  
Ron Rogness  
Bill Noll  
Joe Kyle  
Perfenia Pletnikoff  
Thomas Bean  
John Henderschedt  
Jack Hill  
Doug Starkey  
Bill Hayes  
John Iani  
Brad Matsen  
Norman Cohen  
Denise Fredette  
Alexander Galanin, Sr.

Brian Bigler  
Jonathan W. Smee  
Dick Tremaine  
Gary Painter  
Bob Storrs  
Margaret Hall  
Greg Baker  
Katie Kull  
Mike Atterberry  
Agafon Krukoff  
Paul Fontz  
Steve Davis  
Andrew Grossman  
Edwin Glotfelty  
Harold Jones  
Norman Gorsuch  
William Chappell  
Richard Sharpe  
Phyllis Carnilla  
John vanAmerongen  
Robert Czeisler  
Lon Fleming  
J.L. Shockley  
David Capri  
Paul Duffy  
Ted Painter  
Bill Alwert

Kris Norosz  
Michael Lake  
Tom Adams  
Rance Morrison  
Karl Ohls  
Martin Richard  
Ed Wyman  
Jonathan Spool  
F. Bodal  
Julie Anderson  
Naofumi Yoskiike  
Barry Ohti  
Jeff Stephan  
Mark Alwert  
Keith Casey  
Susan Reeves  
Tom Casey  
Gordon Blue  
Bill Myhre  
Doug DeMaster  
Don Braun  
Ed Ebisui  
Shari Gross  
Kevin O'Leary  
Casey Twohy  
J. Clint Laird  
Rob Harrington

John Hovey  
Art Hodgins  
Mark Lundsten  
Thomas R. Parks  
J.R. Pace  
Ed Crane  
Mike Parfit  
Linda Kozak  
Nick Delaney  
Bruce Robertson  
Everett Allen  
Chuck Bundrant  
Michael Green  
Ron Peterson  
Alvin Osterback  
Robert Gudmundson  
Kitty Simonds

Mark Kandianis  
Gregg Williams  
Tuck Donnelly  
Debbie Hicks  
Wm. Kelliher  
Doug Dixon  
Michael Johnson  
Joe Plesha  
Joe Blum  
Phil Mundy  
Bill Jacobson  
Karen Teig  
Mike Tolva  
Arni Thomson  
Bill Arterburn  
Julie Anderson  
Erling Skaar

Steve Toomey  
Mark Earnest  
Andy McCracken  
Dave Allison  
Johnathom Hillstrand  
Fortiskew Slausner  
Phil Anderson  
Levin Kochin  
Bochard Hummand  
Kurt Jastad  
William Atlemim  
Rebecca Baldwin  
W. Rodgers, Jr.  
George Knowles  
Arthur Campbell  
Dan Albrecht  
Frank Warrens  
Larry Six

**NOTE:** A list of persons testifying before the Council is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

**A. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28 by Chairman Richard Lauber. Council member Linda Behnken was unable to attend the first day of the meeting. The agenda was approved as submitted.

Steve Pennoyer, Director of the NMFS-Alaska Region administered the Oath of Office to Rick Lauber, Clem Tillion and Dave Fluharty.

Election of Officers. Rick Lauber and Wally Pereyra were nominated to the offices of Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. There were no further nominations and both were elected by unanimous consent.

Chairman Lauber asked for a ruling from NOAA General Counsel on Dr. Fluharty's eligibility to vote at this meeting because his appointment had been made less than 45 days prior to the meeting. Lisa Lindeman, NOAA-GC, said that the "45-day rule" has to do with the Secretary procedures and should not affect Dr. Fluharty's eligibility to vote.

**The minutes of the April and June 1994 NPFMC meetings were approved as submitted.**



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**B. REPORTS**

**B-1 Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Clarence Pautzke provided Council members with a draft revision to the Council's Policy on Confidentiality of Information. The purpose of the revision would be to clear up whether contractors that work for the Council will have as much access to data as those that work for NMFS. It was decided that Dr. Pautzke would work with NOAA General Counsel on the policy and provide it for Council review at a future meeting.

Council members were provided with tentative meeting dates for 1995 and beyond and asked to comment. The only dates discussed were those for the June 1995 meeting in Dutch Harbor. Because of a conflict with fishing seasons, Robin Samuelsen prefers to meet early in the month. At this time the Council is scheduled for the week of June 19; the hotel is already booked for the week immediately prior to June 19. Bob Mace suggested the agenda be structured to handle issues important to Mr. Samuelsen early in the week so he could leave for fishing as soon as possible. The June 19 date was retained, but staff will inquire again about the possibility of moving the meeting up a few days. No comments or decisions were made on the remaining meeting schedules.

**B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G**

Earl Krygier reviewed the written report summarizing activities occurring since the last Council meeting in fisheries managed under delegated authority of the State of Alaska. He also advised that ADF&G's annual meeting with the crab industry would take place in Anchorage on October 13.

**B-3 NMFS Management Report**

Ron Berg summarized a written report on the status to date of the various groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and the status of amendments and regulations in process.

B-4 Enforcement Reports

**Coast Guard Report**

International Fisheries. The U.S. Coast Guard reported that approximately 35 trawlers from Japan, Republic of Korea, and Russia have been operating this summer in the Russian Zone along the US/RS Convention Line north of the "Donut," and that the threat of illegal encroachment into our zone has increased this year over last. Although there have been no incidents with the trawlers from Japan and Korea, there have been two cases involving Russian trawlers. On July 7, a Russian trawler/processor was boarded and issued citations by the CGC MELLON for improper gear stowage and conducting fish processing operations three miles inside the U.S. EEZ. On July 30 another Russian trawler/processor was observed by helicopter trawling at night inside the U.S. EEZ. The vessel was videotaped cutting its gear and ignored orders to stop. The MELLON gave chase but had to break off at the Russian territorial sea near Cape Navarin. All evidence has been forwarded, via the State Department, to Russian officials for review.

Dixon Entrance. The Coast Guard group in Ketchikan used 100-foot CG patrol boats from Ketchikan, Petersburg, Juneau and Seward to deter Canadian vessels from fishing in undisputed U.S. waters and maintained a continuous patrol presence from mid-June to mid-August in the high threat area between Ketchikan and Dixon Entrance. Air Station Sitka also provided helicopter surveillance. The Coast Guard seized three Canadian vessels for illegal fishing in U.S. waters during the season.

Donut. The Coast Guard continues to monitor the Central Bering Sea to ensure compliance with the current moratorium on fishing agreed to by the coastal states (U.S. and Russia) and the four historical fishing nations (Japan, Republic of Korea, Poland and People's Republic of China). The Coast Guard has observed no fishing activity by either signatory or other flag states in 1994.

Driftnet Fisheries. For the high seas driftnet fisheries, 1994 has been quiet. The Coast Guard used 134 cutter days and 223 C-130 aircraft hours patrolling the high threat areas of the North Pacific and observed no indications of violation of the U.N. Moratorium on large scale pelagic driftnetting on the high seas.

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**Domestic Fisheries**

Halibut. Over 270 boardings were conducted during the June 6 halibut opener in the Gulf of Alaska and reported a noticeably higher compliance rate than in previous years. Search and rescue activity was high, however, with seven vessel sinkings and one life lost during the September opener.

Salmon Savings Area. The Coast Guard monitored the new salmon savings area north of Unimak Pass during the pollock B season and reported that compliance is excellent with no observed closed area violations through the end of August.

Fisheries Training Team. Development of the new training team, headed up by LT Mike Cerne, is moving along quickly. An initial class to train the trainers has been scheduled for October 10-21, with instructors from the Coast Guard, NMFS Enforcement, NMFS Management, NMFS Observer Program, NOAA General Counsel, NPFMC staff, ADF&G staff, and industry expected to participate.

Fishing Vessel Safety. Statistics for 1994 continue to show encouraging industry trends. From 1987 to 1992 the commercial fishing industry in Alaska averaged 36 deaths; in 1993 the number dropped to 18, and through September 23, 1994, the number is 12. Of particular note is lives saved from vessel losses. Thirty-three vessel losses have resulted in three deaths and 119 lives saved.

**NMFS Enforcement Report**

During the reporting period June 1, and September 30, 1994, NMFS initiated 131 investigations. Further actions were taken on 235 pending cases; 118 of those were closed as unfounded, and one was closed due to lack of enforcement resources. Four cases were handled with written warnings, four cases were suspended, and three were referred to other regions or agencies. Twenty-nine cases were handled with written warnings and 28 were settled with summary settlement penalties totalling \$34,675. Sixty-four cases were settled through voluntary abandonment with forfeited proceeds and property valued at \$72,000. Thirty-six cases were referred to NOAA General Counsel who issued 14 Notices of Violation, assessing a total of \$69,983 in penalties. An additional ten Notices of Violation were settled by General Counsel with penalties totalling \$28,000.

During the September halibut opening NMFS enforcement personnel encountered numerous violations. The vast majority were very minor overage cases and were handled by voluntary abandonment of the overage when reported by the vessel/processor prior to government boarding. Twelve major cases were initiated ranging from use/possession of crucifiers, early fishing, fraudulent logbook, non-continuous transit, substantive DCPL recordkeeping violations, and closed area/major overage with full load seizure.

NMFS Enforcement reported that all five special agent fraud investigators have been hired for the IFQ program. Application fraud cases continue to be investigated. The 19 enforcement officer positions have been filled with initial basic training to begin October 3. Special agents from the Alaska Enforcement Division have met with several national and international counterparts to review existing IFQ programs and discuss successful and unsuccessful strategies.

In Council discussion of enforcement issues, members asked about the status of the proposed prohibitions on bringing Russian fish products into U.S. waters from outside the EEZ. NMFS was asked to look into the issue.

B-5 Marine Mammal Report

Richard Ferrero and Dr. Doug Demaster of the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Mammal Laboratory reported on the key elements of the 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the determination of potential biological removals.

Dr. Richard Merrick, NMFS Marine Mammal Lab, briefed the Council on the current status of the Steller sea lion. Survey data indicate a continuing population decline of Stellers in much of Alaska. For adults and juveniles, declines were observed in overall (haul-out and rookery) trend site numbers in all Alaska regions except southeast Alaska and the western Gulf of Alaska.

**C. NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

C-1 Moratorium

On August 5, 1994 the Secretary of Commerce disapproved the moratorium approved by the Council on June 24, 1992. The Secretary cited significant difficulties with the crossover provisions and the qualifying period. The Council was scheduled to review the disapproval letter and consider further action.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee did not address this agenda item.

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The Advisory Panel had the following recommendations:

1. Remove halibut and sablefish from the moratorium since both fisheries are under an IFQ program.
2. Replace the moratorium appeals process with the same process adopted for the sablefish/halibut IFQ program.
3. Retain the February 9, 1992 eligibility cut-off date.
4. Change the beginning eligibility date from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1988.
5. Restrict crossovers between crab and groundfish fisheries to those vessels with fishing history during the qualification period in both crab and groundfish.

Because the AP felt the crossover and eligibility provisions recommended are a major deviation from the original program, they recommended the Council request analysis of the amendments for further Council review at the December 1994 Council meeting.

## COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

The Council reiterated their conviction that a moratorium is necessary to freeze the effort in the crab and groundfish fisheries while a comprehensive rationalization program is being developed. In response to the Secretary's concerns over the crossover provisions, Council members stressed their feeling that during the moratorium period current fishermen should have the flexibility necessary to adjust to changing trends, some of which have been caused by regulations promulgated by the Council. The Council did agree to an adjustment of the beginning eligibility date, but remained supportive of the crossover allowances in the program. The following motions were made during their discussion:

**Bob Mace moved to change the qualification period to January 1, 1988 through February 9, 1992, with the provision that anyone who has fished from 1980 to 1988 would be considered for crossover. The motion was seconded by Alan Millikan.**

The motion would change the beginning eligibility date from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1988 but would allow those with fishing history in crab and/or groundfish during the years 1980 to 1988 to retain crossover privileges during the moratorium period.

**By friendly amendment, the following AP recommendations were added to the motion:**

**-Remove halibut and sablefish from the moratorium since both fisheries now come under an IFQ program (in consideration of the current court challenge of the IFQ program, this was subsequently re-worded to say "when" both fisheries come under an IFQ program);**

**-Replace the moratorium appeals process with the appeals process incorporated in the halibut/sablefish IFQ program.**

**-Retain February 9, 1992 as moratorium eligibility cut-off date.**

**-Fast track resubmission to Secretary; Council could comment during the Secretarial comment period.**

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These elements were later identified in the following written draft motion which was distributed to Council members and the public:

1. Remove halibut and sablefish from the moratorium since both fisheries now come under an IFQ program.
2. Replace the moratorium appeals process with the appeals process incorporated in the halibut/sablefish IFQ program.
3. Retain the February 9, 1992 moratorium eligibility cut-off date.
4. Change the beginning moratorium eligibility date from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1988.
5. Restrict crossovers between groundfish and crab fisheries to those vessels with fishing history during the period January 1, 1980 to February 9, 1992 in both crab and groundfish.
6. Fast track the moratorium and place on the December agenda the opportunity for the Council to comment to the Secretary of Commerce on the Proposed Rule.

The following was added to the bottom of the motion for Council consideration:

Substitute for No. 5: Restrict eligibility to receive groundfish or crab moratorium permit to those vessels with fishing history in the respective fishery between January 1, 1980 and \_\_\_\_\_.

**By unanimous consent, the wording in #1 was changed to read:**

**"Remove halibut and sablefish from the moratorium since when both fisheries now come under an IFQ program."**

This action was taken in consideration of the current court challenge of the sablefish/halibut IFQ program.

**Ron Hegge moved to delete #5. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken.**

Mr. Hegge, as well as other Council members, reiterated their concern over restricting crossovers and changing the rules after many in industry have made business decisions and operated with the understanding that there would be no restrictions on crossovers during the moratorium period.

Wally Pereyra moved to change the eligibility date from February 9, 1992 to September 29, 1994. The motion was seconded by Steve Pennoyer for discussion.

The motion was subsequently withdrawn and replaced with the following:

**Restrict eligibility to receive groundfish or crab moratorium permit to those vessels with fishing history in the respective fishery (fisheries) between January 1, 1980 and February 9, 1992, provided that such qualified vessels would remain eligible to receive permits based on any additional fishing history between February 9, 1992 and September 29, 1994.**

In further discussion, both Mr. Mace and Mr. Pereyra agreed with the suggestion to vote on the language suggested on the written draft identified as "Substitute for No. 5," worded as follows:

**Restrict eligibility to receive groundfish or crab moratorium permit to those vessels with fishing history in the respective fishery between January 1, 1980 and September 29, 1994.**

The motion to approve the new language in item 5 failed, 6 to 5, with Mace, Millikan, Pennoyer, Pereyra, and Fluharty voting in favor.

The original motion to delete item 5 passed, 6 to 5, with Mace, Millikan, Pennoyer, Pereyra, and Fluharty voting against.

The amended motion on the floor:

1. Remove halibut and sablefish from the moratorium since both fisheries now come under an IFQ program.



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2. **Replace the moratorium appeals process with the appeals process incorporated in the halibut/sablefish IFQ program.**
3. **Retain the February 9, 1992 moratorium eligibility cut-off date.**
4. **Change the beginning moratorium eligibility date to from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1988.**
5. **Fast track the moratorium and place on the December agenda the opportunity for the Council to comment to the Secretary of Commerce on the Proposed Rule.**

**Carl Rosier moved to amend to include a sunset date of October 1, 1996. The motion was seconded, but later withdrawn.**

The original moratorium has a sunset date of three years from the effective date of the moratorium, with a possible two-year extension if a comprehensive program is imminent. Council members felt that this was still appropriate.

**The main motion, as amended, carried 9 to 1, with Pereyra voting no and Pennoyer abstaining.**

NOAA General Counsel Lisa Lindeman asked Council members to discuss whether or not they considered the crossover provision an integral part of the program and non-severable. Ms. Lindeman reiterated earlier concerns that the record may not reflect the rationale needed to approve the moratorium with the crossover provision. Council members again stressed their opinion that there is a need for those fishermen qualifying under the moratorium to have the flexibility to adapt to the rapidly changing fisheries during the time the Council is considering a comprehensive rationalization program and to limit them at this time would not be fair since the Council is continuously making changes to fisheries regulations and forcing fishermen to change their methods and, in some case, their fisheries.

**Linda Behnken moved to recommend to the Secretary that the moratorium package should be considered as a whole and that the crossover provision is integral to the program and should not be severed. The motion was seconded and carried, 7 to 4, with Pereyra, Mace, Millikan and Pennoyer voting no.**

[The entire Council discussion on this agenda item has been transcribed; copies are available from the Council office upon request.]

