

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

411 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



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

Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 271-4064

CERTIFIED

James O. Campbell

DATE

2/8/85

MINUTES  
63rd Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
December 5-8, 1984  
Captain Cook Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met December 5-7, 1984 at the Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska, and Saturday, December 8, at the Tiki Cove Restaurant. On Monday and Tuesday, December 3-4, the Permit Review Committee met at the hotel to consider proposed joint venture, foreign directed fishing allocations, and foreign vessel permit applications for 1985.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met at the hotel on Monday and Tuesday, December 3-4. The SSC and Permit Review Committee met together on Tuesday to consider the relative merits of proposed joint ventures, foreign directed fishing allocations and foreign vessel permit applications for 1985.

The Advisory Panel met with the Council on Wednesday and Thursday, December 5-6, to hear reports and public testimony before convening their own meeting on Thursday afternoon to formulate their recommendations to the Council. Members of the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel and general public in attendance are listed below.

## Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman  
Rudy Petersen  
Ken Parker for Don Collinsworth  
Henry Mitchell  
Jeff Stephan  
Gene Didonato for  
Bill Wilkerson  
RADM Robt. Lucas  
John Peterson

Robert U. Mace for  
John Donaldson  
Robert W. McVey  
Ray Arnaudo  
John Harville  
Sara Hemphill  
Jon Nelson for  
Robert E. Putz  
John Winther

## NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director  
Clarence Pautzke  
Judy Willoughby  
Steve Davis  
Doug Larson

Ron Miller  
Jeff Povolny  
Ron Rogness  
Helen Allen

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

Support Staff

Choate Budd, USCG  
Ron Berg, NMFS  
Craig Hammond, NMFS  
Pat Travers, NMFS  
Janet Smoker, NMFS

Gary Stauffer, NMFS-NWAFC  
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC  
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G  
Thorn Smith, NMFS

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman  
Bill Aron  
Steve Langdon  
Al Millikan  
Scott Marshall for John Clark

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman  
Robert Burgner  
Jack Lechner  
Larry Hreha

Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman  
Pat Barker  
Alvin Burch  
Larry Cotter  
Don Rawlinson  
Bud Boddy  
Walter Smith

Joseph Kurtz  
Richard Lauber  
Barry Collier  
Barry Fisher  
Eric Jordan  
Robert Blake  
Tom Stewart  
Anthony Vaska

General Public

Bruce Beels  
P. Gunsoles  
Stephen B. Johnson  
Y.S. Shin  
Douglas Turnbull  
Ray Olsen  
John Schmiedtke  
Dave Woodruff  
Y.S. Lee  
H. Takagi  
Ted West  
Vern Hall  
S. Takaoka  
M. Matsuzawa  
Louis P. Iani  
Harold Monsen  
Greg Hansen  
I. Sigfusson  
Helgi Agustsson  
Bill Jacobson  
Lonnie Chesnut  
Brent Gazaway

John C. Marr  
E. R. Zyblut  
R. E. Armstrong  
John Dexter  
Jon Adams  
Ken Koyboyashi  
Ole Harder  
John Maher  
Chuck Kekoni  
Dan Veerhusen  
Ben Sterns  
N. Toyaji  
T. Shinya  
Oscar Dyson  
Stosh Anderson  
Todd L. Shaw  
Mrytle Johnson  
Halldor Arnason  
John Allen  
Richard Thummel  
Phil Fuller  
Charles M. Hill

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

Don Swisher  
John Klemzak  
Cary Swasand  
Tadashi Nemoto  
Charles J. Miller  
Charlie Johnson  
Charles Edwardsen  
Oliver & Eva Holm  
Rod Moore  
Greg Baker  
Joao Vieira  
K.J. Lee  
Alan Guimond  
Jeff Hendricks  
Mary Jacobs  
Peter Kendrick  
Raymond Campbell  
Pete Knutsen  
Antonio Quina  
Jack McLean  
Ronnie Wrenn  
Tomasz Pintowski  
A. Shibolet  
Charles Christensen  
M. Takaji  
Terry Baker  
Joe McGill  
Appy Chandler  
Chris Swaney  
Paul MacGregor  
Hong An  
Craig Willoya

Tim Longrich  
Shogo Sugiura  
Chris Blackburn  
Michael Jones  
Mark Lundsten  
Ed Zeaser  
Ozzie Walters  
D. Katz  
W.K. Lim  
M. H. Cutshall  
Tadahiko Nakamura  
Mick Stevens  
Ron Jensen  
Max Andersen  
Barbara Monkiewicz  
Kathryn Kinnear  
Ron Hegge  
Kevin O'Leary  
Tom Sweeney  
Admiral Hwong  
Warren Westfall  
Nils Dragey  
Jay Hastings  
Hisao Iswasaki  
Mr. Tanabe  
Jon Zuck  
Bill Nicholson  
Chris Blackburn  
Bart Eaton  
Mike Mayo  
John Jemewouk  
Roy Otton

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5, 1984, by Chairman Jim Campbell.

