

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
Post Office Mall Building



Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 265-5435

CERTIFIED: *w/ change, on P.3.*

Keith Specking

Keith Specking, Chairman

2/6/79

Date

January 24, 1979

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES

The Advisory Panel met on Wednesday, January 24 in the Windsor Room of the Sheffield Hotel. A list of the 18 members attending the meeting is attached. New members attending their first meeting were Ed Linkous, Jack Phillips, and Robin Chlupach. Additionally, the Panel unanimously recommends to the Council that Keith Specking be reappointed chairman and Bud Boddy be appointed as vice-chairman.

The Panel considered the following agenda items.

Agenda Item 5 NMFS observer report

The Panel viewed the film presentation by Robert French and Janet Wall on the NMFS observer program. The Panel appreciated the presentation and found it interesting and informative.

Agenda Item 9 - Halibut legislation

The Panel considered Harold Lokken's letter to Senator Warren Magnuson and Don Young with the accompanying proposed legislation, and Governor Jay Hammond's letter to John Negroponte. In discussing the proposed legislation, the Panel adopted three motions. They are:

1. The Panel unanimously recommends a change in Section 2(c)(3) which would delete the words "and management". That section would then

read, "To support and encourage continued, active United States efforts to obtain an acceptable agreement with the Government of Canada which provides for effective conservation of Pacific halibut."

The Panel discussed the deletion of this management connotation in the policy statement and felt (1) that good conservation inferred certain management responsibility and (2) nothing should indicate a management relationship or agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

2. The Panel unanimously recommends a change in Section 3(b)(1) as follows. "(1) Of the five members, one shall be the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, one shall be the director of the Washington Department of Fisheries, one shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Alaska, one shall be appointed from two nominees made by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and one representing the halibut industry."

This action came as a result of a recommendation of the Panel designed to simplify the membership process, solidify the North Pacific Council's involvement as well as that of the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the director of the Washington Department of Fisheries.

3. The Panel endorsed the letter from Governor Hammond to Ambassador Negroponte (January 23) expressing the point of view of the State of Alaska and further wishes to commend the Governor for his interest in this matter.

Agenda Item 10 - Bering Sea and Aleutian Groundfish Fishery

The Panel briefly took up the subject of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The matter however was dropped after it was learned that portions of the plan and the management options would be rewritten and resubmitted at the next meeting.

Additionally the Panel expressed some concern over the late remarks submitted by the Marine Mammal Commission on the plan which might have caused (under other circumstances) a delay in the management plan schedule.

Agenda Item 11 - Bering Sea Shrimp

Both the Bering Sea Shrimp FMP and the world shrimp workshop were discussed. Paul Anderson, NMFS-Kodiak briefly highlighted important parts of the shrimp management plan and indicated to the Panel that the concept of the Pribilof area shrimp quota, permits for other areas, observers, and the special conditions of all other areas was a proposal designed not to discourage exploratory shrimping in the Bering Sea and to utilize that exploratory data.

In terms of the permit requirements, the logbook program and the basic management philosophy, the Panel "unanimously recommends that this plan be put out for public comment in its present form."

Dr. Patrick Holmes, ADF&G-Kodiak, briefed the Panel on the upcoming world shrimp workshop to be held in Kodiak on February 13, 14, and 15. He discussed with the Panel the broad list of world speakers, a planned trip for the speakers on a modern Kodiak double rigged shrimp trawler, the design of the panel discussions and the choice of topics: (1) the history of management, (2) stock assessment and year class abundance indices, (3) environmental factors, (4) gear design, (5) and management from several points of view.

Agenda Item 12 - Gulf of Alaska Amendments

The Advisory Panel considered five amendments to the Gulf Groundfish FMP for 1979. Present for the discussions were Mr. Bert Larkins, NMFS-Seattle, and Messrs. MacGregor, , and Hastings representing foreign and American fishing groups.

Amendment 1 - sablefish OY

The Panel listened to Bert Larkins and also considered the points made by attorney Paul MacGregor which stressed that the downward trends in foreign longline CPUE were not totally attributable to a declining condition of the stock, but rather might be due to restrictive regulations and operational difficulties.

The Panel raised the issue of a continuing decline in the average size of the sablefish in the U.S. catch as well as two other arguments dealing with unknown stock rebuilding relationships. In addition the Panel wished to bring forth into the record another consideration discussed in past meetings supporting their view -- that of the possible masking effect of gear saturation which tends to disguise a declining population even though CPUE may remain constant.

The Panel on the basis of those reasons unanimously endorsed their earlier recommendation that the OY should be 10,000 mt.

Amendment #2 - A proposal to allow foreign longlining on Davidson Bank.

The Panel considered this proposal and the supporting rationale, namely that foreign longlining had always been allowed in this area and that there was no biological reason (or conservation reason) to prohibit foreign longlining.