C-2 Pacific Pelagics

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking concurrence from the Pacific and North Pacific Councils for the WPFMC to lead in developing management and data reporting amendments for the Pacific Pelagic Fisheries Management Plan. Those fisheries include bigeye, yellowfin, bluefin, albacore and skipjack tuna, swordfish, marlin, wahoo, and dolphin.

Edwin Ebisui, Chairman of the Western Pacific Council, provided the Council with a draft paper, "Management of US Pacific Pelagic Fisheries: Single Council Designation," giving the history of the fisheries and goals of the Pacific Pelagics FMP. The concern of the Western Pacific Council is their inability to collect data from those who fish pelagics immediately outside their jurisdiction. Those fishermen, from other areas such as the West Coast and North Pacific, are not legally bound by WPFMC's data collection programs, thus making regulation of the fisheries more difficult.

North Pacific Council members asked staffs from the Western, Pacific and North Pacific Council to continue to develop a strategy for either a single-council designation for management of the fisheries, or some type of joint management program. One suggestion was to use the North Pacific Council's Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP as an example of a plan where responsibility for management is delegated to one entity with parameters listed for actions which would require the consent of all involved councils. A draft plan of action could be presented to the Council for review in December or January. Council members also requested that the Advisory Panel review the plan and the Scientific and Statistical Committee review the data collection aspects of any plan.

C-3 Sablefish and Halibut IFQ Program

The Council was scheduled to receive a status report on the overall program implementation and various plan and regulatory amendments initiated in previous meetings, review an issues paper on potential hardship provisions, discuss the issue of titles and liens registry, and review sablefish/halibut CDQ applications/apportionments for 1995-97.

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**The Scientific and Statistical Committee did not address this agenda item.**

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP had the following recommendations:

1. Recommended that the Council initiate a plan amendment to exempt CDQ compensation quota share from the provisions of the block rule, with the following alternatives to be analyzed:
  - (a) temporary exemption (i.e., 1 year) to allow consolidation and then apply the block rule;
  - (b) permanent exemption from the block rule; and
  - (c) exemption from the vessel size category rule, but not from the freezer/catcher boat restriction.
2. Urged the Council to request in the strongest possible language that the NMFS Central Office fast track implementation of a registry for titles and liens; and request receipt of a detailed status report from NMFS on the item within 30 days.
3. Recommended the Council make no change in current IFQ program to accommodate hardship claims.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Hardship Issue

The NMFS RAM Division provided a discussion paper on the issue of hardship provisions for the sablefish and halibut IFQ program. NMFS pointed out that the current application appeals process would not suffice for hardship appeals. A new appeals process and application period would be required to consider hardship appeals. The Council reconfirmed their intent that the original program was designed, through liberal eligibility provisions, to avoid the necessity of providing for hardship appeals.

**Robin Samuelsen moved to reaffirm the Council's previous decision in not providing for hardship appeals under the sablefish and halibut IFQ program. The motion was seconded by Clem Tillion and carried, 10 to 1, with Lauber voting against.**

Titles and Liens Registry

Lisa Lindeman, NOAA-GC reiterated NOAA's opinion that NMFS does not have the statutory authority to set up such a system which could preempt the Uniform Commercial Code.

The Council stressed their feeling that some reliable method of tracking liens on IFQs or quota shares is necessary so fishermen can use them as collateral. Several representatives of financial institutions that deal with the fishing industry also testified to the necessity of such a system. Council members, through consensus, asked the Executive Director to prepare a letter to the appropriate parties encouraging a change in the Magnuson Act which would give NMFS the enabling legislation and authority and necessary resources to set up such a system. Steve Pennoyer abstained from the vote.

CDQ Compensation/Block Amendment Proposal

The Council received information indicating that the quota shares allocated as CDQ compensation will likely be issued in a multitude of small "pieces" and that a full or partial exemption from the provisions of the Block Amendment would likely make transfers of these small pieces easier for both fishermen holding the pieces and the NMFS-RAM Division.

Linda Behnken moved to approve the AP recommendation:

**To initiate a plan amendment to exempt CDQ compensation quota share from the provisions of the block rule, with the following alternatives to be analyzed:**

- (a) temporary exemption (i.e., 1 year) to allow consolidation and then apply the block rule;
- (b) permanent exemption from the block rule; and
- (c) exemption from the vessel size category rule, but not from the freezer/catcher boat restriction.

The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

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Aleutian Islands Sablefish Opening

In June, the Council requested NMFS look at a request from industry to allow the Aleutian Islands sablefish fishery to be prosecuted in January as is their usual practice. Steve Pennoyer reported that they have discussed the proposal and have determined that a regulatory amendment to accomplish it would be fairly complex in addition to the necessity to coordinate with the IPHC, which may not wish to open any area earlier than March. If the IFQ plan implementation extends beyond March, they may have to reconsider, but at this time NMFS will not pursue a regulatory amendment.

Linda Behnken suggested that this is an issue that should be pursued for future years. Mr. Pennoyer responded that they will likely discuss it with the IPHC.

IPHC/IFQ Halibut Regulations

The Council requested that staff prepare information needed to review conforming regulatory changes which may be necessary for halibut under the IFQ program. This will be on the December meeting agenda.

Bering Sea Ownership Caps

Linda Behnken asked about progress on a previous request to address the IFQ ownership caps in the Bering Sea. Staff reported that it is on the tasking list and they will have a progress report in December.

CDQs

John Walsh, Donna Parker, and David Benton, representing Alaska Rural Development, Economic Development, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, respectively, provided an overview of the applications received for the sablefish and halibut CDQ program for 1995-97. Council members were provided with executive summaries of the applications and plans. Seven fishery and economic development groups applied for community development quota for either halibut or sablefish, or both. The Governor's recommendations were as follows:

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Assn. (APICDA):	10% Aleutian Islands Sablefish
Atka Fishermen's Assn/APICDA:	100% Area 4B Halibut
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp:	30% Area 4E Halibut; 23% Area 4D 25% Aleutian Islands Sablefish
Coastal Villages Fisheries Cooperative:	70% Area 4E Halibut, 24% Area 4D 25% Aleutian Islands Sablefish
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Assn:	33% Area 4D Halibut; 10% AI Sablefish, 75% BS Sablefish
Pribilof Island Fishermen	100% Area 4C Halibut
Norton Sound Economic Development Corp:	20% Area 4D Halibut 30% AI Sablefish, 25% BS Sablefish

The AP and SSC did not address this agenda item.

**Bob Mace moved to approve the recommendations of the Governor of Alaska for Community Development Quota apportionments for halibut and sablefish for 1995-97. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken and carried without objection.**

Dr. Pereyra emphasized that the intent of the CDQ program is to create opportunity for Western Alaska residents to get involved in the fisheries and hopes that funds received from the program will be used to fulfill that intent.

#### **C-4 Observer Plan**

The Council was scheduled to receive a report from the Observer Oversight Committee (OOC) on 1995 fee percentages, and take final action on the percentage for 1995.

#### **Report of the Observer Oversight Committee**

The OOC reviewed information affecting the percentage to be levied under the first year of the Plan. The materials included the final rule for the Plan, the proposed rule for the 1995 Plan specifications, projected fish prices and observer costs, a report on coordination between the groundfish and shellfish programs, and recommendations from NMFS on the required fee percentage in 1995.

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Following is a summary of their recommendations:

1. Set the 1995 fee percentage at 2%.
2. Consider adjusting the exvessel price for Atka mackerel and Bering Sea longline-caught Pacific cod if NMFS, after reviewing industry data, suggests the change is warranted.
3. Request that a mechanism for adjusting exvessel prices and/or the fee percentage inseason should substantive changes in any exvessel price or tonnage of any delivered species occur. The intent is to protect the integrity of the observer program and avoid using fish prices which are substantively different from actual fish prices.

**Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC received the report on determination of standard exvessel prices to be used in the assessment of recoverable fees and noted that information on price variation between trawl and other gear catches for the BSAI and Eastern and Western Gulf of Alaska, as well as seasonal variations for pollock and rock sole were included as previously requested. The SSC had no recommendation on a fee percentage.

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP expressed their continuing concern with details in the Research Plan that have not been addressed by the OOC, including costs that will be incurred to accommodate systems for recordkeeping. The AP recommended that a committee of affected parties (shorebased processors), Council, NMFS and State of Alaska staff meet as soon as possible to identify solutions and develop implementation plans that result in no, or minimal, delays in implementation. The AP recommended the Council adopt the 2% assessment for 1995 as recommended by the OOC.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

The Council received public testimony as well as the AP's report expressing concern over the initial cost to industry, specifically onshore processors, to set up the recordkeeping programs required to provide the information necessary to collect fees from fishermen and submit them to NMFS. Sue Salvesson told Council members that the system has been approved and to change now could delay implementation of the entire program

for up to a year. NMFS will consult with industry as the AP has recommended, but Ms. Salveson told Council members that it is unlikely that any major change could be made for the 1995 season. Council members were concerned over the possibility of excessive cost to industry but did not want the program delayed. They asked NMFS to work with industry toward some acceptable solution.

**Linda Behnken moved the AP recommendations, including the 2% fee for 1995. The motion was seconded by Clem Tillion.**

Ms. Behnken expressed the hope that some way can be found to mitigate excessive costs on industry, but stressed the need to get the program in place for 1995.

After their initial report, the AP was asked to review the standard exvessel prices and make recommendations to the Council after their initial report. After reviewing the standard exvessel prices for groundfish, shellfish, and halibut provided on page 13 of the report provided by Joe Terry, "Establishing the Fee Percentage and Standard Exvessel Prices for 1995," the AP recommended their approval with some minor adjustments (see AP minutes for list - Appendix II to these minutes).

**Ron Hegge moved to approve the standard exvessel prices as recommended by the Advisory Panel. The motion was seconded by Robin Samuelsen and carried without objection.**

Joe Terry pointed out that there were some minor crab species not included in his report, but that industry had made the following recommendations: Tanneri - \$1.40/pd; Angulatus - \$1.40/pd; and Cousi - \$2.00/pd.

**Bob Mace moved approval of the recommended prices as recommended by industry and stated by Dr. Terry. The motion was seconded and carried without objection.**

C-5 Comprehensive Rationalization Planning (CRP)

The Council was scheduled to review a draft license limitation analysis to release for public review, review future IFQ programs, and receive a status report on social impact analyses.



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The Council received a draft license limitation analyses prior to the meeting for review. Council staff provided an overview of the document and answered Council questions regarding various alternatives. The analysis contains thousands of alternatives at this time; however, staff cautioned against reducing options at this time and suggested that the Council could highlight those elements/options which appear most viable when releasing the document for public comment.

Lisa Lindeman, NOAA-GC reviewed for the Council a legal opinion in response to a Council question regarding whether the Secretary and the Council could, in the course of implementing an IFQ system for groundfish and crab, impose more restrictive foreign ownership limitations on corporate ownership of U.S.-documented fishing vessels that those already applicable under the Anti-Reflagging Act, and corresponding stock ownership limitations on the corporate ownership of shorebased processing plants where no pre-existing legal limitations exist. General Counsel's opinion is that prohibiting majority foreign-owned U.S. enterprises currently owning grandfathered vessels that harvest groundfish and crab in the North Pacific from participating in the initial allocation of quota share would likely constitute an expropriation, for which compensation would be due. However, restricting the subsequent transfer to quota share to vessels owned by U.S.-controlled entities is probably permissible under customary international law and applicable treaties or other international agreements. Denying quota share to foreign-controlled onshore processors would likely constitute either an expropriation for which compensation would be due and/or a denial of national treatment under applicable treaties and other international agreements.

**Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC noted that the analysis is extremely complex and burdensome because of the huge number of alternatives and repeated their recommendation that the Council indicate a preferred option or list of options to be similarly analyzed. The SSC noted that the report provides an analysis using all information currently available, but that some deficiencies still detract from the completeness of the economic impact analysis. The SSC also requested that they have the opportunity to review the yet-to-be-drafted socioeconomic assessment chapter before it is sent out for public review, and that the new chapter be incorporated in the draft EA/RIR before releasing it for public review.

### **Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP recommended that the analysis not be sent out for formal public review at this meeting. Because of the large number of alternatives they requested an extra day during the December Council meeting to review the alternatives and suggestions received from industry. However, they did feel that the current document will be useful to the public in paring down alternatives and suggested the Council encourage the public to request copies of the document in advance of the December meeting.

### **Council Discussion/Action**

**Alan Millikan moved to reverse the previous Council decision and consider IFQs as a first priority, completing the license limitation package as quickly as possible, but in a secondary way, and move as quickly as possible toward comprehensive rationalization. The motion was seconded by Wally Pereyra.**

Mr. Millikan referred to comments from the industry during public testimony indicating that a license limitation program will not address the problem statement for comprehensive rationalization. Mr. Pereyra said the current document shows the difficulty in going forward with a license limitation program and that any decisions made in that direction will have impacts on future allocations under an IFQ program. Steve Pennoyer pointed out that the analysis doesn't show a linkage to an IFQ program to allow the public and Secretary to see where the Council is headed with comprehensive rationalization.

**The motion failed, 7 to 4, with Fluharty, Millikan, Pennoyer and Pereyra voting in favor.**

**Carl Rosier moved to work from Appendix I of the License Limiation document (options and elements as approved by the Council in June 1994) to identify options for a workable license limitation program. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken.**

**Bob Mace moved a substitute motion to delay Council discussion and any decision until December, per the AP recommendation. The motion was seconded by Wally Pereyra.**

Lisa Lindeman suggested sending the analysis out as a "scoping document" to allow industry to look at possible alternatives and how they will affect them or the environment. The Council could benefit from comments in

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December when they begin to narrow the alternatives. The current document doesn't analyze the impacts of alternatives and so does not fulfill the requirements of an Environmental Assessment at this time.

**Both Mr. Mace and Mr. Rosier withdrew their motions.**

**Carl Rosier moved to proceed with discussion of the analysis as a scoping document. The motion was seconded.**

The Council was to use this motion as a framework to amend various options.

**Carl Rosier moved to highlight as an option of interest to the Council, the following:**

**Option C, with Suboption A, modified as follows: General licenses for FMP areas with endorsements for each subspecies/subarea; Suboption A: separable endorsements. This option should include the species endorsements, catcher and catcher-processor designations, and catcher vessel size categories specified under Option D.**

Captain Anderson expressed concern over enforcement difficulties with this option.

**Carl Rosier withdrew the motion in favor of a suggestion to highlight the options the Council would not be interested in.**

**Clem Tillion moved to reinstate Mr. Rosier's original motion - to work from Appendix I to identify workable options. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken.**

**Linda Behnken moved a substitute motion: send the analysis out as a scoping document and request the Advisory Panel to review it in December and star the serious alternatives. The Council would then take the AP's recommendations and narrow the options in December. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace.**

**Through friendly amendment, the Rosier motion for workable alternatives (Appendix III to these minutes) is to be sent out for public comment along with the scoping document.**

**The motion carried without objection.**

Council members provided several comments to staff for release of the document, including using a baseline of 1993 as the "status quo" so industry can determine where they would fit in, and a discussion on the linkage of a license limitation program to a future IFQ program, including soliciting comments on whether or not the Council should continue to pursue IFQs.

**Bob Mace moved to include the proposal submitted by Midwater Trawlers Co-op (Appendix IV to these minutes) with the scoping document for comment. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken and carried without objection.**

Staff indicated that analyzing the proposal could take several weeks. Council members instructed staff to attach the proposal to the document as a discussion item and request comments on it.

#### C-6 Full Utilization and Harvest Priority

In June 1993 the Council directed staff to prepare a discussion paper on the issue of prohibiting discards of groundfish in all fisheries. The discussion paper was presented to the Council in September, and further discussions were held at subsequent meetings. NMFS provided a discussion paper for this meeting to explore alternatives for full retention and full utilization. In December of 1993 the Council received a proposal from the Alaska Marine Conservation Council for a harvest priority program wherein incentives would be provided for fishermen to reduce bycatch and discards. NMFS also provided the Council with a discussion paper on this issue.

#### **Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC had extensive comments on the subjects of full utilization/retention and harvest priority (see SSC Minutes, Appendix V to these minutes). One point made by the SSC is that given the current inability to quantify the cost and benefits of management measures developed to address either of these issues, the Council may want to take an incremental or adaptive approach to their implementation. In the case of full retention/full utilization such an approach may require the selection of target retention/utilization standards which could be phased in over a defined period of time to allow assessment of industry actions taken to modify fishing strategies and the way fish are used.