Sara Hemphill moved to approve the minutes of the September 1984 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Gene Didonato and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Jim Branson suggested that regular agency reports under Section B of the Agenda be considered in their written form with no oral presentation in order to save time. Council members agreed.

Henry Mitchell asked that a special report by the Alaska Board of Fisheries on the Japanese high-seas salmon fishery be added to the agenda. There was no objection.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson presented the Executive Director's Report as written and asked for Council advice on Senator Stevens' request that the Council be involved in a Forsythe roundtable as part of the Year of the Oceans activities. Bob Mace moved to approve the Council's co-sponsorship of the roundtable. John Peterson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Chairman Campbell appointed a small workgroup to meet the week following the Council meeting to discuss possible changes to the MFCMA. Jim Campbell, John Winther, John Peterson, Rudy Petersen, Sara Hemphill, John Harville and Jim Branson were appointed to the workgroup.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

ADF&G estimates that through November 14 U.S. industry harvested and processed nearly 50,000 mt of groundfish off Alaska. Sablefish accounted for 7,725 mt and Pacific cod for 34,301 mt of this American harvest. An additional 1,072 mt of sablefish were caught in State internal waters.

These figures do not include joint venture harvests by U.S. trawlers delivering to foreign processing vessels in over-the-side sales off Alaska. This 50,000 mt Domestic Annual Processed (DAP) harvest for 1984 is an increase over past years: 46,651 mt in 1983, 26,491 mt in 1982, 20,672 mt in 1981, 11,023 mt in 1980, and less than 10,000 mt in earlier years.

Charles Meacham, ADF&G, reported on research recently published on the origins of chinook salmon in the area of the Japanese mothership salmon fishery. It was estimated that the Japanese land-based and mothership fisheries harvested from 200,000 to 700,000 Alaskan chinook salmon annually between 1978 and 1983.

The Council was requested by ADF&G to convey their concern over these interceptions, in the form of a resolution, to the INPFC. Bob McVey said that the INPFC will not meet again until next year. Henry Mitchell suggested that the Council Chairman send a letter, based on ADF&G's draft resolution, to the Department of State with copies to all INPFC delegates. The Council concurred with this suggestion.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Update

By November 10 the foreign fleets in the Gulf of Alaska harvested 111,360 mt of groundfish, or 52% of the current foreign allocation for that area. The catch included 87,781 mt of pollock, 15,622 mt of Pacific cod, 2,579 mt of Pacific ocean perch, and 1,052 mt of sablefish. The Central Gulf was closed to all foreign fishing on November 16.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

In the Bering Sea and Aleutians they harvested 982,466 mt or about 72% of the current foreign allocation. The catch included 785,437 mt of pollock, 96,056 mt of yellowfin sole, 52,092 mt of flounders, 38,472 mt of Pacific cod, and 1,108 mt of Pacific ocean perch.

There were 109 foreign vessels off Alaska on November 28, 1984, 47 from Japan, 24 from South Korea, 9 from the USSR, 26 from Poland, and 1 each from West Germany, Taiwan and Portugal. Last year at this time there were nearly twice as many vessels off Alaska.

B-4 U.S. Coast Guard Reports on Enforcement

The Coast Guard reported that enforcement efforts since September 19 have resulted in six reports of violation and forty written warnings issued to foreign fishing vessels. Violations included failure to submit the required activity message 24 hours prior to beginning or ceasing fishing within the Fishery Conservation Zone, failure to respond to visual signals to stop for boarding, failure to sort catch and return prohibited species as soon as possible, failure to respond to visual signals to heave to for boarding, failure to maintain a Daily Cumulative Catch Log, failure to provide a safe boarding ladder, impeding a boarding party, and failure to accurately log incidental catch of prohibited species. In September, the Coast Guard issued a written warning to the Soviet stern trawler MYS GROZNY for fishing within the FCZ without a current permit. On November 13 two more Soviet vessels, the KALAR and TEKHNOLOG, were issued written warnings for the same infraction, and on November 15 the TEKHNOLOG was again issued a written warning for fishing within the FCZ without a permit.

Thus far in 1984, the U.S. Coast Guard enforcement effort has totaled 780 cutter patrol days and 3,039 aircraft patrol hours for a total coverage of 521,372 patrol miles. Combined enforcement efforts have resulted in three seizures, and the issuance of 32 reports of violation and 117 written warnings.

