



Appendix E.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, Washington 98112

August 31, 1977

Mr. Jim Branson, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim:

Please find attached a copy of the minutes of the SSC meeting held on August 24-25, 1977, in Kodiak, Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dayton L. Alverson
Chairman, SSC

Enclosure

cc:
Rasmuson w/enclosure on 9-6-77
SSC members w/enclosure



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

August 24-25, 1977
Kodiak, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Kodiak, Alaska, from 7:00-9:30 PM, August 24, and from 8:30-10:30 AM, August 25. All members of the Committee were present. The major topics discussed included (1) revision of the current draft outline for fishery management plans; (2) the Stoker report concerned with interactions between walrus and clams in the Bering Sea; (3) the necessity of having an inter-meeting prior to the next full session of the Council; (4) research proposals (RFP's); (5) optimum yields for fishery management plans; (6) the committee report on socio-economic needs; and (7) the need for a general educational forum for Council members.

Revision of Draft Outline

Members of the SSC unanimously agreed that the existing detailed outline for management plans was tedious, failed to result in a cohesive report, and made it difficult for Council members and others to ascertain the rationale supporting management decisions proposed in the plans. The members noted that the difficulty resulted from excessive verbiage associated with biological, sociological, and economic descriptors. The members acknowledged that such information was pertinent and, to a degree, mandated by the legislation; but, nevertheless, felt that the outline could be restructured in order to result in a more reasonable and readable document.

The Committee recommended the following format for the basic management plan:

- A. Cover Sheet
- B. Executive Summary
- C. Management Plan Content
 - 1.0 Table of Contents
 - 2.0 Introduction
 - 2.1 Goals and objectives for management plan
 - 2.2 Operational definitions of terms used
 - 3.0 Description of fishery (short abstract)
 - 3.3 History of management (short abstract)
 - 4.0 Biological descriptors
 - 4.7 Current status of stocks
 - 4.8 Estimate of future stock conditions
 - 5.0 Catch and capacity descriptors
 - 6.0 Optimum yield concept
 - 7.0 Total allowable level of foreign fishery
 - 8.0 Management regime

The remaining material, including full coverage of 3.0, 4.0, etc., would be attached to the plan as appendices or annexes. The environmental impact statement and economic impact statement would be similarly attached, hence meeting all the specific reports, data requirements, etc., as outlined in the legislation.

The Committee also examined the Federal Register document dealing, in particular, with the issue, "Contents of Fishery Management Plans." The Committee was unanimously opposed to the

standard format as outlined for the plans and felt that many of the items listed would substantially delay plan preparation and generated a great deal of verbose, unnecessary information. Although the Committee felt that all of the items in some way were desirable as background information concerning a fishery or fisheries, much of the material could be incorporated into a general study document and need not be specifically identified for management plans. The Committee recommends that the Council send a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service objecting to the standard format for fishery management plans as described in the Federal Register and suggesting specific alterations for both the format and topics included.

Steker Report

The SSC noted that it had received a copy of a report, prepared by Sam W. Steker, concerning potential interaction between a clam fishery and certain marine mammals of the Bering Sea. The Chairman noted that the report contained a number of value judgements and failed to support many of its conclusions with facts or data. Inasmuch as the report might have a substantial impact on the potential development of a clam fishery in the Bering Sea, the SSC has recommended that two review groups examine the document; the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NMFS scientists will review the paper and submit comments to the Committee Chairman. These review comments will be summarized and submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

The Committee was briefed on the clam survey results which showed evidence of commercial potential along the Aleutian Chain in the area from Port Moller, east towards Bristol Bay.

Inasmuch as a report will soon be published demonstrating commercial potential, it is recommended that the Council convert its study group to a management team and that ADF&G take the lead agency role in this matter. A full report of the clam study will be given at the next Council meeting.