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP believes that harvest priority and full retention/full utilization have the potential to address some management problems in the interim period before implementation of a CRP program and will fully integrate with whatever CRP program is ultimately implemented. The AP urged the Council to proceed with establishing two committees (one for Harvest Priority, and one for Full Retention/Full Utilization) to further develop these programs in order to prepare for an EA/RIR for each program. Under Full Utilization /Full Retention, alternatives should include (1) all species, (2) all species for which there is a TAC, (3) PSC. The AP recommended some names for committee membership.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Linda Behnken moved to adopt the AP recommendation under Full Utilization and Harvest Priority:**

**Proceed with establishing 2 committees (one for Harvest Priority, and one for Full Retention/Full Utilization) to further develop these programs in order to prepare for an EA/RIR for each program. Under the FR/FU, alternatives should include (1) all species, (2) all species for which there is a TAC, and (3) PSC.**

**In addition, the Council should move ahead with a plan amendment to institute full utilization for pollock and rocksole.**

The motion was seconded by Carl Rosier.

Ms. Behnken clarified that by full utilization of those two species she is referring to harvesting in the target mode as was recommended by the AP, of the target species, and looking at a range of 90 to 100% retention of those species for 1996. Ms. Behnken recognized that it may be too early in the process to begin an EA/RIR for harvest priority, but with regard to full utilization and retention she felt that the issue has been in front of the Council for some time and that the process should be initiated to determine whether there are workable solutions.

Steve Pennoyer acknowledged that the Council has been trying to develop a workable bycatch reduction program for some time and that it still too early to determine whether the Vessel Incentive Program will accomplish what

was intended. However, with current tasking levels, he is reluctant to assign staff to begin an analysis at this time without giving the industry committee time to work through some of the preliminary alternatives. He also suggested that one committee, rather than two, would be better for staffing purposes. He suggested four "case history" fisheries for the committee and staff to work on: rocksole in the Bering Sea, the pollock midwater trawl fishery in the Bering Sea, a Gulf flatfish fishery as yet unnamed, and the longline cod fishery in the Bering Sea.

**Robin Samuelsen moved a substitute motion to delete the plan amendment language from the main motion and add the "case history" fisheries recommended by Steve Pennoyer. Also, to give the Chairman the freedom to appoint more people to the committee(s).**

**This was accepted by Ms. Behnken as a friendly amendment to her motion, which carried without objection.**

The Council discussed whether there should be one committee or two. Mr. Pennoyer reiterated his idea for one committee. It was suggested that the issues could be taken up consecutively, perhaps in a two-day meeting, so that committee members would only have to attend the portion that they were particularly interested in, i.e., full retention/full utilization or harvest priority. It was the consensus of Council members that one committee could be appointed encompassing members interested in both issues.

#### C-7 Inshore-Offshore

The Council in April directed staff to begin work on an analysis of the rollover of inshore/offshore and the associated pollock CDQ program which are now scheduled to expire at the end of 1995. In June, the Council identified two alternatives for analysis: (1) no rollover of inshore-offshore - the program would expire at the end of 1995; and (2) continuation of the current program, as is. Because of other analyses in progress, staff has not had to opportunity to begin work on the inshore-offshore amendment.

#### **Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC's comments focused on the analytical needs in support of an amendment to continue the inshore-offshore and CDQ fishery allocations. If the problem addressed by a continuation is that Comprehensive Rationalization Planning has taken longer than originally intended and that an extension of existing interim measures is needed,

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then a relatively simple qualitative analysis of socio-economic impacts may be adequate. If the problem is stated in more substantive terms (such as specific biological or economic objectives), it is likely to require more complex evaluation to satisfy National Standards under the Magnuson Act. (See SSC Minutes, Appendix V, for additional comments.)

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP recommended the inshore-offshore amendment be analyzed with the following alternatives:

- (1) Status quo - do nothing, let program expire; and
- (2) Roll-over current program as is.

The AP also strongly urged the Council to assign this amendment the highest priority.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Lisa Lindeman, NOAA-GC, pointed out that another analysis of inshore-offshore is a new action and the Council will still need to look at all reasonable alternatives. The original analysis, however, could be incorporated into the new one by reference.

**Clem Tillion moved the inshore-offshore amendment be analyzed with the following alternatives:**

- (1) Status quo - do nothing, let program expire; and
- (2) Roll-over current program as is, including the CDQ program as an integral part, for three additional years.

Linda Behnken seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Tillion clarified that if a comprehensive rationalization program is implemented before the end of three years, the inshore-offshore program would automatically expire.

Maintaining the current "status quo" is necessary to maintain stability while the Council is working toward a

comprehensive program. Some Council members thought that the three-year extension may not be enough, and that additional alternatives should be considered.

C-8 Sablefish Longline Surveys

The Council had been asked to consider making a recommendation on whether foreign vessels should be involved in sablefish longline surveys off Alaska. However, Dr. Aron, Director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, told Council members that NMFS is already taking action to discontinue foreign participation. The SSC volunteered to review standardization procedures between the current domestic survey and the older cooperative survey. NMFS will supply information to the SSC before the December meeting. The Council did not discuss or take action on this agenda item.

C-9 International Fisheries

In August Chairman Lauber appointed a committee to review the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and assess its potential ramifications for other agreements that affect North Pacific Fisheries. The Committee met during Council week to review the agreements.

Neither the SSC nor the AP addressed this agenda item.

**Report of the Law of the Sea Committee**

Concerns

1. The U.S. position in the U.N. Law of the Sea negotiations to accept binding international arbitration in dispute settlement could cause problems with management of Central Bering Sea pollock stocks. This dispute resolution could be left under the authority of an unidentified international tribunal. A non-party to current regional agreement could trigger this dispute settlement process and possibly obtain a different management arrangement than now exists.
2. The settlement process described above also applies to the current driftnet moratorium. The moratorium is now voluntary. The desires of Italy, Spain or France to commence driftnet fisheries may set a



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precedent for some nation with interests in the Pacific to pursue a change in the driftnet moratorium that now protects salmon stocks.

3. Other fisheries could emerge on the high seas, e.g., pair trawling for squid, which could take salmon. This would have to be settled by an international tribunal and the outcome is much less likely to be in our favor than if regional pressures and mechanisms were used.
4. Fisheries could arise on species of ecosystem concern.
5. There is no restraint on new fisheries. In effect, a fishery can continue until it is proven adverse. This is different and not as desirable as prohibiting a fishery until it can be proven to not be adverse.

Future Steps

1. All regional Councils need to start tracking these issues and the ongoing straddling stocks conference. The text as it pertains to both straddling stocks and highly migratory species needs to be examined. Pollock, salmon, tuna, billfish, and other pelagics all are affected by this conference.
2. The global driftnet moratorium has to be made binding.
3. An issues paper needs to be drafted and distributed to all Councils by the time the Executive Directors meet in November. The Marine Fisheries Commissions also need to be apprised of the issues.
4. The issues paper and any consensus multi-council position that is established need to be transmitted to the U.S. State Department and to interested industry sectors this fall.
5. Efforts need to be made to request the Senate to carefully review these concerns when providing advice and consent on UNCLOS and any agreements derived from the straddling stocks conference.
6. The LOS Committee will confer again in mid-October on development of the issues paper. The paper should be ready for distribution at the Pacific Council meeting on October 24.

Dave Hanson moved to approve the Committee report and direct the Committee to draft a position statement to submit this fall. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken and carried without objection.

**D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

D-1 Crab Management

The Council received a report on the status of crab stocks in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands from Bob Otto, NMFS, and an area management report prepared by the State of Alaska and NMFS.

**Report of the Crab Plan Team**

The Crab Plan Team has expressed concern for red king crab conservation and recommended setting the red king crab bycatch cap in the groundfish fishery in that portion of Zone 1 of 163°W longitude to zero, and that the Council/Board of Fish Crab Consultation Group discuss crab bycatch issues. Additionally, the Plan Team requested that the Council examine bycatch caps, observer sampling protocols and bycatch estimation methods, biological characteristics of crab bycatch, and distribution of king crab in Zone 1 relative to the trawl closure area.

**Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC recommended that the Crab and BSAI Groundfish Plan Teams examine bycatch issues jointly and report to the Council in December. The Plan Teams should focus on the conservation benefits of reduced bycatch, impacts on groundfish target fisheries which may be affected by additional time/area closures, and impacts on bycatch of other species by potentially displaced groundfish fisheries.

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP recommended that in preparation for a potential emergency rule on red king crab bycatch that the staff prepare an analysis of potential time and area closures for all fisheries that take red king crab, using the Plan Team's recommendations.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

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This action was taken during the BSAI groundfish specifications discussions under Agenda item D-3(b).

**Bob Mace moved to initiate an emergency rule for special time and area closures in the BSAI groundfish fisheries based on Crab Plan Team recommendations. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken. The motion was tabled until Council discussion of the 1995 BSAI groundfish specifications. At that time, Council members requested that additional data on crab bycatch in the groundfish fisheries in the area be provided for discussion during a special Council teleconference sometime in early November.**

Wally Pereyra said the Council also needs to look at the downstream effects of crab closures.

The Council asked the Executive Director to work with the Executive Director for the Board of Fisheries to set up a meeting of the Council/Board consultation group.

**D-2    Salmon Bycatch Issues**

**(a)    Salmon Foundation**

The Council received a report from the Salmon Foundation on "B" season activities. With significant cooperation and assistance from the Observer Program, the Sea State reports from the fleet have evolved into useful tools. However, a review of the Sea State reports also indicates the limitations of a "hot spot" oriented approach to salmon bycatch management. Because the "B" season opened with a significant portion of the 42,000 "other salmon" cap having been recorded by NMFS as already taken, and a relatively high rate of bycatch experienced by the fleet during the first few days of the fishery resulting in a 5-block closure three days after the fishery opened, the fleet did not have the opportunity to review and respond to "hot spot" information as of the closure announcement. However, skippers continue to use the reports to guide their fishing activities. The Foundation also reported on progress with Program Development.

**(b)    Salmon Retention/Delivery to Foodbanks**

The Council was scheduled to take final action on a plan amendment addressing salmon retention and delivery to foodbanks. The alternatives considered were:

Alternative 1. Status quo. Salmon retained only until observer has determined the number of salmon and taken scientific samples as required. No other type of retention would be authorized, and salmon must be discarded at sea as PSC.

Alternative 2. Mandatory retention and processing of salmon. All salmon taken as trawl bycatch would be required to be retained, processed for human consumption, and donated to foodbanks. This alternative was not fully evaluated, as NOAA GC has determined that NMFS lacks the statutory authority under the Magnuson Act to implement this alternative.

Alternative 3. Voluntary retention and processing of salmon. All salmon taken as trawl bycatch could be voluntarily retained and processed for foodbanks. This alternative would require that permits be issued to those processing, possessing, or distributing these salmon.

The SSC and AP did not comment on this agenda item.

## COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

**Earl Krygier moved to approve Alternative 3, voluntary retention. The motion was seconded by Robin Samuelsen and carried without objection.**

### (c) Time/Area Closures to Reduce Bycatch of Chum and Chinook Salmon

Salmon bycatch controls originally were part of Amendment 21 to the BSAI FMP. In April 1992, the Council reviewed a draft document and requested additional analysis. A revised analysis, which included time and area patterns in chinook bycatch, was reviewed in January 1993. Further revisions were made and the document was reviewed in April 1993. Although the analysis was released for public review, no action was taken in part due to the development of the Salmon Foundation. In April 1994, the Council reviewed a discussion paper on alternatives to reduce bycatch of "other" salmon (mostly chums) in the BSAI trawl fisheries. The Council requested an Emergency Rule to be in place for the 1994 pollock "B" season that would close five 30-mile by 30-mile blocks within the CVOA (an option analyzed in the discussion paper) to all trawling when 42,000 other salmon were taken as bycatch. For this meeting, analysis of salmon bycatch reduction measures was broken out

into two separate documents, with one addressing chum salmon bycatch, and the other addressing chinook bycatch.

Chum Salmon Bycatch Analysis

The objective of this proposed amendment is to provide a mechanism to accurately assess and reduce excessive "other" salmon bycatch in the BSAI groundfish fisheries with the least impact on the domestic groundfish harvesting and processing industry while assuring that any action is balanced and equitable to all segments of the industry. Three alternatives were examined:

Alternative 1. Status quo. NMFS would not have the authority to close areas of the BSAI to trawling to prevent high bycatch of "other" salmon.

Alternative 2. A specified area of the BSAI (depending upon the closure option selected) would be closed to trawling year-round.

Alternative 3. A specified area of the BSAI (depending upon the closure option selected) would be closed to trawling during the period of high "other" salmon bycatch (generally July through October). An option to this alternative would be to close specified areas when a bycatch limit is reached.

There are seven different options for closed areas under both Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. These are essentially the areas described in the previous discussion paper.

Chinook Salmon Bycatch Analysis

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to provide a means to control the bycatch of chinook salmon in the BSAI groundfish fisheries should the Council decide that current or other methods (such as the Salmon Foundation) were not effective. Three alternatives were analyzed:

Alternative 1. Status quo. No PSC limit for chinook in the BSAI groundfish fisheries.

Alternative 2. Implement chinook salmon PSC limits for BSAI trawl fisheries that would trigger a time/area closure. Several options for area closures, and a range of PSC limits (8,000 to 48,000 chinook), apportioned to target fisheries, are evaluated.

Alternative 3. Implement specific time/area closures on the BSAI trawl fisheries in the absence of PSC limits. Closures would be triggered during times of high chinook bycatch (January-April and September -December), and would be selectively applied to fisheries that have historically accounted for a majority of the chinook bycatch (midwater and bottom pollock, and possibly Pacific cod).

#### **Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

Chinook Salmon Analysis. The SSC reviewed the draft EA/RIR/IRFA noting that the document has been updated to include 1993 and 1994 data and two new alternatives and adequately addresses a variety of AP and SSC comments. The SSC recommended sending the document out for public review.

Chum Salmon Analysis. The SSC reviewed the draft EA/RIR/IRFA and noted that the revised analysis addresses several SSC and AP comments, including 1995 bycatch data, more complete review of stock identification information, updated status of Western Alaska chum salmon, and more alternative closures areas. The SSC recommended sending the document out for public review.

The Advisory Panel did not address this agenda item due to a lack of time.

#### **Council Discussion/Action**

Earl Krygier moved to send both documents out for public review. Additionally, it should be made clear for public review purposes that accounting in the analysis for chum salmon in the CVOA begins on July 1. The motion was seconded by Clem Tillion.

Wally Pereyra wanted to amend to include an alternative with options under a Individual Bycatch Quota system, but NMFS staff said that NMFS does not have the management tools to monitor individual PSC quotas. Mr.

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Krygier also indicated the need for action now; an individual bycatch quota alternative would cause a delay while an analysis is completed.

Bob Mace stressed the need to obtain as much chum salmon bycatch in the report, including that taken in other fisheries. Mr. Krygier agreed this would be included in the public review draft.

**The motion carried without objection.**

**D-3 Initial Groundfish Specifications for 1995**

**(a-b) Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands SAFE and Preliminary Specifications for 1995**

The Council was scheduled to review and release for public review the preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document for BSAI groundfish fisheries for 1995 and set preliminary harvest specifications, including bycatch allowances.

**Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC provided several comments for Plan Team consideration at the November plan team meeting and recommended that the Plan Team Terms of Reference be approved after a revision to make Plan Team minutes available to the entire Council family.

With regard to the 1995 BSAI groundfish specifications, the SSC provided a review of assessments where there was new information. Please see SSC Minutes, Appendix V, for their specific comments. The SSC agreed with Plan Team recommendations for ABCs for all species except Greenland turbot and Atka mackerel (See table, Appendix VI).

For Greenland turbot, the SSC recommends that no modification be made of the 1995 Greenland turbot ABC until the assessment analysis containing result of the 1994 bottom trawl survey is completed. The SSC recommends an initial ABC of 7,000 mt.

For Atka mackerel, the SSC recommended continuing its 1992 recommendation to reduce the calculated ABC for Atka mackerel by 5/6 with subsequent annual increases of 1/6. The SSC recommended this procedure be continued because of survey variability and concerns for northern fur seals and Steller seal lions which feed heavily on Atka mackerel. This would mean the calculated ABC for 1995 should be reduced by 4/6, resulting in an ABC of 163,350 mt. As required by Amendment 28, the ABC should be distributed among the Western, Central and Eastern subareas relative to survey biomass: Western: 71,900 mt; Central: 73,500 mt; and Eastern: 17,950 mt.

The SSC also agreed with a plan team recommendation to include squid in the "other species" complex because the lack of biological and fishery information does not justify separate management at this time. They recommended, however, that catch statistics for squid should continue to be collected in the event that a directed fishery develops.

#### **Report of the Advisory Panel**

See Appendix VI to these minutes for a list of the Advisory Panel's preliminary 1995 TAC recommendations. Additionally, the AP recommended the following:

1. For the BSAI pollock A/B season, change the apportionment to 40%/60%, respectively.
2. Roll over the 1994 Pacific cod apportionments for fixed gear as preliminary 1995 apportionments.
3. Roll over the 1994 PSC caps and apportionments as preliminary 1995 PSC caps/apportionments.
4. Roll over bycatch rates and VIP standards.