B-5 Joint Venture Wrap-Up for 1984

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through November 10, 1984 was 579,114 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, joint venture trawlers harvested 201,082 mt pollock, 4,314 mt Pacific cod, 3,095 mt flatfish, 1,657 mt Pacific ocean perch, and 2,540 mt of other species. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, the joint venture harvest was 242,692 mt pollock, 34,011 mt Pacific cod, 35,595 mt Atka mackerel, 50,507 mt flatfish and 2,621 mt other species.

During 1984 there were 22 different joint venture company arrangements employing about 90 U.S. trawlers off Alaska. This year's joint venture catch is a significant increase over that of previous years: 350,901 mt in 1983, 179,556 mt in 1982, 95,501 mt in 1981, 33,425 mt in 1980, and 1,507 mt in 1979, the first year of significant joint ventures off Alaska. It is anticipated that joint venture harvests may go well over 800,000 mt off Alaska in 1985.

B-6 Special Report - Natural Resources Consultants

Jim Crutchfield from Natural Resources Consultants briefly reviewed their recent report, "Development of Large-Scale Trawling in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and its Economic and Ecological Impacts." A copy of the study will be mailed to Council and SSC members.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Comprehensive Fishery Management Goals

Sara Hemphill reviewed minor editorial changes made by the Goals Subcommittee to the draft goals as a result of Council and public comments. Motions were made to include subsistence issues in Goals 2 and 3. Bob Mace moved to approve the goals, as amended. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. The goals will be finalized for public distribution and included in the Council's reference book under policy. An ad hoc committee will be formed to begin working on fishery-specific goals for the groundfish plans.

C-2 Halibut Fishery Management

John Peterson briefed the Council on the Halibut Subcommittee's work on options for management of the North Pacific halibut fishery. No specific plans have been approved at this time, but the Committee suggested several options for the 1985 season which the Council could consider for recommendation to the IPHC. The suggestions included concurrent 1-, 2-, or 3-day openings spaced 20-30 days apart in IPHC Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A and 4D, and pre-season hold inspections in lieu of a lay-up, and pre-season non-exclusive area registration. It was also recommended that if the IPHC implements a pre-season tank inspection requirement, that it eliminate the requirement, for the 1985 Alaska halibut season, that a vessel using setline gear must stop fishing for other species five days before a halibut opening. The Committee also recommended that the Council formalize its relationship with the IPHC through a joint Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Halibut Subcommittee to rework all briefing material developed on halibut management options, including the status quo. When this material has been placed in a format suitable to solicit public comment, the Subcommittee will proceed with a series of public workshops in Alaska and Seattle.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP felt that management should be more flexible in IPHC Area 4 because of its large area, lower vessel participation, lower CPUE and lower total potential harvest. They also suggested that landings on holidays should be avoided and that some flexibility should be allowed in the suggested layups, between 20 and 30 days.

The AP endorsed tank inspections for all halibut openings in Areas 3A, 3B, and 2C and recommended that the 5-day, no longline period be reduced to 2 days if

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

tank inspections could not be enforced. The AP unanimously endorsed the suggestion that the Council formalize its relationship with the IPHC through a Memorandum of Understanding and that the Halibut Subcommittee be instructed to rework all halibut briefing material on management options and proceed with a series of public workshops in Alaska and Seattle.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob McVey expressed concern about the manpower needed to enforce the tank inspections. They will need the cooperation of the Coast Guard and will also ask the State to help; however when other fisheries are going on in state waters, the state may not be able to help.

John Peterson moved that the Council recommend to the IPHC that they implement, for the 1985 season in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A and 4D, a scheme of concurrent 1-, 2-, or 3-day openings spaced 20-30 days apart, pre-season hold inspections in lieu of a layup, and pre-season non-exclusive area registration and that the Council formalize its relationship with the IPHC through a joint Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell.

Jeff Stephan moved to amend the motion to read ". . .spaced approximately 15-45 days apart . . ." The motion was seconded by Ken Parker, but failed, 8 to 3.

John Peterson moved to amend the main motion by deleting Areas 4A and 4D. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

John Peterson moved to amend the main motion to include the word "approximately" before "20-30 days apart." Jeff Stephan seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

The main motion carried with no objection. John Peterson suggested that the IPHC be advised of the AP's recommendation that layups on holidays should be avoided.

John Peterson moved that the Council authorize the Halibut Subcommittee to rework the materials on halibut management and, when it is in a form suitable for public comment, that they proceed with public workshops in Alaska and Washington. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-3 Advisory Panel Operations

Sara Hemphill presented recommendations of the Council's workgroup on advisory panel operations that the AP consist of 20 members, each having one-year terms, chosen to represent a variety of gear types and the major geographic regions of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest having an interest in the fisheries off Alaska. The workgroup also outlined qualifications of prospective AP members, and methods of operations.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members discussed the recommendations made by the workgroup. John Harville expressed concern that a one-year term would not allow new members to become familiar with the issues before their terms expired, and suggested that staggered terms might be more useful. It was also suggested that the number of consecutive terms of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be restricted.