The Panel felt (as it did in the November 30 - December 1 Council meeting) that the potential for gear conflict was high and that there would be a

problem if a major foreign longline effort were to move into that area. Additionally at this meeting the Panel learned that at least one domestic processor had firm plans to buy cod in that area during 1979. Also the Panel felt that the earlier statement in the FMP which said, "Davidson Bank...is closed year-round...to preserve as a sanctuary for developing U.S. fisheries in an area of healthy concentrations of several groundfish species which is within range of already established cold storage and processing facilities at Dutch Harbor and Sand Point" was still valid. The Panel therefore unanimously endorsed their earlier recommendation that the Davidson Bank area not be opened to foreign longlining.

Amendment #3 - A proposal to eliminate the special joint venture reserve amount for sablefish (1500 mt) and Pacific cod (3000 mt) The Panel only briefly addressed this amendment noting that their recommendation last month supported this proposal and was actually tabled as a motion by the Council until this meeting.

Amendment #4 - A proposal to reduce the number of statistical areas in the Gulf of Alaska
The Panel listened to Bert Larkins and Mr. Hastings on this matter and were told that there was no biological information to suggest that three areas instead of five would be biologically damaging and that the present five statistical areas in the Gulf FMP had caused great economic distress to at least the Japanese fleet, especially due to an allocation scheme which appears unworkable.

Given that information and also that the SSC had no great concern over the reduction of areas the Panel unanimously "recommended that the plan be amended to reduce the five areas to three as follows:

- one area: Southeast and Yakutat combined
- one area: Kodiak and Chirikof combined
- one area: Shumagin"

Amendment #5 - A proposal to allow a directed true cod longline fishery landward of 500 meters east of 157° W. longitude to 140° W. longitude.

The Panel learned that the SSC had reviewed this proposal and has asked that a study group look into the ramification of encouraging a foreign longline fishery and/or a major foreign trawl fishery in the area. In the absence therefore of a commitment by the SSC to consider the proposal at this time - pending further investigation - the Panel learned that Council action might be delayed until the next Council meeting.

The Panel therefore unanimously reconfirmed their earlier recommendation to reject the proposal on the basis of strong halibut conservation arguments and potential gear conflicts.

Agenda Item 14 - Tetra-Tech Report

The Advisory Panel listened to a presentation by Mr. Tom Kawling of Tetra-Tech dealing with a summary of the draft final report for the Council research contract -- "A Study to Determine the Effects of Hydraulic Clam Harvesting in the Eastern Bering Sea." The presentation consisted of slides, a video tape of the sampling program and a summary of the results of the study. It was noted that two members of the Panel, Mssrs. Don Rawlinson and Ray Lewis, have been working closely on the contract and are reviewing the draft final report.

No action was requested or taken by the Panel.

Agenda Item 15 - Council Information Booklet

The Advisory Panel reviewed the Council information booklet and generally felt (in the words of one new member) that it was a helpful and well done document. The Panel also had no objection to having their names and addresses included as well with some expressing a desire to include their occupation or Advisory Panel affiliation.

The Panel recommends the booklet be printed and distributed.

Agenda Item 16 - AP business

The Panel reviewed the matrix which illustrated the occupational, regional, and special interest makeup of the Panel. Some comments were forwarded to the staff correcting small errors.

Agenda Item 19 - U.S. catcher/processors in the crab fishery

The Panel considered the letter written by Admiral Duin and Harry Rietze to Jim Branson pertaining to a potential enforcement problem with catcher/processor vessels in the Bering Sea. The discussion included the following salient points.

1. We should not discourage U.S. catcher/processors in U.S. fisheries.
2. Enforcement solutions could lie anywhere in the range between full observer coverage and regular Coast Guard enforcement checks.
3. The situation appears to be a potential problem in both the king crab and Tanner crab fisheries.

The Panel approved the following motion as an expression of their concern for the matter. "The Advisory Panel believes that the catcher/processor issue is a potential enforcement problem which should be addressed

immediately by the king crab management drafting team. The potential should be expressed as a complete range of options to be put out for public comment."

Later on the Panel expressed a feeling that a similar action should be considered for the Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery.

The Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation

The Panel listened to a presentation by Sara Hemphill, Executive Director of the AFDC, regarding S-K funding problems. Insofar as Ms. Hemphill's presentation was appealing for Council support of her plight to receive S-K development funds, the Advisory Panel unanimously recommends the Council support the appeal of AFDC to appropriate legislators for S-K funding and support.

Additionally Keith Specking indicated for the Governor's Office that the AFDC and its goals and organization were still supported by the Governor's Office.

ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
January 24, 1979

Truman Emberg
Ed Linkous
Robert Blake
Joe Kurtz
Oral Burch
Robin Chlupach
Ken Olsen
Bud Boddy
Al Otness
Keith Specking
Joe Demantle
Carlene Welfelt
Shari Gross
Don Rawlinson
Ray Lewis
Jack Phillips
Bob Alverson
Sig Jaeger