The AP also recommended that the halibut mortality rates for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska be set equal to the IPHC recommendations found in Table 4, agenda item D-3(f)(1) in the agenda notebooks (included in Appendix VI to these minutes), with the exception that the GOA bottom trawl pollock mortality rate be set at 54%-shoreside and 81%-offshore.

#### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Bob Mace moved to approve the preliminary SAFE document, the ABCs recommended by the SSC, and the TACs recommended by the AP, for public review. The motion was seconded.**



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It was pointed out that including squid in the "other species" category would require a FMP amendment. This recommendation was removed from the motion, and the ABC and TAC were set at 3,100 mt for the squid category and the "other species" category adjusted accordingly.

**Bob Mace moved to set the pollock allocation for the A & B seasons at 40/60%, respectively, as recommended by the AP. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken.**

Mr. Pereyra said reducing the A season from 45% will cost industry \$25 million, and there has been no biological information to support such a change.

**The motion was amended to send both allocations (40/60 and 45/55) out for public comment.**

Mr. Pereyra disagreed, saying this is sending the wrong message to industry and the fact that the Council is considering the change will affect price negotiations and other industry decisions.

**Mr. Pereyra abstained from voting on the motion, which carried without further objection.**

**Bob Mace moved to approve for public review the AP recommendations for seasonal apportionments for Pacific cod for fixed gear (90% 1st trimester; 10% 2nd trimester, with any unused rolled over into 3rd trimester) plus additional recommendations submitted by NPLA and others during public testimony. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken and carried without objection.**

Bob Mace moved to take no action on allocating the amount of pollock that can be taken with bottom trawls. The motion was seconded by Wally Pereyra, but subsequently withdrawn. If the Council takes no action at all, the results will be the same. Mr. Pereyra was concerned that if the Council does not notice a discussion of the issue there won't be any public input or analysis of sizes of onbottom versus midwater harvests that could show how much pollock on the bottom is caught in non-trawl fisheries.

Carl Rosier brought up the issue of a TAC for capelin and suggested that because of its importance as a food animal for marine mammals and bird populations, the Council should consider taking it out of the "other species" category establishing a separate management category. Ron Berg suggested that if the Council wants to manage capelin more directly, an FMP amendment should be initiated to place capelin into a target fishery category. If

the Council does not want a directed fishery on capelin, then an amendment could be initiated to make it a PSC species. It was pointed out that there is a current amendment proposal on this subject which will be reviewed by the plan teams before Council review in December.

Wally Pereyra also mentioned possible renewed interest in the snail fisheries and asked that ADF&G keep the Council informed of any new information gathered on those fisheries.

**(c-d) GOA SAFE and Preliminary Specifications for 1995**

The Council was scheduled to review and release for public review the preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document for GOA groundfish fisheries for 1995 and set preliminary harvest specifications, including halibut mortality rates.

**Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

With regard to the 1995 GOA groundfish specifications, the SSC provided a review of assessments where there was new information. Please see SSC Minutes, Appendix V, for their specific comments. The SSC agreed with Plan Team recommendations for ABCs for all species except POP, other slope rockfish, thornyhead and Atka mackerel (See table, Appendix VI). For Pacific cod, the SSC recommended sending out a range of ABCs for public comment, using the Plan Team's recommendation as the upper end of the range. The SSC noted that the Plan Team's higher ABC recommendation came partly from the new stock synthesis model application. It was decided the model was the best that could be developed given the level of uncertainty in the data, but that additional analyses are needed.

For Pacific ocean perch, the SSC did not agree with the Plan Team's reduced ABC to provide a buffer between the ABC and overfishing level (OFL). The SSC recommended that the ABC equal the OFL (8,830 mt), as they did last year, and requested the Plan Team reexamine the issue.

For thornyheads, the Plan Team's recommendation of ABC was a two-fold increase over the 1994 ABC, based on a new assessment which uses improved information, including maturity data and longline survey catches and size compositions which indicate the presence of larger thornyheads in deeper depths not sampled by the trawl survey. However, because rockfish are vulnerable to overexploitation, the SSC recommended phasing in the new,

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larger ABC. They recommended a four-year stair step so that the procedure can be reevaluated after the 1996 trawl survey. For 1995, the ABC recommended by the SSC would be 5/8 of the new ABC (1,450 mt). For subsequent years, the SSC requested that the Team provide an ABC calculation based on altered fishing mortality values.

For Atka mackerel, the SSC recommends continuing the reduction of the ABC by 1/6 each year as initiated in 1994, which would result in a 1995 ABC of 4,300 mt. This would maintain consistency in approach between the BSAI and GOA areas in addition to addressing concerns about survey variability and concerns for northern fur seals and Steller sea lions which feed on Atka mackerel.

**Report of the Advisory Panel**

The AP recommended 1995 Gulf of Alaska preliminary TACs as shown in Appendix VI to these minutes.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Bob Mace moved to send out the Gulf of Alaska SAFE for public review, and to approve for public review the preliminary 1995 GOA ABCs and TACs as recommended by the SSC and AP, respectively. The motion was seconded.**

**Linda Behnken moved to amend the other slope rockfish TAC to include a range from 2,235 mt to 6,930 mt for public review. The motion was seconded. Ms. Behnken said she will be proposing this species as bycatch-only for 1995 as in 1994. The motion carried without objection.**

**The main motion, as amended, carried without objection.**

**Exempt IFQ Sablefish Fishery from Halibut Cap**

**Bob Mace moved to approve an AP recommendation that NMFS initiate a regulatory amendment to exempt the IFQ sablefish fishery from the halibut cap in the GOA, subject to annual review. The motion was seconded, and carried without objection. The amendment will be structured such that it would only become effective when the IFQ program is implemented.**

PSC Apportionments and Seasonal Allowances

Bob Mace moved to set the 1995 PSC hook and line gear PSC limits at a total of 300 mt, contingent on the IFQ fishery being exempted, and set 1994 trawl apportionments and seasonal allowances as 1995 allowances for public review. The motion was seconded by Linda Behnken and carried without objection.

Steve Pennoyer moved approval of the AP recommendation for the apportionments between shallow water and deepwater complex (the same as for 1994, see AP minutes, Appendix II). The motion was seconded and carried without objection.

(e) Vessel Incentive Program Rates

No Council action was necessary. The Regional Director has the authority to roll over the 1994 rate.

(f) Halibut Mortality Discard Rates

Linda Behnken moved to approve the AP recommendation that the halibut mortality rates for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska be set equal to the IPHC recommendations in Table 4 of agenda item D-3(f)(1) (see Appendix VII of these minutes) with one modification: that the pollock mortality rate be 54% for shoreside and 81% for offshore. The motion was seconded.

Ron Hegge moved to amend the motion to set the halibut mortality rates in the BSAI Pacific cod hook & line fishery at 12% instead of 18%. The motion was seconded and carried without objection after a friendly amendment to send out a range of 12% to 18% for public comment.

(g) Plan Team Terms of Reference

The Plan Teams Terms of Reference document was provided for Council information. The Council approved of the operating procedures, but suggested that membership should be flexible enough to include other agencies and universities.

D-4 Groundfish Regulatory Amendments

(a) **Total Weight Measurement**

In June the Council reviewed a draft analysis for a proposed regulatory amendment to improve total catch weight estimates in the groundfish fisheries. Based on Council recommendations, the analysis was revised to include other approved procedures for determining total weight, and released for public comment. Five alternatives were analyzed:

Alternative 1: status quo

Alternative 2: standardize and improve current methods of total catch estimation for trawl catcher/processors and mothership processor vessels (by using certified bins).

Alternative 3:\* the total weight of all catch harvested or processed by processors with 100 percent observer coverage must be assessed (using scales or other approved procedures) prior to discard or processing.

Alternative 4:\* the total weight of all catch harvested or processed by all processors must be assessed (using scales or other approved procedures) prior to discard or processing.

Alternative 5:\* the total weight of all catch in the groundfish fisheries must be assessed (using scales or other approved procedures) prior to discard or processing.

\*One of the following options must be specified for Alternative 3, 4, or 5:

Option A: Scales. The weight of all catch must be determined by weighing on a scale that meets specific performance standards.

Option B: Approved procedures. The weight of all catch must be determined within a specified range of accuracy by any approved procedure as long as such methods are verified by weight.

The Council was scheduled to take final action at this meeting.

#### **Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC appreciated staff's efforts to incorporate the SSC's comments and suggestions from previous meetings. The SSC noted that the analysis is qualitative and it is not possible to determine the accuracy or bias of either current estimation methods and, therefore, of the benefits of the alternatives discussed. Alternative 5 would provide the greatest confidence in estimates of total removals, although such a system probably cannot be implemented at the current time. Although the costs and logistical implications of this alternative cannot be completely assessed, they are the greatest of all the alternatives.

#### **Report of the Advisory Panel**

The SSC was unable to agree on a preferred alternative. A motion to select Alternative 4, Option A with a 18-month phase-in period ended in a tie vote.

#### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**Linda Behnken moved to approve Alternative 4, Option B as a pilot program in the directed pollock fishery only, to be implemented within 2 years. The motion was seconded by Earl Krygier.**

Mr. Behnken said that information gathered under such a program will be required before the Council can institute some type of harvest priority or IFQ program in the groundfish fisheries. Pollock represents over half of the removals from the ecosystem and is the logical pilot fishery. The CDQ groups have been able to work under a similar program.

**Earl Krygier moved to amend to change from Option B to Option A. The motion was seconded by Clem Tillion.**

Wally Pereyra and Bob Mace both expressed concern over the cost to a specific industry sector while others are not required to participate. This would be specific to catcher/processors, motherships, and shorebased processors participating in the directed pollock fishery. Mr. Millikan said he would support full total weight measurement

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for all fisheries, but not just pollock, a fishery that is in good condition. He didn't feel that the Council should take action at this time, pointing out that the Council's Advisory Panel could not come to a satisfactory consensus on the issue.

**The motion to amend carried, 6 to 5, with Fluharty, Hegge, Mace, Millikan and Pereyra voting no. [Ron Berg voted for Pennoyer and Earl Krygier voted for Rosier on this issue.] The Chair ruled this vote carried the main motion.**

Earl Krygier asked that NMFS report to the Council in December with a discussion of the regulations they will be proposing on this amendment and to advise the Council of any problems they may foresee in implementing them.

**(b) Trawl Mesh Regulations**

In June the Council requested analysis of codend mesh regulations for the BSAI rock sole fishery (6" diamond); the BSAI cod fishery (8" diamond); the GOA cod fishery (6" diamond); and the GOA and BSAI pollock fisheries (4" square). In order to provide flexibility during the semi-annual setting of VIP guidelines, the Council also initiated analysis of a regulatory amendment to separate rock sole from the other flatfish category as a part of the amendment package. The Council also formed an ad-hoc committee to refine codend mesh recommendations and advise the Council and staff. A revised analysis was released for Council and public review in early September. Three alternatives were examined:

Alternative 1. Status quo--codends used in North Pacific trawl fisheries would not require minimum mesh size or configuration.

Alternative 2. Regulations would require codends to have a single layer top panel with the following minimum mesh sizes in the trawl fisheries specified:

- BSAI rock sole and GOA Pacific cod, 6" minimum diamond mesh;
- BSAI Pacific cod, 8" diamond mesh;
- GOA and BSAI pollock, 4" square mesh.

To accommodate changes in bycatch rates that would likely be caused by a mesh regulation of the BSAI rock sole fishery, rock sole would be separated out from the other trawl category in the Vessel Incentive Program and assigned a maximum allowable rate.

**Option:** Set mesh regulations for only the rock sole, Pacific cod, or pollock fishery.

**Alternative 3:** Similar to Alternative 2, except mesh would be square configuration, and of slightly smaller size. Under this alternative, regulations would require codends to have a single layer top panel with the following minimum mesh sizes in the trawl fisheries specified:

- BSAI rock sole and BSAI and GOA Pacific cod, 6" minimum square mesh;
- GOA and BSAI pollock, 3.25" square mesh.

To accommodate changes in bycatch rates that would likely be caused by a mesh regulation of the BSAI rock sole fishery, rock sole would be separated out from the other trawl category in the Vessel Incentive Program and assigned a maximum allowable rate.

**Option 1:** Set mesh regulations for only the rock sole, Pacific cod, or pollock fishery.

**Option 2:** Entire codends, rather than just the top panel, could be made of single layer diamond mesh with the same BK size as specified above.

Dr. Ellen Pikitch provided the Council with an overview of a revised analysis of potential changes in yield and discarding prepared by Fisheries Research Institute staff, based on empirical data from recent mesh selectivity studies for BSAI pollock, and a different theoretical model based on morphology. The revised analysis suggests that the proposed alternatives may result in less retention of juvenile pollock (i.e., lower discard) than reported in the draft EA/RIR. Rick Methot, NMFS, provided the Council with a review of his discussion paper on pollock yield per recruit.

#### **Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee**

The SSC received the report on the FRI/AFDF study as well as a related pollock yield per recruit discussion paper by Rick Methot, NMFS. On the basis of available information the SSC was not able to identify a preferred



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alternative. The SSC pointed out several possible implications of mesh size selectivity (see SSC Minutes, Appendix V) and suggested that further studies on mesh selectivity are necessary to test whether the catch of smaller fish could be reduced by mesh restrictions in our groundfish fisheries.

The Advisory Panel did not have sufficient time to address this agenda item.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

Bob Mace moved to approve Alternative 3, Option 1 as recommended by the industry group appointed to review options. The motion was seconded and carried without objection. [Linda Behnken, Robin Samuelsen and Clem Tillion were not present for this vote.]

The Council did not have enough time to address agenda item D-5 (opilio bycatch measures discussion paper).

D-6 Staff Tasking

The Council did not have enough time to address this agenda item and the numerous proposals received. They requested the plan teams and the Plan Amendment Advisory Group to review amendments and report back to the Council in December.

**E. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Finance Committee met during Council week and approved the following items:

1. Change the Council SOPP to allow payment to an annuity upon retirement or death of a Council employee, for up to 100 days sick leave.
2. Start two accounts to cover the sick leave and annual leave for departing employees. It was noted the FY94 administrative budget will have about a \$60,000, the bulk of which can be used for this purpose.

3. **Approved final payment to Impact Assessment Inc. for the Social Impact Assessment study (\$10,000).**
4. **Approved a supplement to the above contract for between \$5,000 and \$10,000.**
5. **Approved soliciting for a contract for construction of a Comprehensive Data Base. The Committee suggested using the SSC and other data experts to oversee this project. This could be as much as \$25,000, which will likely have to come from the FY95 budget.**

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no further public comments.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Lauber adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 1994.