Bob Mace moved that the Council accept the recommendations of the workgroup on Advisory Panel operations. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell.

John Peterson moved to amend the motion to restrict terms of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the AP to no more than two consecutive terms. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried with no objection.

Jeff Stephan moved to amend the main motion to specify that the AP would consist of 25 members. The motion to amend died for lack of a second.

The main motion, as amended, carried with no objection. The AP Nominating Committee will consider nominations to the Advisory Panel and make recommendations to the Council sometime in January. If possible, AP members will be appointed and invited to the February meeting in Sitka.

The new AP policy will be included in the Council's reference book under policy.

C-4 Joint Ventures

The Permit Review Committee met on Monday and Tuesday, December 3-4 to review joint venture permit applications. RADM Lucas briefly reviewed the Permit Review Committee's report and recommendations with regard to the individual applications. The full report, which includes foreign allocations and foreign vessel permit applications for directed fisheries, is included in these minutes as Appendix II.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found under Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Petersen moved to approve the recommendations of the Permit Review Committee on joint venture permit applications. The motion was seconded by Rudy Peterson and carried with no objection. Sara Hemphill abstained from the vote.

There was some concern over joint ventures which had been planned and negotiated but for which permit applications had either not been received by the Council or had not been published in the Federal Register.

John Peterson moved that the applications not on hand for Council review be sent through proper channels to the Executive Director to distribute them to members of the Permit Review Committee who, under Council delegation of



MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

authority, will review and make recommendations without full Council involvement. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried with no objection. Sara Hemphill abstained from the vote.

The Council discussed the request from the Alaska Pacific Seafood Industry Coalition that 700,000 mt pollock and 70,000 mt unspecified other groundfish species be included in the Council's estimated DAH for 1985 for Japan U.S. joint ventures, and 200,000 mt pollock to be harvested by U.S. fishermen, processed by U.S. processors, and purchased by Japan during 1985. The Permit Review Committee had unanimously agreed that the request should be incorporated in the 1985 DAHs.

Pat Travers reviewed the latest legal advice on using the Council's Interim Joint Venture Policy to allocate between joint ventures on the basis of the policy's criteria. NOAA GC advised that the Council may recommend JVP ceilings on species for individual operations only when demand for that species exceeds amounts available to JVP. The policy's criteria may be used to discriminate between joint ventures only after the criteria are incorporated in the groundfish FMPs or adopted by the Secretary through rulemaking as additional standards for permit issuance. This advice was considered by the Permit Review Committee when they were considering the 1985 joint venture requests.

C-5 Foreign Allocations

The Permit Review Committee received public testimony from representatives of foreign interests but made no specific recommendations on foreign allocations pending final agreement on the TACs, OYs and DAHs for 1985.

Mr. Tanabe, Counselor to the Japan Fisheries Agency, addressed the Council on recent enforcement actions taken by Japan as a result of their investigation of the U.S. allegations of widespread efforts by Japanese trawlers to circumvent U.S. enforcement and observer activities. He assured the Council that measures have been taken to prevent reoccurrence of such activities. They have intensified their inspection program at landing ports to discourage underlogging and will conduct a regular spot inspections onshore. The government will reduce the number of ports where boats are allowed to land their catches from 7 to 3 for the Hokuten Trawlers and 5 to 3 for longline vessels and will ask the Federation to reduce the number of Hokuten trawlers in the U.S. FCZ from 70 to 27 beginning in 1985. The Japanese government is prepared, if the U.S. desires, to direct Japanese vessels fishing within the U.S. FCZ to inform the U.S. of their position every 5 days. They are also proposing a joint U.S./Japan enforcement meeting once a year for enforcement personnel from both countries to review enforcement activities and discuss measures to discourage or prevent further violations.

The Japanese government determined that the North Pacific Longline Gillnet Association had not engaged in actual violations but had distributed the documents outlining methods of avoiding enforcement and ways to manipulate best blend figures to their members. The NPLGA was, however, admonished for certain improprieties.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

Public Testimony

Jay Hastings, Japan Fisheries Association, recapped answers to questions on permit requests and reminded the Council that Japan has been very important to the development of U.S. fisheries. He was concerned that there may not be enough TALFF to allow foreign directed fishing and pointed out that directed allocations are very important to joint venture operations. He asked the Council to resolve the problem of O-TALFF equitably and to consider increasing the pollock TAC to 1.2 million metric tons. He also asked the Council to review the joint venture applications carefully in assessing how much joint venture product they will really take. Japan has exceeded their estimates in all cases.