**List of Persons Giving Public Comment**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
September 29-October 5, 1994

**C-1 Moratorium**

Robert Alverson, Fishing Vessel Owners Assn.  
Thorn Smith, North Pacific Longline Assn.  
Gary Painter, Tom Casey, Ted Painter  
Jeff Stephan, United Fishermen's Marketing Assn.  
Paul MacGregor, American Factory Trawlers Assn.  
Steve Hughes/Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats

**C-2 Pacific Pelagics**

Bob Alverson, FVOA  
Mark Lundsten

**C-3 Sablefish and Halibut IFQs**

Karl VonValkenberg  
Pat McBride, Alaska Sablefish, Inc.  
Larry Cotter/Joe Kyle, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Assn.  
Ed Crane, CFAB/Everett Allen (SeaFirst)/Martin Richard (AK Dept of Commerce/Bill Myhre (Preston Gates)  
Laura Cooper, North Pacific Fisheries Protection Assn.  
Bob Alverson, Mark Lundsten, Jack Knutsen, FVOA  
Norm Cohen/Joe Paniyak, Coastal Villages Fishing Co-op  
Kris Norosz, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn.  
Linda Kozak, Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners Assn.  
Dick Tremaine, Pribilof Island Fishermen  
Bruce Robertson

**C-4 Observer Plan**

Steve Davis, University of Alaska Observer Training Prgm  
Chuck Jensen

C-5 Comprehensive Rationalization Plan

Karl Ohls/Norm Cohen, Western Alaska Fisheries Development  
Mark Lundsten  
Mary Pete, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Ragnar Alstrom, Yukon Delta Fisheries  
Joe Blum, AFTA  
Brent Paine/Steve Hughes, UCB  
Fred Yeck, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative  
Tom Casey/Gary Painter, Alaska Fisheries Conservation Group  
Dave Fraser  
Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition  
Alvin Osterback, Aleutian East Borough  
Thorn Smith, NPLA/Vince Curry, Pacific Seafood Processors Assn.  
Barbara Wilson, Peninsula Marketing Assn.  
Dick Jacobsen/Jerome Selby/Joe Kyle  
Bob Storrs, Unalaska Fishermens Assn

C-6 Full Utilization/Harvest Priority

Paul Seaton/Scott Highleyman, Alaska Marine Conservation Council  
Mike Godfrey  
Mako Haggerty, North Pacific Fisheries Assn.  
Bob Storrs/Andy McCracken, Unalaska Fishermen's Assn.  
Laura Cooper, North Pacific Fisheries Protection Assn.  
Karl Ohls/Paul Peyton, Western Alaska Fisheries Development Assn.  
Thorn Smith, NPLA  
Penny Pagels, Greenpeace  
Vince Curry, PSPA  
Larry Cotter/Earl Krygier, State of Alaska  
John Gauvin/Chris Blackburn, AFTA/Alaska Groundfish Data Bank  
Fran Bennis, Alaska Marine Conservation Council  
Arni Thomson, ACC  
Paul MacGregor, AFTA  
Robert Childers, Fish Forever  
Dave Allison

C-7 Inshore-Offshore

Vince Curry, PSPA  
Karl Ohls, WAFDA  
Joe Blum/John Gauvin/Paul MacGregor, AFTA  
Mark Earnest, City of Unalaska  
Fred Yeck, MTC  
Larry Cotter/Joe Kyle, APICDA  
Dave Fraser  
John Iani, Unisea, Inc.  
John Jemewouk, Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.  
Thorn Smith/Don Iverson, NPLA  
Joe Plesha/Chris Blackburn, Trident/AGDB  
Greg Baker, Westward Seafoods  
Ragnar Alstrom, Yukon Delta Fisheries

D-1 Crab Management

Jerry Nelson, Baranof Fisheries  
Arni Thomson, ACC  
Jonathan Hillstrand  
Garry Longon, PNCIAC  
Tom Casey, Gary Painter

D-2 Salmon Bycatch

Tuck Donnelly  
Dan Albrecht  
Brent Paine/Steve Hughes/Dave Fraser, UCB  
John Henderschedt, Arctic Fisheries  
Karl Ohls/Larry Cotter, WAFDA

D-3(a,b,e) BSAI SAFE/95 Preliminary Specifications

Dave Fraser  
John Henderschedt/Mark Kandianis/Mike Peterson, Rock Sole Fleet  
Arni Thomson, ACC  
John Winther  
Thorn Smith/Don Iverson, NPLA  
Joe Blum, AFTA

D-3(c.-g) GOA SAFE/95 Preliminary Specifications

Steve Hoag, International Pacific Halibut Commission  
Jerry Nelson, Baranof Fisheries  
Bob Alverson/Mark Lundsten/Don Iverson, FVOA  
Barbara Wilson, Peninsula Marketing Assn.  
Jeff Stephan, UFMA  
Chris Blackburn, AGDB  
Tom Casey  
Alvin Osterback, Aleutians East Borough  
Paul MacGregor, AFTA  
Steve Hughes, UCB  
Thorn Smith, NPLA

D-4 Regulatory Amendments

Rob Gudmundson/Thorn Smith, NPLA  
Paul Seaton, AMCC  
Penny Pagels, Greenpeace  
Vince Curry/John Roos/Joe Plesha, PSPA/Trident  
Brent Paine, UCB  
Larry Cotter, Pacific Assoc.  
John Gauvin, AFTA  
Karl Ohls, WAFDA  
Steve Hughes, UCB

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

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Certified \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT**

**ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 1994  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

**DRAFT**

**Advisory Panel members in attendance:**

Bruce, John (Chair)  
Benson, Dave  
Burch, Al  
Cotton, Bruce  
Drage, Steve  
Falvey, Dan  
Jones, Spike  
Kaldestad, Kevin  
Little, David  
Madsen, Stephanie  
Maloney, Pete

Nelson, Hazel  
Ogden, Doug  
Paddock, Dean  
Pagels, Penny  
Pfundt, Bryon  
Roos, John  
Sevier, John  
Sparck, Harold  
Stevens, Mick  
Stewart, Beth (Vice Chair)  
Wurm, Robert

**C-1 Moratorium**

The AP spent several hours on this agenda item. We began building our recommendation with a motion to resubmit a modified moratorium for fast track review and implementation. It will help the Council understand the AP recommendation best if we report each amendment separately.

1. The AP voted unanimously to remove halibut and sablefish from the moratorium since both fisheries have now come under an IFQ program.
2. The AP voted unanimously to replace the moratorium appeals process with the appeals process incorporated in the halibut/sablefish IFQ program found at CFR 676.25.
3. A motion to retain the February 9, 1992, moratorium eligibility cut-off date carried 15/2.
4. A motion to change the beginning eligibility date from January 1, 1980 to January 1, 1988. The motion carried 13/8.

The effect of these two amendments is to change the moratorium eligibility dates to January 1, 1988 through February 9, 1992.

5. A motion to restrict crossovers between crab and groundfish fisheries to those vessels with fishing history during the qualification period in both crab and groundfish carried 11/10.
6. A motion to have the analysis of these amendments brought back for Council and AP review in December carried 13/8.

The amended main motion carried 16/5.

Changing the moratorium date and the rules for crossover generated the concern that led to passage of the December review date. These changes were viewed as major and deserving of further public testimony by those in favor.

### Minority Report — C-1 Moratorium

The below signed AP members desire that these recommended modifications to the moratorium be forwarded directly to the Secretary for fast-track implementation. We opposed the 13-8 vote to delay final Council action on the moratorium until December 1994.

During AP deliberations, Council and Region staff informed the panel that all of these specific modifications were fast-track "do-able" and sufficiently analyzed within existing documents presented and considered by the Council family. The AP and Council have previously heard public opinion and deliberated these matters sufficiently. These modifications are consistent with the Secretary's recommendation to produce a package which establishes a fleet closer to the "current participation levels . . . "

Additional staff time spent preparing further documents will only detract from staff focus on other high priority responsibilities.

Signed:

Mick Stevens  
Dave Benson  
Bryon Pfundt  
Kevin Kaldestad  
David Little

### C-3 Sablefish and Halibut IFQs

The Advisory Panel focused on four topics under this agenda item.

1. Exempting CDQ compensation quota share from Sitka block rule;
2. Implementing an NMFS central registry for IFQ titles and liens;
3. Providing for consideration of hardship cases, and
4. Changing criteria for crew member eligibility certificates.

1. Regarding CDQ compensation quota share, the AP recommends that the Council initiate a plan amendment that would exempt CDQ compensation quota share from the provisions of the block rule. Alternatives to be analyzed include:

- a. temporary exemption (i.e., 1 year) to allow consolidation and then apply the block rule;
- b. permanent exemption from the block rule;
- c. exemption from the vessel size category rule, but not from the freezer/catcher boat restriction.

This motion carried 18/2.

2. Regarding a central registry for quota share titles and liens, the AP urges the Council to request in the strongest possible language that the Washington D.C. NMFS office fast track implementation of a registry for titles and liens. In addition, the Council should request receipt of a detailed status report from NMFS on this item within 30 days. This motion passed unanimously.

3. Regarding hardship provisions, the AP rejected a motion (4/15) to provide hardship exemption for fishermen in the 4E halibut fishery. Subsequently, the AP voted (18/1) to recommend that the Council make no changes in the plan to accommodate hardship claims.

4. Finally, the AP considered a motion to recommend that the Council waive the historic participation requirements for residents of CDQ eligible villages for purposes of obtaining IFQ crew member eligibility. The motion failed 6/9.

#### C-4 Research Plan

The AP continues to be concerned with details included in the Research Plan that have not been addressed by the OOC including:

1. Costs that will be incurred to accommodate systems for record keeping.
  - a. Fish ticket prices vs standard prices.
  - b. First year vessels under 60' vs vessels over 60'.
  - c. Vessels inside state waters vs outside waters.
  - d. Fish used in meal vs fish that isn't.

2. The AP recommends that a committee of affected parties (shore-based processors), Council staff, NMFS staff and state of Alaska meet as soon as possible to identify solutions and develop implementation plans that result in no or minimal delays in implementation. Motion passes, no opposition.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the 2% assessment recommended by OOC for 1995. Motion passes, no opposition.

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the standard exvessel prices for groundfish, shellfish, and halibut found in the September 27, 1994, C-4 report with the following changes to the prices found in the table on page 13 of the report. Motion passes 10/4.

1.	Pacific cod, BSAIO	\$.14
2.	Pacific cod, EGO	.20
3.	Pacific cod, WCGO	.18
4.	Pelagic rockfish, EGO	.25
5.	Rexsole, EGT & WTGT	.15



6.	Rocksole, BSAIO/BSAIT	.30
7.	Sablefish, BSAIO	1.00
8.	Sablefish, EGO/WCGO	1.10
9.	Sharpchin/North WCGT & BSAIT	.104
10.	Shortraker/rougeye, WCGT/BSAIT	.20
11.	Slope rock, EGO & WCGO	.20
12.	Thornyhead, EGO/WCGO	.40
13.	Yellowfin, BSAIOT/BSAIO	.05
14.	Pollock roe, WCGT	.08

#### Minority Report — C-4

We feel the current price structure by NMFS is much more complicated than is necessary. We would like to see a five tier structure for the at shore processing fleet where only five average prices would prevail. The following would be an example:

Pollock	\$ .07
Halibut	1.25
Sablefish	1.10
Bairdi/Opilio/Other Crab	2.00
Red/blue/brown king crab	5.50
All other groundfish	.08

This would better simplify establishing the fee percentage and standard exvessel prices for the 1995 North Pacific Fisheries Observer (Research) Plan.

Signed:

John Sevier  
Spike Jones  
Al Burch  
Dan Falvey

#### C-5 Comprehensive Rationalization Program (CRP)

The AP recommends that License Limitation documentation presented at this meeting not be sent out for public review at this time. The AP believes that the staff did an admirable job given the large number of alternatives and the short amount of time available. The document is very useful as a tool to narrow options for full analysis which would include socio-economic impact analysis and community profiles.

The AP found several useful suggestions in the comments submitted by mid-water trawlers, and would like the opportunity to consider incorporating all or some of these in the revised document.

The AP believes that the proposed time table for final decision is unrealistic, and asks that Council schedule a day at the beginning of the December and/or January meetings for the AP to pare down the alternatives. We ask that staff be available at that meeting to guide the public through the current document.

It should be understood that AP believes the current document will be useful to the public in helping to pare down alternatives and that the newsletter should encourage the public to request copies.

## **C-6 Full Utilization and Harvest Priority**

The AP notes that the Council's CRP problem statement identifies the reduction of bycatch and discard waste and increased utilization of our fishery resources as primary goals of the CRP planning process. (The AP notes that there are five types of bycatch: PSC, nontarget, commercial, government and economic.) The AP believes that harvest priority (on a vote of 9/5) and full retention/full utilization (on a vote of 11/3) have the potential to address these problems in the interim time period before implementation of a CRP program and will fully integrate with whatever CRP program is ultimately implemented. Therefore, the AP urges the Council to proceed with establishing 2 committees (one for Harvest Priority, and one for Full Retention/Full Utilization) to further develop these programs in order to prepare for an EA/RIR for each program. Under FR/FU, alternatives should include (1) all species, (2) all species for which there is a TAC, (3) PSC. The AP offers the following names for committee membership:

### Harvest Priority

Hazel Nelson  
Spike Jones  
Paul Seaton

### Full Retention/Full Utilization

Mick Stevens  
Beth Stewart  
Harold Sparck

## **C-7 Inshore/Offshore**

The AP recommends that the inshore-offshore amendment be analyzed with the following alternatives:

1. Status quo (that is, do nothing, let the program expire); and
2. Roll-over the program as is.

Furthermore, the AP strongly urges that the Council make this amendment the highest priority. Motion passes 15/3.

## **D-3 (a, b, e) BSAI SAFE/'95 Specifications**

1. BSAI Pollock A/B season: change apportionment to 40/60%,
2. Rollover Pacific cod apportionments for fixed gear,
3. Rollover 1994 PSC caps and apportionments,
4. Rollover bycatch rates and VIP standards, and

The AP also recommends that in preparation for a potential emergency rule on red king crab bycatch that the staff prepare an analysis of potential time and area closures for all fisheries that take red king crab using the Plan Team's recommendations.

### Halibut Mortality Rates

The AP recommends that the halibut mortality rates for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska be set equal to the IPHC recommendations found in Table 4 of agenda item D-3(f)(1). Except set the GOA bottom trawl pollock mortality rate as follows: 54% shoreside/81% offshore.

## **Minority Report — D-3 BSAI SAFE/'95 Specifications**

The below signed AP members do not support changing the A season/B season pollock apportionment. From the 1994 45% A season/55% B season apportionment.

The AP received no new information of biological or socio-economic nature which would justify this change. The Plan Team leader stated that biologically there was no significant difference" between either apportionment approach.

In addition, we believe the majority motion promotes inconsistency in the public eye regarding AP procedures and rationales since full debate on this item will not occur until the December Council meeting.

Signed:

Mick Stevens  
David Benson  
Beth Stewart  
Harold Sparck

### D-3 GOA SAFE/'95 Specifications

#### Halibut Mortality Rates

The AP recommends that the halibut mortality rates for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska be set equal to the IPHC recommendations found in Table 4 of agenda item D-3(f)(1). Except set the GOA bottom trawl pollock mortality rate as follows: 54% shoreside/81% offshore.

#### Halibut Caps - GOA

The AP recommends initiating a regulatory amendment exempting the IFQ sablefish fishery from the halibut cap subject to annual review. Motion passes 9/6.

The AP recommends the Council rollover the remaining hook and line gear PSC limits and apportionments for a total of 300 mt. Further, the AP recommends rolling over the trawl gear PSC limits and apportionments as follows:

Trawl gear		Hook and Line gear	
1st quarter	600 mt (30%)	1st trimester	80 mt (26.7%)
2nd quarter	400 mt (20%)	2nd trimester	200 mt (66.7%)
3rd quarter	600 mt (30%)	3rd trimester	20 mt (6.7%)
4th quarter	400 mt (20%)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000 mt</b>		<b>300 mt</b>

Quarter	Shallow water	Deep water	Total
	Complex	Complex	
1	500 mt	100 mt	600 mt
2	100 mt	300 mt	400 mt
3	200 mt	400 mt	600 mt
4	no apportionment between shallow and deep for the 4th quarter.		

The motion passes, no opposition.

**D-4(a) Total Weight Measurement**

After a long discussion, the AP was unable to select a preferred alternative. The motion to select Alternative 4, Option A with a phase-in period of 18 months, ended in a 6/6 tie.

**6/94 License System for Groundfish (Appendix I)****Proposed Highlighting of GLS Options****NATURE OF LICENSES**

Star Option C with Suboption A, with the following modifications:

Option C: General licenses for FMP areas with endorsements for each species/sub-area.

Suboption A: separable endorsements.

This option is portrayed in Figure 3.7E on page 102 of the license analysis document.

**This option should include the species endorsements, catcher and catcher-processor designations, and catcher vessel size categories specified under Option D.**

Star Option D in its entirety.

This option is portrayed in Figure 3.7G on page 103 of the license analysis document.

For both Options C and D, the list of target species should be clarified as follows:

- a) Add GOA rockfish and GOA flathead sole to the list of target species
- b) Specify BSAI sablefish trawl as a bycatch only fishery.
- c) Specify that in order to fish for arrowtooth, a person must simply hold an FMP/sub-area license.

**WHO WILL RECEIVE LICENSES**

Star Options A and B.

## CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

Change the opening sentence of this section to read:

"Alternatives include issuing a license to any moratorium qualified vessel (or person) who made landings between."

Star Option C with the following substitute suboption for a landing requirement:

Suboption: A minimum of one landing per area/target species combination during the above qualifying period(s).

## TRANSFERABILITY

Star a substitute Option D which should be worded as follows:

"Licenses and endorsements are non-transferable across vessel size, catcher, and catcher-processor categories identified above (see Nature of Licenses). Endorsements are separable and fully transferable within each category. Species endorsements are not transferable across areas. Licenses and endorsements may be transferred (sold) only to U.S. citizens ("citizenship" for corporations, partnerships, and associations to be defined by Title 46 §802 (the Shipping Act of 1916), i.e., 75% U.S. ownership/control).

Each qualified vessel owner may not hold or otherwise control more than \_\_\_\_\_ GLS licenses in aggregate (range for analysis is 5, 10, 15). Initial allocation of GLS licenses will be based upon participation during the qualifying period and may exceed these limits. Any vessel owner who receives an initial allocation of GLS licenses in excess of these limits is prohibited from acquiring any control/interest whatsoever in additional licenses until their aggregate license holdings are below these limits.

Licenses may be transferred without vessel. Licenses may only be transferred to a new vessel of equivalent size and fishing capacity pursuant to the conditions of the moratorium. Licenses may only be transferred within categories and may be "stacked" aboard a single vessel."

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTAS

Star Option B.

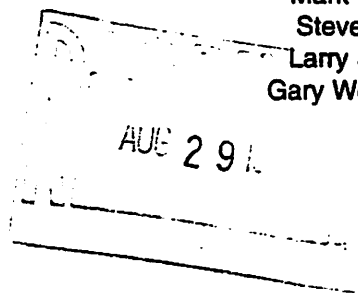
# Midwater Trawlers Cooperative

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 Vice President  
 Directors  
 Mark Cooper  
 Steve Drage  
 Larry Schock  
 Gary Westman

August 25, 1994



## MEMBER VESSELS

AMBITION  
 ARGOSY  
 BAY ISLANDER  
 BLUE FOX  
 CAPE FALCON  
 CAPE KIWANDA  
 CARAVELLE  
 COHO  
 EXCALIBUR  
 EXCALIBUR II  
 HAZEL LORRAINE  
 LESLIE LEE  
 LISA MELINDA  
 MARATHON  
 MISS BERDIE  
 MISS LEONA  
 MISS SUE  
 NEW LIFE  
 OCEAN SPRAY  
 PACIFIC  
 PACIFIC CHALLENGER  
 PACIFIC FUTURE  
 PACIFIC RAM  
 PEGASUS  
 PERSEVERANCE  
 PERSISTENCE  
 PIONEER  
 RAVEN  
 ROSELLA  
 ROYAL AMERICAN  
 SEADAWN  
 SEEKER  
 VANGUARD  
 WESTERN DAWN

Mr. Rick Lauber, Chairman  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 P. O. Box 103136  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

RE: CRP Analysis

Dear Chairman Lauber:

Enclosed is a proposal which we are now submitting so as to hopefully be included in the Council's Comprehensive Rationalization Plan (CRP) analysis. We would request that this proposal be included in the Council briefing books for the September/October meeting so that it can be appropriately considered by the SSC, the AP and the Council.

The enclosed proposal is intended only at this time as a framework to provide the opportunity for the Council to have more than one class of permits in its license limitation program. We feel based upon our experience in developing a license limitation program with the Pacific Council, that having a second class of permits will give the Council options that it does not now have including an ability to deal with extenuating circumstances and hardship cases, many of which may become contentious during the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MIDWATER TRAWLERS COOPERATIVE

*R. Barry Fisher*  
 R. Barry Fisher  
 President

*Fred A. Yeck*  
 Fred A. Yeck  
 Vice President

enclosure

**RECEIVED**  
**AUG 29 1994**

**PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO  
THE INTEGRATED FISHERIES RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM**

The following would be added to the Groundfish and Crab License Limitation System:

1. Specify a Class A permit which would be fully transferable and a Class B permit which would be non-transferable.
2. The Class A permits would be issued to those vessel owners who meet the "criteria for eligibility" ultimately adopted by the Council for permits that would be permanent and transferable.
3. Class B permits. A second category of permits would be created for issuance to those vessel owners in both the trawl and crab fishery who do not meet the criteria for eligibility for Class A permits but who do have a historical and/or current participation in the fishery that justifies a limited right of continuation. Eligibility criteria for Class B permits should be considered for:
  - a. Historical participants that were involved in the fishery between 1980 and the cutoff date established for A permits.
  - b. Recent participants in a fishery that do not qualify for an A permit because of entry after the cutoff date for A permits and/or because of insufficient participation in a fishery during the "window" period for qualifying for A permits.
  - c. Other hardship cases.
4. The characteristics of the Class B permit would include the following:
  - a. The permit would be non-transferable except to a replacement vessel owned by the same vessel owner of record that originally received the Class B permit. Restrict



replacement vessel as to length (LOA) to prevent significant increases in capacity.

b. The Class B permit would terminate upon the death of the owner of the permit. In the case of multiple owners or vessels owned by corporations the permit would expire with the death of the last owner or shareholder who are owners of the vessel or corporate owner at the time of the original issuance of the Class B permit.

c. In addition, a performance requirement should be considered which would provide for the expiration of the permit in the event it was not utilized. For example, if the permit was not utilized in any two consecutive years the Class B permit would be terminated.

d. In addition, after issuance of the permit, if there is a change of ownership by sale, foreclosure or otherwise, the Class B permit would terminate (however, transfers between original owners would not cause the permit to terminate).

e. Class B permits would not be combinable into permits for larger vessels.

The merits of this particular proposal include the following:

1. First and foremost, it allows for equity. There are many vessel owners who would qualify under the moratorium to participate in the fisheries based upon historical landings between 1980 and whatever time is selected for the cutoff for eligibility for the currently proposed limited entry license. Most of these vessel owners have long since given up any concept of participating in the fishery but there are a few long term industry participants who have left the fishery for the sole reason they were pushed out by the overcapitalization occurring in 1988 and 1989, even though some of these participants have five or more years in the fishery prior to this time. For the reason that these vessel owners were the original pioneers in the Americanization

and for the further reason that they had the legal right to return to the fishery pursuant to the moratorium, they should be extended that right to at least earn a living personally under any license limitation program. Most of these vessels involved are small and would have little impact on overall capacity.

2. There will be vessel owners who will have significant participation in the fishery, both historic and current, that will be excluded from various fisheries when the final eligibility criteria is established. These vessel owners legally made their investments prior to the establishment of this criteria and should not be excluded from participating in the fisheries after the fact by the adoption of a retroactive license limitation program. The concept of the Class B permits can be used to address all of these issues as well as a number of hardship cases, many of which may be contentious.

3. Similarly, under the proposed crab license system, vessels that legally crossed over to the crab fishery after the 1992 moratorium cutoff date would not receive permits. Again, vessels that legally made investments in reliance upon the Council adopted moratorium should not be eliminated from fisheries with regulations adopted after the fact. A Class B permit issued to these vessels recognizing their legitimate investments would be an equitable approach.

4. The Class B permit system would continue to allow for a significant reduction of effort as compared to that permitted under the moratorium but without the draconian effects of only a single class of permits. The number of permits would be reduced by time and without cost to the industry or to the government as the result of time and the death of the vessel owners and/or as a result of non-use of their permit if that option should be selected.

5. By being virtually non-transferable the permits would not acquire an

economic value nor provide the base for increases in capacity by the development of more modern vessels.

6. In many cases, by having the option of granting Class B permits to certain classes of fishermen, it will permit the Council to be more restrictive in its consideration of criteria for Class A permits.

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



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

Telephone: (907) 271-2809  
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Certified: Shirley R. ...  
Date: 11/28/94

## MINUTES Scientific & Statistical Committee September 27-30, 1994

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met September 27-30, 1994 at the Red Lion/SeaTac Hotel. All members were present:

Terrance Quinn, Chair  
Doug Eggers  
Rich Marasco  
Susan Hills  
Hal Weeks  
Bill Aron

Keith Criddle, Co-Chair  
Jack Tagart  
Phil Rigby  
Dan Huppert  
Al Tyler  
Marc Miller

### B-5 Marine Mammal Report

The SSC received a report from NMFS scientists on MMPA amendments of April 30, 1994. Interim exemptions provided by 1988 amendments will terminate about mid 1995 and a new regime based on stock assessments incorporating fisheries interactions and growth rates will go into effect to govern taking of marine mammals. Marine mammal stocks will be designated as "strategic" if (1) they are listed under ESA as threatened or endangered, (2) they are considered depleted under MMPA or (3) where human-caused mortality (HCM) is greater than calculated potential biological removal level (PBR). Otherwise, they will be designated as non-strategic. If a stock is designated strategic, Take Reduction Teams will be formed to write Take Reduction Plans unless the zero fishing mortality goal has been met.

The MMPA amendments also prohibit intentional lethal taking except to protect life and limb, or in the case of individually identifiable problem animals (e.g. Ballard Locks); change classification of Category I, II, and III and attendant observer/reporting requirements; call for development of a plan to assess the health of the Bering Sea ecosystem; and somewhat simplify pursuit of scientific research permits.

A report on the method for estimating PBRs was provided and examples of simulations for key strategic stocks were detailed. None of the marine mammal stocks in Alaska are currently listed as "strategic" due to fishing mortality. However, harbor porpoise do not meet the zero fishing mortality goal.

A report was provided on the 1994 range-wide population survey for the Steller sea lions, including aerial surveys for adults and juveniles and rookery counts of pups. Work in Alaska was done in cooperation with ADF&G. Counts of adults in Southeastern Alaska increased but counts in the Gulf

of Alaska and the eastern Aleutians declined, with total counts in Alaska declining for adults, juveniles and pups by 5%. Pup count declines also occurred in Southeastern Alaska, despite adult and juvenile increases.

Recent genetic studies suggest that two stocks of Steller sea lions may be defined: east and west of Cape Suckling.

The above materials will be incorporated into a draft status of stocks report, which will receive independent peer review. By early next year, a recommendation on the status of the Steller sea lion vis-a-vis the ESA will be developed. As part of the status of stock review, research and management actions and directions will be reviewed at several levels including by the Sea Lion Recovery Team.

#### **C-4 North Pacific Fishery Research (Observer) Plan**

Dr. Joe Terry (NMFS) provided the SSC with a presentation on the determination of standard ex-vessel prices to be used in the assessment of recoverable fees. The SSC notes that information on price variation between trawl and other gear catches for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island, and Eastern and Western Gulf of Alaska, as well as seasonal variations for pollock and rock sole, have been included.

#### **C-5 Comprehensive Rationalization Planning**

The SSC reviewed the most recent draft of the EA/RIR for groundfish and crab fishery license limitation. The analysis is extremely complex and burdensome, largely due to the huge number of alternatives still being considered by the Council. We commend the drafters of the report for their solution to the problem of presenting a simplification of the 70,000 options. They focus attention on three groundfish license limitation options (called "Universal", "Explicit", and "Current") and two crab license limitation options (called "Current" and "Crab"). They have included tables revealing the consequences of variations in all dimensions of the options. This responds to a recommendation from the June 1994 SSC minutes. We repeat our recommendation that the Council indicate a preferred option, or list of options, that could be similarly analyzed.

We note that this version of the report provides an analysis using all information currently available, but that some deficiencies continue to detract from the completeness of the economic impact analysis. For example, the break-even analysis uses information from the "OMB Survey" which does not cover the full set of 14 fishery sectors included in the remaining analysis. This does not appear to be a substantial flaw. A number of additional minor comments and suggestions will be communicated directly from the SSC to the drafters.

We note that the industry sector profiles and community profiles, which are separately documented, provide the basis for a yet-to-be-drafted chapter in the report. That supplemental chapter will contain a socio-economic impact assessment satisfying the Magnuson Act requirement. The SSC recommends that (1) the new chapter be reviewed by us before release, and (2) that the new chapter be incorporated in the draft EA/RIR before it is sent out for public review.

#### **C-6 Harvest Priority and Full Utilization**

The SSC reviewed documents concerning the problems of bycatch, discards, and underutilization of catch. They are ecological or biological problems to the extent that they raise questions about unknown (and, as yet unpredictable) adverse consequences of fishing on marine life and the

environment. They qualify as economic or social problems to the extent that: 1) bycatch/discard reduce benefits from the fishery, and 2) fisheries are perceived by the public as wasteful.

The harvest priority (HP) and full utilization (FR/FU) proposals attempt to address these perceived problems at different stages of the harvesting process: HP, before landings; FR/FU after landing. Both proposals lack specifics and background documents indicate the need to define terms and to develop specific objectives and program structure.

The non-specific nature of HP was designed to allow fishery participants the opportunity to develop their own bycatch system. While this allows fishermen to participate in program development, the lack of specification of the characteristics of the program makes the task of analyzing the costs and benefits difficult.

The following are examples of some issues that need to be resolved in two programs:

1. Experience with management measures that allow action to be taken at the individual vessel level have proven to be cumbersome and lacking in timeliness. Successful implementation of management measures such as harvest priority and ITQs requires the development of systems to accurately document individual performance.
2. Will discards by processors or just fishing vessels be considered?
3. What will the observer requirements be for vessels delivering unsorted catch?
4. What process will be used to determine the quantity of the TAC that will be set aside for harvest priority fisheries?
5. What is the definition of a fishery, i.e., what aggregation of fishers constitutes a body who may propose a HP plan?

In order to be operational, the terms "full retention" and "full utilization" must be defined. Specification of objectives will aid in the development of definitions, identification of alternative management actions and the analysis of alternatives. Is it the intent of the Council to define "full retention" as the retention of all TAC groundfish species? Is 100% processing of the catch/species for human consumption the intention of the Council? Other definitions of these two terms are possible.

Examples of some other FR/FU issues that should receive attention are:

1. Will requirements adopted apply equally to all vessels and processors, including those without observers?
2. Will the same standards apply to all fisheries?
3. Will the standards apply to individual species or species groups and what will the accounting period be?
4. Will standards apply to individual vessels or fleets?

While the resolution of concerns regarding definitions and issues associated with HP and FR/FU will facilitate analysis of the benefits and costs of alternative management measures, much of the analysis will likely be qualitative. In the case of full retention/full utilization, information is lacking on how much it will cost industry to meet any standards. Knowledge of actions that fishermen might take to reduce bycatch under a harvest priority program and their associated costs is also lacking. Further, the amount of bycatch that will be taken by participants in a harvest priority program will not be known beforehand. Neither will we know the costs or scope of measures undertaken to avoid bycatch.

Given the current inability to quantify the cost and benefits of management measures developed to address either of these issues, the Council may want to take an incremental or adaptive approach to their implementation. In the case of full retention/full utilization such an approach might require the selection of target retention/utilization standards. The standard could be phased in over a defined period of time. Phasing in would allow assessment of industry actions taken to modify fishing strategies and the way fish are used.

In the case of HP, rather than create a comprehensive framework and wait for fishers to propose a HP fishery, the Council may wish to reserve a portion of a particular species TAC, then solicit a HP proposal from fishers to gain access to that TAC. By doing this, the Council would provide a means to measure the costs and benefits of a limited HP plan prior to development of a comprehensive generic framework.

Such programs will provide information on the magnitude of bycatch or discard reductions that are feasible and their costs. Nevertheless, quantification of benefits of these actions would remain difficult to ascertain because of the lack of information on the value placed on bycatch/discard reductions by the public at large.

#### **C-7 Onshore-Offshore Allocation Roll-Over**

The SSC considered the likely analytical needs in support of an amendment to continue the onshore-offshore and CDQ fishery allocations. The first issue is one of problem statement. If the problem addressed by a continuation is that Comprehensive Rationalization Planning has taken longer than originally intended and that an extension of existing interim measures is needed, then a relatively simple qualitative analysis of social-economic impacts may be adequate. If the problem is stated in more substantive terms (such as specific biological or economic objectives), it is likely to require more complex evaluation to satisfy Magnuson Act national standards.

Generally, the scope of the socio-economic analysis needed will depend upon (a) the length of the extension, because a longer extension begins to look like a permanent allocation rather than an interim measure, and (b) whether any options are considered besides a simple extension of the existing allocation rules. Consideration of new allocation options (such as different percentages of cod and pollock allocated to onshore processing, or different CDQ percentages) or a long term extension would, in our view, re-open the complex issues of social and economic impacts which were extensively examined in the original amendment process.

A more extensive analysis would need to quantitatively assess social and economic impacts and national net benefits of allocations among onshore and offshore sectors, and it would likely need to assess the success of the CDQ program in providing for economic development of western Alaskan communities.

## **C-8 Longline Survey**

The issue is whether or not to continue the Japanese cooperative longline survey. According to Dr. Gary Stauffer, NMFS, a domestic longline survey of the Gulf of Alaska has been in existence since 1987 and has provided consistent abundance indices with cooperative survey since 1990. NMFS staff now believe that the survey of the Gulf of Alaska does not need to be duplicated, and that many stations in the Bering Sea and Aleutian areas can be eliminated. Because survey catches are low in these two areas, there is little incentive for commercial vessels to participate in a Bering Sea/Aleutian survey without also surveying the Gulf where catches are lucrative. The value of the catch from the cooperative survey was \$2.4 million in 1994. The termination of the cooperative survey will represent a loss of Greenland turbot, rockfish, and sablefish stock assessment information for the Bering Sea/Aleutians. NMFS staff believe that biennial or triennial extensions of the domestic Gulf survey will provide adequate data.

The SSC's primary concern is that there is adequate information to standardize the more recent domestic survey to the older cooperative survey. The SSC did not receive any written information to verify how this standardization will be done. A NMFS paper is in preparation to address this topic, and the SSC requested a copy which NMFS agreed to supply before our next meeting. If the Council wishes, the SSC can revisit this issue in December.