Tomasz Pintowski, Commerce Office, Poland, told the Council that Poland is requesting an additional allocation for 1984 in order to meet their obligations.

A. Shibolet, Solseca Ltd., Portugal is very interested in fishing in Alaska joint ventures, but directed allocations are necessary to make a profitable operation. They have had to convince the Portuguese government to change regulations for shipping raw materials from other countries into Portugal and have finally overcome any obstacles. Solseca is asking for approximately 15,000 mt of pollock and cod. They submitted the applications some time ago and don't understand why the Council has not yet received them.

Hisao Iwasaki, Japanese Trawl Industry, encouraged the Council not to recommend lower Japanese allocations. The allocations are very important to continued U.S./Japanese joint ventures and decreased allocations will discourage agreement during the industry-to-industry talks.

Mr. Takaoka, Vice-Chairman, North Pacific Longline Association. He reminded the Council that the Japanese have been very helpful in developing U.S. fisheries by participating in joint ventures and said he hoped the Council would keep this in mind when they make decisions on allocations.

Wm. Nicholson, Bristol Bay Herring Co-op, said that Bristol Bay fishermen rely on selling their herring to the Japanese. They have always gotten a fair deal and he encouraged the Council to continue allowing foreign directed fishing in Bristol Bay.

John Jemewouk, Craig Willoya, Roy Otton, KEG Fishermen's Co-op, said they also rely on sales to the Japanese and encouraged the Council to support their request for allocations.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

No formal action was taken by the Council on recommending allocations to specific foreign nations. The amounts of TALFF that would be available for allocation were determined when the Council considered agenda items D-2 and D-3 on groundfish.

C-6 Foreign Vessel Permit Applications

The Permit Review Committee examined the permit applications and violations records and recommended that the Council forward a strongly worded resolution that, as a matter of policy, permit sanctions be imposed on all serious violators (as defined in Council policy) during the penalty assessment procedures in the future. The Committee did not recommend approval or disapproval of the permits.

The Council took no formal action on foreign vessel permit applications other than to accept the Committee's advice and to note that if a foreign vessel was granted only provisional approval for a joint venture permit subject to meeting other conditions, the provisional approval applied equally to the vessel's directed fishing permit.

C-7 Groundfish Data Monitoring

In September the SSC recommended that a workgroup analyze program and funding needs to adequately monitor the U.S. groundfish fishery. This workgroup met in Seattle in October and discussed various data collection methods and the overall data program that will be required in the next few years. A report with the workgroup's recommendations was available in the Council notebooks. Funding needs will be reviewed along with other programmatic funding by the Chairman, Executive Director, Finance Chairman, and the SSC Chairman for recommendations to NMFS.

C-8 SSC Appointments

All eleven SSC positions were to expire at the close of the December meeting. The Council was informed that Al Millikan had submitted his resignation. Bill Wilkerson asked that Tom Northup be appointed to fill the position. The Council received a letter from Don Collinsworth asking that Douglas Eggers be nominated to replace John Clark, who is now in a sport fisheries position, and Scott Marshall to replace Jack Lechner who has resigned.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC found no problems with the suggested appointments and asked that the Council reappoint the current committee with the recommended new appointments.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace moved to reappoint the current SSC members for a two-year term. John Winther seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Ken Parker moved to appoint Douglas Eggers to the seat vacated by Jack Lechner. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Ken Parker moved to appoint Scott Marshall to the position vacated by John Clark. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

Gene Didonato moved to appoint Tom Northup to the position vacated by Al Millikan. The motion was seconded and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-9 Net Discard Regulations

The Council was provided with a draft regulation for preventing the intentional discard of gear by domestic fishing vessels.  
Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP endorses the concept of a national gear discard regulation; however, it should be written with industry input and not be disruptive of existing fishery practices.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended that the draft regulation be sent out to other Councils for their comment.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council generally endorsed the concept of the regulation but felt that some of the wording was ambiguous and could be improved. It was suggested that the regulation be sent out to other Councils for review and that the Council wait to get the results of the Marine Debris Workshop recently held in Honolulu. Bob McVey said that he would tell the Central Office that the Council would not comment until after the February meeting.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Herring FMP

As requested at the September Council meeting, the Executive Director prepared a draft letter to the Secretary of Commerce requesting a herring data collection program under §303(e) of the MFCMA.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC suggest minor editorial changes to the letter and recommended sending it forward to the Secretary.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council concurred with the changes suggested by the SSC.

Jeff Stephan moved to approve the draft letter with the changes recommended by the SSC and forward it to the Secretary of Commerce. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2 Gulf of Alaska FMP

(a) Status of Stocks

Since the September Council meeting, new information has become available on the status of the Gulf groundfish resource. The Gulf Plan Team reviewed the results of the NMFS Gulf of Alaska triennial survey and, as a result, revised their September Team report. The Council was provided with a summary table of the Team's findings and a worksheet. The Plan Team recommended changes in the OY, and to several biomass, ABC and EY values.