## **D-1 Crab Management**

The SSC received a report from the crab Plan Team on the results of the 1994 Eastern Bering Sea crab survey. A summary of stock status was provided. Stocks are at or below levels estimated in 1993. Bristol Bay red king crab are estimated to be at their all time low level of abundance and there will be no 1994 fishery. Eastern district tanner crab (*C. bairdi*) continue to decline but not quite as far as expected. The guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for this fishery west of 163 degrees W. longitude is 7.5 million pounds. The fishery will be closed east of 163 degrees W. longitude because of potential impacts on red king crab.

The Plan Team expressed concern for red king crab conservation and recommended setting red king crab bycatch cap in the groundfish fishery in that portion of Zone 1 east of 163 degrees W. longitude to 0. Additionally the Plan Team requested the Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries Consultation Group discuss crab bycatch issues, and that the Council specifically examine bycatch caps, observer sampling protocols and bycatch estimation methods, biological characteristics of crab bycatch, and distribution of king crab in Zone 1 relative to the trawl closure area.

During public testimony, similar concerns were expressed by Arni Thompson (ACC) and Jerry Nelson, crab and groundfish harvester. The SSC recommends that the Crab and BS/AI Groundfish Plan Teams examine bycatch issues jointly and present a report to the Council in December. The Plan Teams should focus on the conservation benefits of reduced bycatch, impacts on groundfish target fisheries which may be affected by additional time/area closures, and impacts on bycatch of other species by potentially displaced groundfish fisheries.

During public testimony the industry asked for better biological information on crab stocks. Additionally a plea was made for more research to determine the causes of stock declines, the impacts of bycatch and handling, and the interactions such as predation and competition between crab and groundfish species. The SSC suggested that a NMFS and ADF&G crab research planning committee, which will meet December 15 and 16, may be able to provide some initial contact with the industry and initiate the planning of new research projects which could answer some of industry's concerns.



## **D-2(c) Salmon Bycatch**

### **Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management**

The SSC reviewed the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for Amendment 21b (Chinook Salmon Bycatch). The document has been updated from the April 1993 analysis to include 1993 and 1994 data and two new alternatives. The amendment has adequately addressed a variety of AP and SSC comments. The SSC notes that the economic analysis of the alternatives used only 1990 and 1991 data and was not updated using recent data due to lack of time. Updating the economic analysis using 1992-1994 data would provide a much better estimate of the magnitude of costs; however, the relative magnitude of the costs among alternatives would not likely change in an updated analysis. The SSC recommends the document be sent out for public review.

### **Chum Salmon Bycatch**

The SSC reviewed the draft EA/RIR/IRFA for chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea trawl fisheries and alternatives for closure areas. The document has been updated and revised since the June 1994 emergency rule for a bycatch cap of 42,000 other salmon in the CVOA.

The revised analysis addresses several SSC and AP comments, included 1995 bycatch data, more complete review of stock identification information, updated status of Western Alaska chum salmon and more alternative area closures. The SSC recommends the document be sent out for public review.

## **D-3 General Groundfish SAFE Concerns**

The SSC requests that the Plan Teams consider these general concerns at their November meeting.

1. Some studies [e.g. Deriso (1982) and Thompson (1993)] suggest that natural mortality  $M$  may not necessarily be a conservative exploitation rate. Do the Plan Teams agree with this statement, and if so, should ABC's calculated with  $M$  be revised to use a more conservative rate, say  $0.8M$ ?
2. The Plan Teams have a policy of scaling ABC downward, if it is equal to OFL. Would it be more appropriate to scale OFL upward by the same factor? If so, are staff resources available to undertake the necessary Plan Amendment analysis?
3. The Marine Mammal - Ecosystem chapter was not available for review in either SAFE. However, the SSC requests that the authors include information about the take of marine mammals in the area and their status, and a note that the depleted status for the northern fur seal is relative to OSP.

## **D-3 Plan Team Terms of Reference**

The SSC recommends that the Terms of Reference be revised to the effect that Plan Team minutes be made available to the entire Council family. With this change, the SSC recommends that the Terms of Reference be approved.

### **D-3 Plan Team Nominations**

This topic was tabled until the December meeting.

### **D-3(b) BS/AI SAFE 1995 Specifications**

The SSC agrees with Plan Team recommendations, unless otherwise stated below. The SSC only considered assessments where there was new information.

#### **Pollock - Bogoslof Area**

Reassessment of Bogoslof Area population has not changed the previous conclusions that this stock has declined precipitously since 1988. Estimated biomass has declined from 1.1 million t in 1991 to 490 thousand t in 1994. The SSC believes that the best estimate of 1995 biomass is 400 thousand mt. The estimate assumes no recruitment and is the 1994 hydroacoustic estimate of biomass decayed by natural mortality. As done in the past, the SSC recommends that the ABC be calculated by applying the natural mortality exploitation rate ( $M=0.2$ ) divided by 4 to the projected 1995 biomass. The factor 1/4 is the OFL adjustment, equal to the ratio of the current population biomass in relation to that which would product MSY. This leads to an ABC for Bogoslof area pollock of 20 thousand mt, which is also the OFL.

Because of the current status of the Bogoslof population, the importance of supporting international efforts to curtail fishing on the Aleutian Basin population, and the potential impacts on marine mammals and seabirds, the SSC agrees with the Team that the TAC be set at a level to provide for bycatch only.

These recommendations for Bogoslof pollock were made last year and accepted by the Council.

#### **Greenland Turbot**

The SSC recommends that modification of the 1995 ABC for Greenland turbot be delayed until the assessment analysis containing results of 1994 bottom trawl survey is completed. Therefore, the initial ABC recommendation is 7,000 mt. The SSC accepts the Team's overfishing level of 24,800 mt.

#### **Flathead Sole and Other Flatfish**

At the request of the Council, the Plan Team separated flathead sole from the other flatfish complex. Flathead sole ABC for 1995 was estimated to be 119,000 mt, and the remainder of the complex was estimated at 106,000 mt, for a total of 225,000 mt for the total group. No data were provided on distribution of flathead sole in relationship to other flatfish species. The SSC accepted the Plan Team's ABC determinations.

#### **Sablefish**

Because of extensive migratory behavior of sablefish and the small biomass of sablefish in the EBS area, the SSC believes that it is unlikely the EBS and Aleutian Islands sablefish are a separate stock. Like the Team, the SSC recommends that the overfishing limit be specified for the combined Eastern Bering Sea and Aleutians Islands areas.

## Atka Mackerel

For the 1992 fishing year, the SSC recommended reducing the calculated ABC by 5/6 with subsequent annual decreases of 1/6 (stair-stepping). The SSC recommends that this procedure be continued, because of survey variability and concerns for northern fur seals and Steller sea lions which feed heavily on Atka mackerel. Continuing this procedure for the 1995 fishing year, the calculated ABC should be reduced by 2/6. The SSC recommends an ABC of 163,350 t based on the stair-stepping procedure. As required by Amendment 28, the ABC should be distributed among the Western, Central, and Eastern subareas relative to survey biomass estimates of 71,900 mt, 73,500 mt, and 17,950 mt, respectively.

## Squid and Other Species

The SSC concurs with the Plan Team recommendation to include squid in the "other species" complex; the lack of biological and fishery information does not justify separate management at this time. Catch statistics for squid should continue to be collected in the event that a directed fishery develops and leads to a need for separate management.

## **D-3(d) GOA SAFE 1995 Specifications**

### Pollock

The SSC reviewed an updated stock assessment for GOA pollock. New information provided in this analysis included (1) egg production estimates of spawning biomass, (2) 1993 Shelikof Strait hydro-acoustic survey biomass, (3) 1992-1993 acoustic survey length-frequency data, (4) 1992 and 1993 fishery length-frequency data, (5) updated catch and effort. Deleted from the assessment was 1993 fishery catch-at-age data.

Two versions of the stock-synthesis model were presented: Model A, equivalent to the December 1993 preferred model; Model B similarly configured, but using fewer year specific selectivity curves. Model B was the preferred model of the stock assessment authors, Plan Team, and SSC.

Stock biomass continues to decline. Projected 1995 spawning stock biomass is 587,000 mt compared to an estimated threshold spawning biomass of 370,000 mt. The SSC concurs with the Plan Team's recommendations for ABC, using a full recruitment fishing mortality rate of 0.20. The resultant ABC for the Western and Central Gulf is 62,000 mt. The SSC also concurs with the Plan Team's recommendation for the Eastern Gulf of 3,360 mt. Respective overfishing levels are based on exploitation rates at the  $F_{30\%}$  rate (0.51) and are 266,000 mt for the Western and Central Gulf and 14,400 mt for the Eastern Gulf.

Although the SSC accepts the current estimates of stock biomass and ABC, we heard public testimony from Chris Blackburn, AGDB, who raised 4 issues related to the stock assessment, identifying some issues we believe should be examined by stock assessment scientists. Particularly, we encourage the assessment authors to examine the ADF&G bottom trawl crab survey data which could provide estimates of pollock abundance.

The SSC has great concern over the continuing decline in GOA pollock biomass. Despite harvest rates below those assumed to allow for sustainable production, the stock decline continues. The SSC anticipates recommending a zero or bycatch only ABC if spawning stock biomass falls below threshold.

## Pacific cod

The SSC recommended that a range of ABC values be considered at this time: 50,400 to 103,000 mt.

A lengthy discussion was held over this assessment. Concern was raised that the Plan Team recommended ABC is about twice last year's value (50,400 mt from 1994 to a new 103,000 mt for 1995), though the stock was in a period of decline and had been declining since 1987. The SSC notes that the biomass is still above the management target stock size.

The jump to the higher ABC level came partly from the new stock synthesis model application that no longer used knife-edge recruitment, and that fitted survey selectivity of catch as well as natural mortality rate. There was a long discussion on the resulting trawl survey selection curve versus estimates of natural mortality. Also discussed was the level of uncertainty in the survey estimates of biomass for Pacific cod due to patchiness in their distribution. In addition the SSC noted the possible influence of age determination error, since age classification is based on length distributions. It was decided the model was the best that could be developed given the level of uncertainty in the data, but that additional analyses are needed. Specifically, the SSC would like to see results with fixed M over a range of selectivity curves from asymptotic to highly dome-shaped.

## Flatfish

The SSC recommends that the initial ABC's for species in this complex be set at levels proposed by the Team (flatfish-deepwater - 14,590 mt, Rex sole - 11,210 mt, flatfish - shallow water - 52,270 mt, flathead sole - 28,790 mt, and arrowtooth flounder - 198,130 mt). The Team's proposed allocations of the ABC among eastern, central and western management areas were also accepted. The SSC also recommends adoption of the overfishing levels suggested by the Team (flatfish - deepwater - 17,040 mt, rex sole - 13,091 mt, flatfish - shallow water - 60,262 mt, flathead sole - 31,557 mt, arrowtooth flounder - 231,416 mt).

## Sablefish

The SSC concurs with the Plan team recommendation for ABC (25,500 mt) and OFL (31,700 mt). We support the Plan Team's intention to develop a consistent method to apportion ABC to regions and areas and note the alternative schemes presented in the preliminary SAFE document summary.

## **ROCKFISH**

The SSC received an overview of rockfish stock status from members of the Gulf Team. Analytical methods are similar to those applied last year, except that a new length-based synthesis model was applied to thornyhead rockfish. The 1984, 1987, and 1990 trawl survey population estimates have been revised, and substantially increased rockfish catches in the 1993 trawl survey resulted in increased estimates of biomass and yield for most species. After substantive discussion with the Plan Team, the SSC agreed with the Team's ABC determinations, except for POP.

## **SLOPE ROCKFISH**

### POP

For the second year, a stock synthesis model was used to estimate exploitable biomass (135,840 mt), which is an increase above last year's estimate of 101,800 mt. The model incorporated 1987, 1990,

and 1993 triennial trawl survey data, 1992 fishery length data and 1993 and 1994 catch data. The 1993 survey biomass of 453,605 mt was an increase of 97% above the 1990 survey estimate. This increase primarily resulted from very high survey catches of young (ages 6 through 9 years) POP in the Western and Central Areas. The SSC expressed concern over the unexpectedly large increase in survey biomass and the potential harvest of young fish. The SSC requested that the Team look more closely at the age of maturity and changes in reproductive capacity with fish size. The application of the model considerably dampened the influence of the most recent survey. A new ABC was calculated using the optimal fishing mortality ( $F_{msy}$ ) of 0.08 adjusted by the ratio of the current to target spawning biomass ( $B/B^* = 0.812$ ) to provide for rebuilding. The adjusted rate (0.65) multiplied times 135,840 mt results in an ABC of 8,830 mt. Because this ABC is equal to the overfishing level the plan team further reduced this number by  $F_{35\%}/F_{30\%}$  to provide a buffer between the ABC and OFL. The SSC did not agree with the latter adjustment and, as it did last year, recommended that ABC equal OFL. Some discussion occurred regarding ways to increase the OFL rather than reduce the ABC; however, at this time the Council is prohibited from doing so without a plan amendment. As mentioned above, the SSC requests that the Plan Team reexamine this issue.

The ABC is apportioned by management area based on the average area biomass estimates from the 1987, 1990, and 1993 trawl surveys. The ABC area allocations for the Western, Central, and Eastern Areas respectively for the SSC are 1,779 mt; 3,194 mt; and 3,854 mt and for the Team are 1,370 mt; 2,460 mt; and 2,970 mt. Under the POP rebuilding plan, TAC is calculated by reducing ABC by the ratio of the optimal F over the fishing mortality rate necessary to provide for minimal discard. For 1995 this rate is 0.054 and corresponds to  $F_{55\%}$ . This rate is further reduced by  $B/B^*$ . The resultant  $F=0.044$  applied to the plan team's ABC equals a TAC of 5,977 mt.

### Northern

The harvest rate for Northern rockfish was set equal to M (0.6) and when applied to the exploited biomass based on the mean of the 1987, 1990, and 1993 trawl surveys resulted in a 5,271 mt ABC. Area allocations based on the average survey abundance by area are 641 mt-Western, 4,613 mt-Central, and 17 mt-Eastern. Because of the low Eastern Area ABC, the Team discussed including this ABC within the Other Slope Rockfish ABC as a way of reducing Northern rockfish discards which is the most sought after species in the slope assemblage. The SSC defers comment on this issue until the Plan Team makes a recommendation in November.  $F_{30\%}$  provides an OFL of 9,926 mt.

### Other Slope

This complex includes sharpchin, redstripe, harlequin, silvergrey, and yellowmouth rockfish. The ABC for this group was obtained by applying species specific  $F=M$  rates (which range between 0.04 and 0.10) to the specific average exploitable biomasses from the 1987, 1990 and 1993 trawl surveys. The products were summed to obtain an assemblage ABC of 6,930 mt (170 mt-Western, 1,150 mt-Central, and 5,610 mt-Eastern).  $F_{30\%}$  for sharpchin (0.080) and natural mortality for the remaining species were applied to obtain a combined OFL of 8,229 mt.

### Shortraker/Rougheye

The recommended ABC for the shortraker/rougheye group is 1,914 mt (170 mt-Western, 1,210 mt-Central, and 530 mt-Eastern). The ABC was obtained by applying an  $F=M$  strategy. Natural mortality (shortraker, 0.03 and rougheye, 0.025) times the estimated biomass from the averaged 1987,

1990, and 1993 trawl surveys (shortraker, 23,689 mt and rougheye, 48,123 mt) yielded the combined ABC. For rougheye  $F_{30\%}$  (0.046) and  $F=M$  (0.03) for shortraker were applied to the respective biomass estimates for a combined Gulf-wide OFL of 2,925 mt.

### Pelagic Shelf

The exploitable biomass (57,644 mt) for this complex was derived by averaging the biomass estimates from the 1987, 1990, and 1993 surveys. An exception, this ABC is a decrease from last year's biomass (76,500 mt). An  $F=M$  strategy using the natural mortality for dusky rockfish (0.09) was used to calculate a combined ABC of 5,190 mt (910 mt-Western, 3,200 mt-Central, and 1080 mt-Eastern).  $F_{30\%}$  (0.151) provides an OFL of 8,704 mt.

The Team recommended separating black rockfish from the pelagic assemblage because of its near shore distribution and the inability of the NMFS trawl and longline surveys to accurately assess abundance. Based on the average 1991 through 1993 commercial catches an ABC of 400 mt was recommended by the Team. The SSC does not recommend splitting out black rockfish at this time and further requests that the Team attempt to obtain all available assessment and catch data with assistance from ADF&G in an attempt to provide an improved ABC estimate which will prevent over-exploitation in both the Eastern and Central Areas.

### Thornyheads

A new length-based synthesis model was used to derive a new exploitable biomass estimate of 64,770 mt considerably larger than last year's estimate (26,207 mt). Revised 1984, 1987, and 1990 survey estimates, a dome-shaped selectivity curve applied to the 1990 and 1993 surveys, and an increased natural mortality derived from the model were factors which increased the most recent biomass estimate.  $F_{35\%}$  (0.0399) was used to calculate a Gulf-wide ABC of 2,320 mt.  $F_{30\%}$  provides an OFL of 2,740 mt.