During a workgroup format on Thursday afternoon, the Council and AP were briefed by staff members on various options for OY, biomass, ABC and EY values.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the following OYs for the Gulf:

Pollock - quota not be allowed to exceed 305,000 mt;

Pacific cod - OY be set at 16,500 mt for the Western area, 33,540 mt for the Central area, and 9,900 mt for the Eastern area:

Atka mackerel - OY be set at 4,678 mt for the Western area and bycatch-only amounts for the Central and Eastern areas.

Sablefish - OY should be 75% of the EY to support a rebuilding program for this species;

Flounder - OY should be 33,500 mt Gulfwide;

POP complex - OY should be 875 mt for the Eastern area, 5,208 mt for the Central area, 1,736 mt for the Western area and no directed foreign fishery;

Other Rockfish OY - AP recommends that the upper limit of the OY be set at 5,000 mt or 30% below last year's OY and no directed foreign fishery; they also requested that the quotas be defined by area so that harvest in one area such as Southeast Alaska does not shut down the operation in another area such as Kodiak;

Thornyhead - OY should be 3,750 mt Gulfwide;

Squid - OY should be 5,000 mt Gulfwide;

Other Species - OY should be set at 5% of the total.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC had the following ABC recommendations for Gulf of Alaska groundfish for 1985:

Pollock - Western & Central - harvest level not to exceed 305,000 mt;  
Eastern - harvest level not to exceed 16,600 mt.

Pacific Cod - Western - 16,500 mt; Central 33,540 mt (no change in OY);  
and Eastern - 9,900 mt.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

Atka Mackerel - Western - 4,678 mt (no change in plan); Central - bycatch amounts only; Eastern - bycatch amounts only.

Sablefish - Recommend no change for EY for purposes of rebuilding.

Flounder - No change from current OYs.

POP Complex - Western - 1,736 mt; Central - 5,208 mt; Eastern - 4,530 mt.

Other Rockfish - No recommendation.

Thornyhead - 3,750 mt Gulfwide OY.

Squid - 5,000 mt Gulfwide OY.

Other Species - Gulfwide - 5% of Total OY.

(b-c) Review 1985 DAP and JVP estimates and O-TALFF AND O-JVP species.

Revised DAP estimates and changes in total DAH since the September meeting were provided to the Council for review. The Council also was briefed on issues pertaining to the management of O-TALFF and O-JVP species.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that for fully utilized U.S. species, TALFF shall equal zero and be treated as a prohibited species. As for joint ventures, JVP should also equal zero, except that a minimal bycatch amount (i.e., as small as practical) be allowed. There was some disagreement with NMFS' legal interpretation of allocations to TALFF and JVP in order to provide long uninterrupted fishing seasons at the expense of DAP amounts.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Because the DAP and JVP values were being adjusted during the meeting, the SSC was unable to develop any recommendation. The SSC did request information on the initial DAPs for 1984 in order to compare them to actual harvest, however, the SSC did not have time to verify these numbers or to develop a recommendation to the Council based upon them.

The SSC also discussed management of O-TALFF and O-JVP species and stressed several points the Council should consider. (1) Bycatch harvest must be counted against the ABC; (2) the SSC does not support wastage of the resource and therefore supports retention of catch; (3) any bycatch management procedure adopted by the Council has to have flexibility because of fluctuations in availability of the resource and harvesting strategy of the fishing fleets.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

(d-e) Status of Cul-de-sac Management and Deadline for Proposals

In February the Council voted to close the four Southeast Alaska culs-de-sac by emergency rule until the traditional state opening dates. The Gulf of Alaska Plan Team was directed to follow up the emergency rule with a plan amendment. In the meantime, Congress has amended the MFCMA to put the culs-de-sac under state management for fisheries. The legislation was signed by the President on November 9, eliminating the need for the emergency rule for 1985. The Plan Team still needs to make similar revisions to the Gulf FMP and is preparing draft language for the upcoming amendment cycle.

The December Council meeting is the deadline for proposals to amend the Gulf of Alaska Fishery Management Plan. Following this meeting, the proposals will be compiled and prioritized by the Gulf Plan Team. Copies of the proposals and the Team's recommendations will be presented to the Council at the February meeting. After Council review, the proposals identified for the 1985 amendment package will be expanded and sent out for public review. Final decisions on the amendment package will be made by the Council at the May 1985 meeting.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Much of the discussion took place during an informal committee-of-the-whole workgroup session to develop the figures for both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian areas. Council, SSC and AP members took part in the session to develop tables from which the Council could make final recommendations. The final figures adopted for the Gulf of Alaska are included in these minutes as Appendix III.

JOHN WINTHER moved to adopt the Gulf of Alaska figures in the table presented (Table 1 - Appendix III). The motion was seconded by Bob Mace.

SARA HEMPHILL moved to amend the main motion to adjust the JVP for sablefish in the Gulf from 200 to 1,000 mt. Seconded by Rudy Petersen. The amendment was subsequently withdrawn.

RUDY PETERSON moved that for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska the entire OY be apportioned to DAP. Of this DAP, the amounts necessary for incidental trawl catches be allocated to U.S. trawl vessels not to exceed 10% of the OY for each area. None of the allocation to U.S. trawl vessels may be sold to foreign vessels in joint ventures. Seconded by Bob Mace.

JOHN WINTHER offered a substitute motion that 10% of the sablefish OY to trawlers with the other 90% to a directed fishery composed of longline gear only. None of the allocation could be sold to JV processors. Seconded by Henry Mitchell. The substitute motion failed, 8-3, with Parker, Mitchell and Winther voting for.

SARA HEMPHILL moved to amend the original motion to make the remaining 10% to bycatch only. The amendment died for lack of a second.

The main motion failed, 8-3, with Campbell, Hemphill and Petersen voting for.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

RUDY PETERSEN moved that, as an interim measure for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska, the entire OY be apportioned to DAP. Of this DAP, the amounts necessary for incidental trawl catches are allocated to U.S. trawl vessels engaged in joint ventures, not to exceed 10% of the sablefish OY for all areas combined. None of this allocation to U.S. trawl vessels engaged in joint ventures may be sold to foreign vessels in joint ventures. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried 7-4, with Parker, Mitchell, Stephan and Winther voting against.

BOB MACE moved that the Atka mackerel JVP in the Gulf be raised to the OY, which is 4,678 mt, making it a O-TALFF fishery. The motion was seconded by John Peterson carried with no objection.

BOB MACE moved to apply the same rationale to Pacific ocean perch and rockfish in the Gulf as used for sablefish with percentage allocations approved in an earlier motion. The motion was seconded by John Peterson. (The motion was further clarified that the intent is to set the ceiling at whatever the bycatch is predicted on last year's bycatch against next year's joint ventures.) The motion carried with Jeff Stephan and Henry Mitchell objecting.

BOB MACE moved to approve the OYs for the Gulf of Alaska as listed in the table presented and instruct NMFS to proceed with an emergency rule to get them in place by January 1. Included in the motion were the OYs that had previously been approved by the Council subcommittee but not included on the table before the Council at the time. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with McVey (instructed to vote no) and Henry Mitchell opposing.

BOB MACE moved that there be no TALFF in the Gulf of Alaska. The motion was seconded by John Peterson. Pat Travers suggested the following be included in the motion: That the OYs for Pacific cod, flounders, other species, squid and thornyheads in those areas in which there would otherwise be a TALFF be changed to equal DAH up to the previously specified OYs for those species. Bob Mace and John Peterson agreed that this could be included in the main motion. The motion carried, 8-3, with Hemphill, McVey, and Mitchell voting against.

D-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found under Appendix I to these minutes.

(a) Stock status and TACs for 1985.

The BSAI Plan Team reviewed the TACs proposed by the Council at the September meeting and made suggestions for a change in the sablefish EY, approaches for rebuilding the POP resource in the Bering Sea and, as a strategy to address the O-TALFF and O-JVP issue, designating separate TACs for the Aleutian Islands for all groundfish species.



Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP, after sitting with the Council committee developing TAC, JVP and TALFF amounts, had the following comments. The position in developing these amounts should be adopted in the same procedure as the AP mentioned in the Gulf of Alaska procedures.

The AP felt that the pollock OY level should be reduced to come within the parameters of the 2,000,000 mt harvestable OY in the Bering Sea. The AP was concerned that DAP levels were sacrificed for foreign and JVP operations. In regard to the Pacific cod TAC in the Bering Sea, the AP suggested the TAC should be equal to the DAP, JVP and a bycatch amount for other TALFF operations. They also requested that in the future the flatfish and turbot species be broken out into arrowtooth flounder, Greenland turbot, the three species of sole with TACs of their own.

The AP also recommended that an emergency regulation be adopted by the Council to restrict legal gear for directed sablefish harvest to hook and line fisheries and that a bycatch be set aside to accommodate incidental catch by trawl operations, that pot licenses be restricted to individuals having landed fish prior to January 1, 1985. They also suggested that, during the 120-day procedure to the amendment process, an industry workgroup be appointed to consider action to grandfather in, phase out, or otherwise regulate pot license holders.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Included in their report on Gulf of Alaska agenda item, D-2.

(b) O-TALFF and O-JVP Issues.