The new ABC is a two-fold increase over the 1994 ABC (1,180 mt). However, the new assessment uses improved information including maturity data and longline survey catches and size compositions which indicate the presence of larger thornyheads in deeper depths not sampled by the trawl survey.

Because rockfish are vulnerable to over-exploitation, the model is new and based only on length data, and the dome-shaped selectivity curve suggests a much larger non-surveyed population component, the SSC recommends phasing in (stair-stepping) the new ABC. A four-year stair step is recommended, so that the procedure can be reevaluated after the 1996 trawl survey. For 1995, the recommended ABC is 5/8 of the new ABC, because last year's ABC was about 1/2 of the new ABC. For subsequent years, the SSC requests that the Team provide an ABC calculation based on altered fishing mortality values (i.e. (6/8) F in 1996, (7/8)F in 1997, and (8/8)F in 1998, noting that the Plan Team may wish to recommend ABC's based on some other procedure.

### Atka Mackerel

Atka Mackerel was separated from the "other species" category, and ABC, OFL and TAC set for the species during the 1994 fishing year. For the 1994 fishing year the calculated ABC was reduced by 3/6 with subsequent annual reductions decreased by 1/6 (stair-stepping). The SSC recommends that this procedure be continued to maintain consistency of approach between the Bering Sea/Aleutian and Gulf of Alaska areas in addition to the concerns about survey variability and the status of northern fur seals and Steller sea lions which feed on Atka mackerel. Continuing this procedure for

the 1995 fishing year, the calculated ABC should be reduced by 2/6. The SSC recommends an ABC of 4,300 mt based on the stair-stepping procedure.

The SSC notes that biomass has declined substantially from 32,100 mt in 1990 to 21,600 mt in 1993. This decline was due in part to the very high harvest (13,834 mt) in 1992. The 1994 fishery occurred in the Davidson Bank area in close proximity to a sea lion rookery with a 10 nm buffer zone in place. Although the reductions in ABC due to the stair-stepping procedure provide some protection to marine mammals, the Council should consider additional management measures to reduce potential impacts on marine mammals in view of the decline in abundance of Atka Mackerel. These measures include: seasonal closures (November through March), hot spot closure or delayed seasonal opening, setting a limited (1-2 day) fishing season, expanding the buffer zone around sea lion rookeries, and setting other fishing zones to limit impinging on sea lion habitat.

#### **D-3(f) Halibut Discard Mortality Rates**

The SSC received a report from Gregg Williams of the IPHC on the Plan Teams' proposed halibut discard mortality rates. We note that estimation of discard mortality rates is becoming standardized, and we concur with the Plan Team's recommendations.

#### **D-4(a) Total Weight Measurement**

The SSC received a presentation from Sally Bibb (NMFS) on the EA/RIR/IRFA for a regulatory amendment to improve total catch weight estimates in groundfish fisheries off of Alaska. We note that the revised analysis incorporates SSC requested options for using approved procedures such as volumetric measurements, and the SSC appreciates the additional efforts of the analyst. The SSC has consistently supported the investigation of techniques to increase the accuracy of estimates of total removals from the ocean ecosystem. Improved estimates are important for stock assessment purposes, and vessel specific estimates of total removal are especially important to a variety of management measures under consideration by the Council, e.g., IFQs, Harvest Priority, and Full Utilization. We note that the analysis presented is qualitative, and that it is not possible to determine the accuracy or bias of current estimation methods and therefore of the benefits of the alternatives discussed. Neither can we tell whether the assumed benefits justify the costs.

Alternative 5 would provide the greatest confidence in estimates of total removals, although such a system probably cannot be implemented at the current time. While the costs and logistical implications of this alternative cannot be completely assessed, they are the greatest of all the alternatives. Required retention of fish which might otherwise be discarded represents a biological cost as well.

The Council may wish to tailor the different estimation methods presented in the alternatives to different fisheries, although better information on the accuracy of the methods is needed to make an informed decision.

#### **D-4(b) Trawl Mesh**

The SSC reviewed the EA/RIR/IRFA for a regulatory amendment to require minimum mesh sizes in several trawl fisheries. Two other preliminary reports were also received, a pollock codend mesh size study by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) and the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) which was presented by Dan Erickson and a related pollock yield per recruit discussion paper by Rick Methot (NMFS). On the basis of the available information the SSC was

not able to identify a preferred alternative. In the AFDF/FRI study, the SSC was not able to conclude that the selectivities of the meshes tested were statistically significant. We reiterate our previous advice provided after reviewing the 1993 study results that the use of multivariate techniques may be able to demonstrate significant results. The preliminary results of this study suggest that vessel and operational characteristics may be as important as mesh size in determining gear selectivity. No empirical evidence on rock sole and Pacific cod mesh selectivity for the mesh sizes provided are available.

The council should be aware of several possible implications of mesh size selectivity.

1. Increased trawling effort may be required to catch the same quantity of retained groundfish (lower CFUE).
2. If CPUE for prohibited species does not change in parallel with CPUE for the target species, PSC bycatch caps may become more constraining.
3. Alternative mesh sizes may change the size and age at which fish recruit to the fishery. Because ABC determinations are based on the selectivity of the current fleet, selectivity changes will require reanalysis of ABCs. It may not be possible to perform any necessary changes in ABC calculations for the upcoming final SAFE document.
4. Allocational effects may result from changed selectivity within fisheries. For example, it is possible that the Bering Sea trawl fishery would be unable to harvest its allocation of the Bering Sea cod TAC at the proposed larger mesh sizes given the current size distribution of the cod population.

The SSC also discussed the issue of escapement mortality of fish passing through the trawl mesh. The current analyses assume no change in escapement mortality; some studies suggest that mortality of escaped fish can be negligible to very high depending on many factors.

Based on the information provided, the SSC could not predict the impact of the proposed alternatives. The SSC suggest that further studies on mesh selectivity are necessary to test whether the catch of smaller fish could be reduced by mesh restrictions in our groundfish fisheries.

#### **D-5 Opilio Bycatch**

Council and NMFS staff presented to the SSC an Opilio bycatch paper providing bycatch data by fishery, area, and size as it requested during the January 1994 meeting.

#### **D-6 Staff Tasking**

The SSC received public testimony on the following proposals that appear in the briefing document: #10 (Barbara Wilson), #11 (Barbara Wilson) and #16 (Bob Stores). Jeff Stephan also circulated a proposal that was submitted in 1991. Since these proposals and those that appear in the briefing document were submitted out to cycle, the SSC did not give them detailed consideration, but notes that they exemplify problems with the current management system. The SSC believes that, if it is the intention of the Council to take further action on them, the general public should be given the opportunity to submit proposals as well. All proposals received should be handled per Council policy (i.e. receive Plan Team, PAGG, SSC and AP review).



**BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH**

Species	Area	PT ABC	SSC ABC	PT OFL	SSC OFL
Pollock	EBS		1,330,000		1,590,000
	AI		56,600		60,400
	518	127,000	20,000	147,000	20,000
Pacific cod	BS/AI		191,000		228,000
Yellowfin sole	BS/AI		230,000		269,000
Greenland turbot	BS/AI	17,200	7,000		24,800
Arrowtooth	BS/AI		93,400		130,000
Rock sole	BS/AI		313,000		363,000
Flathead sole	BS/AI		119,000		145,000
Other flatfish	BS/AI		106,000		125,000
Sablefish	EBS		540		
	AI		<u>2,800</u>		
	Total		3,340		4,160
POP complex					
True POP	EBS		1,910		2,920
Other POP	EBS		1,400		1,400
True POP	AI		10,900		16,600
Sharp/Northern	AI		5,670		5,670
Short/Rougheye	AI		1,220		1,220
Other rockfish	EBS		365		365
	AI		770		770
Atka mackerel	Western	107,800	71,900		
	Central	110,250	73,500		
	Eastern	<u>26,950</u>	<u>17,950</u>		
	Total	245,000	163,350		484,000
Other species	BS/AI		30,610		141,000
<b>BS/AI TOTAL</b>		<b>2,884,385</b>	<b>2,685,535</b>	<b>3,740,305</b>	<b>3,613,305</b>

The SSC agrees with other apportionments of ABC recommended by the Plan Team. The SSC also agrees with the Plan Team that OFL should not be apportioned by areas except as specified.

**GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH**

Species	Area	PT ABC	SSC ABC	PT OFL	SSC OFL
Pollock	W/C		62,000		266,000
	E		3,360		14,400
	Total		65,360		280,400
Pacific cod		103,000	50,400-103,000	120,000	71,100-120,000
Flatfish (deep water)			14,590		17,040
Rex sole			11,210		13,091
Flatfish (shallow water)			52,270		60,262
Flathead sole			28,790		31,557
Arrowtooth flounder			198,130		231,416
Sablefish			25,500		31,700
Slope rockfish (other)			6,930		8,229
Northern rockfish			5,270		9,926
POP complex	W	1,370	1,780		
	C	2,460	3,190		
	E	2,970	3,860		
	Total	6,800	8,830		8,830
Shortraker/ Rougheye			1,910		2,925
Pelagic Shelf	Rock	5,190		8,704	
	Black	400		400	
	Total	5,590	5,190	9,104	8,704
Demersal Shelf			960		1,680
Thornyhead		2,320	1,450		2,740
Atka Mackerel		6,480	4,300		11,700
Other species			NA		NA
GOA Total		535,110	481,090-533,690	840,600	791,300-840,200

The SSC agrees with other apportionments of ABC recommended by the Plan Team. The SSC also agrees with the Plan Team that OFL should not be apportioned by areas except as specified.

**DRAFT**

**GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH ABCs and TACs**  
**Initial 1995 Plan Team, SSC, and AP recommendations (metric tons)**

APPROVED BY COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

APPENDIX VI

**DRAFT**

Species	Area	1994			Plan Team 1995 ABC	SSC 1995 ABC	Advisory Panel 1995 TAC
		ABC	TAC	Catch*			
Pollock	W (61)	22,130	22,130	16,709	30,380	30,380	30,380
	C (62)	23,870	23,870	18,475	15,310	15,310	15,310
	C (63)	56,000	56,000	44,618	16,310	16,310	16,310
	E	7,300	7,300	6,848	3,360	3,360	3,360
	Total	109,300	109,300	86,650	65,360	65,360	65,360
Pacific Cod	W	16,630	16,630	14,679	29,900	16,630 - 29,900	29,900
	C	31,250	31,250	30,066	68,000	31,250 - 68,000	68,000
	E	2,520	2,520	1,646	5,100	2,520 - 5,100	5,100
	Total	50,400	50,400	46,391	103,000	50,400 - 103,000	103,000
Flatfish, Deep Water	W	460	460	53	670	670	460
	C	12,930	7,500	2,344	8,150	8,150	7,500
	E	3,120	3,120	697	5,770	5,770	3,120
	Total	16,510	11,080	3,094	14,590	14,590	11,080
Rex Sole	W	800	800	50	1,350	1,350	1,350
	C	9,310	7,500	2,819	7,050	7,050	7,050
	E	1,840	1,840	5	2,810	2,810	2,810
	Total	11,950	10,140	2,874	11,210	11,210	11,210
Flathead Sole	W	9,120	2,000	495	8,880	8,880	2,000
	C	23,080	5,000	1,362	17,170	17,170	5,000
	E	3,650	3,000	2	2,740	2,740	3,000
	Total	35,850	10,000	1,859	28,790	28,790	10,000
Flatfish, Shallow Water	W	20,290	4,500	184	26,280	26,280	4,500
	C	12,950	12,950	2,549	23,140	23,140	12,950
	E	1,180	1,180	10	2,850	2,850	1,180
	Total	34,420	18,630	2,743	52,270	52,270	18,630
Arrowtooth	W	28,590	5,000	1,165	28,400	28,400	5,000
	C	186,270	20,000	14,141	141,290	141,290	25,000
	E	21,380	5,000	422	28,440	28,440	5,000
	Total	236,240	30,000	15,728	198,130	198,130	35,000
Sablefish	W	2,290	2,290	566	2,290	2,290	2,290
	C	11,220	11,220	8,112	11,220	11,220	11,220
	W. Yakutat	4,850	4,850	2,836	4,850	4,850	4,850
	E. Yak./SEO	7,140	7,140	6,292	7,140	7,140	7,140
	Total	25,500	25,500	17,806	25,500	25,500	25,500
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	680	571	170	1,370	1,780	1,195
	C	850	714	626	2,460	3,190	2,152
	E	1,500	1,265	121	2,970	3,860	2,630
	Total	3,030	2,550	917	6,800	8,830	5,977
Shorthead/Rougheye	W	100	100	77	170	170	170
	C	1,290	1,290	837	1,210	1,210	1,210
	E	570	570	554	530	530	530
	Total	1,960	1,960	1,468	1,910	1,910	1,910
Rockfish, Other Slope	W	330	199	74	170	170	170
	C	1,640	988	590	1,150	1,150	1,150
	E	6,330	1,048	726	5,610	5,610	5,610
	Total	8,300	2,235	1,390	6,930	6,930	2,235 - 6,930
Rockfish, Northern	W	1,000	1,000	1,610	640	640	640
	C	4,720	4,720	4,384	4,610	4,610	4,610
	E	40	40	49	20	20	20
	Total	5,760	5,760	6,043	5,270	5,270	5,270
Rockfish, Pelagic Shelf	W	1,030	1,030	253	910	910	910
	C	4,550	4,550	1,226	3,200	3,200	3,200
	E	1,310	1,310	888	1,080	1,080	1,080
	Total	6,890	6,890	2,367	5,190	5,190	5,190
Black Rockfish	Gulfwide	NA	NA	295	400	-	-
Rockfish, Demersal She	SEO	960	960	406	960	960	960
Thomyhead	Gulfwide	1,180	1,180	1,068	2,320	1,450	1,450
Atka Mackerel	W		2,500	2,658			2,500
	C		1,000	5			1,000
	E		5	0			5
	Gulfwide	4,800	3,505	2,663	6,480	4,300	3,505
Other Species	Gulfwide	NA	14,504	2,913	NA		15,315 - 15,549
<b>GULF OF ALASKA TOTAL</b>		<b>553,050</b>	<b>304,594</b>	<b>196,380</b>	<b>535,110</b>	<b>481,090 - 533,690</b>	<b>321,591 - 326,521</b>

\* Catch through August 6, 1994

**Table 4. Trend in halibut discard mortality rates during 1990 through 1993, and recommendations for discard mortality rates to use in monitoring halibut bycatch mortality in 1995. Rates shown under "Used in 1994" for hook & line fisheries represent rates applied to observed/unobserved vessels.**

Region/Target	1990	1991	1992	1993	1992-93 Average	Used in 1994	Recommendation for 1995
<b>BSAI TRAWL</b>							
MWT Pollock	81	81	87	90	89	80	89
Atka mackerel	69	73	62	56	59	70	59
Rock sole/Oflats <sup>1</sup>	58	68	78	72	75	70	75
Pacific cod	68	60	67	62	65	60	65
BT Pollock	65	59	76	78	77	60	77
Rockfish	62	54	59	78	69	60	69
Yellowfin sole <sup>1</sup>	73	74	77	75	76	70	76
Arrowtooth	57	41	-	-	-	40	49 <sup>2</sup>
Grnld. turbot	58	38	-	-	-	40	48 <sup>2</sup>
<b>GOA TRAWL</b>							
MWT Pollock	63	74	69	63	66	75	66
Rockfish	61	65	69	62	66	60	66
BT Pollock	65	56	70	70	70	55	70
Shallwtr. flatfish	62	61	62	66	64	60	64
Pacific cod	61	55	59	56	58	55	58
Deepwtr. flatfish	57	52	59	59	59	55	59
<b>BSAI H&amp;L</b>							
Pacific cod	17	21	18	18	18	18/18	18
Sablefish	13	18	19	14	17	12.5/15	17
Rockfish	18	29	-	-	-	12.5/15	24 <sup>2</sup>
Grnld. turbot	-	-	17	21	19	12.5/15	19
<b>GOA H&amp;L</b>							
Pacific cod	13	17	30	9	20	16/16	20
Sablefish	11	28	23	26	25	14/17	25
Rockfish	15	20	-	-	-	11.5/14	18 <sup>2</sup>
<b>BSAI POT</b>							
Pacific cod	7	3	12	4	8	5	8
<b>GOA POT</b>							
Pacific cod	10	5	16	20	18	5	18

<sup>1</sup>During 1990 and 1991, "Other flatfish" was grouped with yellowfin sole. Since 1992, the target has been grouped with rock sole.

<sup>2</sup>Average of 1990 and 1991, the two most recent years.