The Council received several issues statements prior to the Council meeting which discussed problems raised by O-TALFF and O-JVP. The Plan Team report discussed the issues and benefits and costs of continuing directed foreign fishing which would take O-TALFF groundfish species as a bycatch, and the benefits and costs of continued joint venture fishing which would take O-JVP groundfish species as a bycatch. The Plan Team also suggested that the Council consider bycatch fees which can be charged to the foreign fishing company in both directed and joint venture operations as a strategy which could minimize bycatch and use the groundfish resources efficiently.

(c) Set JVP and DAP for the 1985 groundfish fishery.

DAP and JVP for 1985 are to be set equal to the 1984 catch plus additional amounts necessary for U.S. increased fishing in 1985 (subject to TAC constraints). The estimated amount necessary for 1985 have changed since the proposed DAPs and JVPs were sent out for public review on October 22. The Council received a table showing the projected 1985 DAP and JVP harvests and proposed 1985 DAP JVP.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

(d-e) Industry Incidental Working Group Report, 1984 Fishery Development Zone Results, and Deadline for Proposals.

The Council received a written report from the Industry Incidental Working group which contained a proposal to control JVP and DAP prohibited species bycatches in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary and the rest of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area.

The Council also reviewed a letter sent to Bill Gordon endorsing the foreign-U.S. industry agreement on the Fishery Development Zone for 1984. Jay Hastings advised the Council that the voluntary agreement had worked well during the past year and that Japan has fished the area with extreme caution during the time the area was open in order to not conflict with American boats. Barry Collier noted that he had received no reports to date of conflicts. It was suggested that NMFS make sure other countries are aware of the agreement in order to avoid possible conflicts as several Korean vessels were reported in the areas during the agreed-upon foreign closure.

The deadline for proposals for changes to the BSAI FMP was December 7. Proposals will be evaluated by the Plan Team and presented to the Council at the February meeting prior to being prepared for public review.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Much of the discussion took place during a committee-of-the-whole workgroup session to develop the figures for both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian areas. Council, SSC and AP members took part in the session to develop tables from which the Council could make final recommendations. The final figures adopted for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands are included in these minutes as Appendix IV.

HENRY MITCHELL moved that the TAC for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea be set at 260,000 mt for 1985 subject to four conditions:

1. that in allocating TALFF the Regional Director shall allocate only those amounts necessary to support minimum bycatch levels in foreign trawl operations;
2. that the only foreign directed fishery for cod in the Bering Sea be conducted with longline fishing gear with a total projected catch of 35,000 mt;
3. that the foreign longline operations for cod in the Bering Sea be limited to those area north of 55°N Latitude with the further understanding that, subject to ice conditions, as much of those longline operations as possible be conducted in Bering Sea Area 2 (west of 170°W longitude);
4. that in reapportioning Reserves, surplus DAH and JVP, the Regional Director will endeavor to keep the actual catch of cod in the Bering Sea below 220,000 mt.

The motion was seconded by John Winther.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

Gene Didonato moved to amend the motion to set the TAC at 220,000 mt for 1985. Item #4 was withdrawn from the original motion by the maker with the concurrence of the second.

The amendment carried with no objection. The amended motion carried with no objection.

BOB MACE moved that the TACs for other flatfish, yellowfin sole, turbot, and other species in the Bering Sea be set proportional to their ABCs to balance the sum of the TACs of the groundfish complex at 2 million mt. Seconded by John Peterson. The motion carried with no objection.

RUDY PETERSEN moved to move 5,000 mt from flatfish JVP to turbot JVP. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill. The motion carried with no objection.

JOHN PETERSON moved that the JVP for cod in the Bering Sea be set at 75,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

HENRY MITCHELL moved to prohibit foreign trawling within 20 miles of the Aleutian Chain for any species. The motion was seconded by John Winther. It was further clarified that the intent of this motion was for the protection of bycatches of Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch and sablefish. The motion carried, 10-1, with McVey objecting.

JEFF STEPHAN moved to take the AP's recommendation to change POP-Aleutians DAP to 3,000 mt from 2,450 mt; JVP would be 230. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with no objection.

BOB MACE moved to adopt the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands table (Table 2, APPENDIX IV) of apportionments as amended in prior motions. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with no objections.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts and Proposals

Bob Mace moved to approve Contract 84-2, the Chinook Troll Data Analysis, for final payment. The motion was seconded and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Council discussed the need for review of programmatic funds so recommendations could be forwarded to NMFS. The Council agreed that the Chairman, Executive Director, Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the SSC could meet to review the funds in order to send recommendations on.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no additional public comments.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 1984

G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell reminded the Council that this meeting was the end of the terms for AP members. The Council expressed appreciation for the work of the current AP.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m. on Saturday, December 8.