Inter-Meeting

In order to accomplish the workload of the SSC, it will be necessary to establish an inter-meeting prior to the next session. In order to meet its commitments, the SSC will schedule a meeting in Anchorage, prior to the next Council meeting, on September 20-21.

Research Proposals (RFP's)

The Committee examined a number of RFP's as prepared by the Council and agreed to assist in their modification. The Chairman will submit comments concerning the RFP's to the Executive Director during the early part of the week of August 29.

A research proposal by Dr. Katz was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee recommended that the proposal not be funded on the basis that it does not meet the general criteria for high priority projects as outlined at the last session of the SSC.

Optimum Yield

The Committee briefly examined the OY values as submitted in the most recent report (August 16) from NOAA headquarters.

Members found it difficult to properly evaluate the OY values inasmuch as no data were provided on MSY values, equilibrium yield values, or allowable biological catch data. In the absence of such information, the Committee could not make enlightened commentary. Regardless, the following points should be considered:

We recognize that the EY for Pacific pollock has been set at 1 million metric tons and the total allowable foreign catch at 950,000. Considering the general quality of the data upon which estimates are made, the Committee would prefer a somewhat more conservative approach--e.g., 850,000 tons. The Committee also recommends that the management team re-evaluate blackcod values in light of the new analyses conducted by Dr. Low at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. It was brought to the attention of the SSC that it might be desirable to attempt to lower the OY value in order to achieve higher average size of fish. The Committee noted there were two sides to this issue: that concerned with the contribution of food to the world protein source, and consumer interest. Although the interest of U.S. fishermen might be better served by establishing a higher average size, there could be a substantial biological loss resulting in increased fish prices to consumer groups.

Socio-economic report

The socio-economic report under preparation by a Committee sub-panel is still in progress and is not expected prior to the next session of the Council.

General Educational Forum

The Committee felt it might be appropriate that a seminar or workshop be established which would provide a vehicle to educate Council members concerning general biological concepts, terminology, and rudiments of socio-economic theory.

A G E N D A

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

August 25-26, 1977
Kodiak, Alaska

1. Revision of outline for management plans
2. Progress on socio-economic report being developed by Miles, et al.
3. Stoker report (Clams Vs. Walrus)
4. New PMP values for OY for 1978
5. Comments on requests for research proposals
6. Federal Register guidance outline
7. Other topics

SOVIET PROVISIONAL CATCHES REPORTED THROUGH June 1977

NMFS
August 22, 1977

| SPECIES/AREA | TOTAL THRU JUNE | ALLOCATION | REMAINING /2. |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| <u>Pollock</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 46,257.2 | 112,700 | 66,442.8 |
| Gulf | 3,636.2 | 63,100 | 59,463.8 |
| <u>Pacific Cod</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 277.7 | 17,200 | 16,922.3 |
| Gulf | 270.0 | 600 | 330.0 |
| <u>Yellowfin Sole</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 127.7 | 40,800 | 40,672.3 |
| <u>Other Flounder</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 3,866.9 | 40,400 | 36,533.1 |
| <u>Flounder</u> | | | |
| Gulf | 90.1 | 1,800 | 1,709.9 |
| <u>Herring</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 8,257.0 | 13,600 | 5,343.0 |
| <u>Rockfish */</u> | | | |
| BS | 5.0 | 3,500 | 3,495.0 |
| A | 785.9 | 8,100 | 7,314.1 |
| Gulf | 369.5 | 9,900 | 9,530.5 |
| <u>Atka Mackerel</u> | | | |
| Gulf | 5,692.3 | 21,000 | 15,307.7 |
| Aleutians | 20,970.7 | 0** | 0** |
| Bering Sea | 4.0 | 0** | 0** |
| <u>Other Groundfish</u> | | | |
| BS | 609.7 | 17,400 | 16,786.3 |
| A | 4,661.2 | 9,900 | -15,731.9 |
| Gulf | 453.8 | 11,800 | 11,346.2 |

*/ Includes Pacific Ocean Perch

**/ The Soviet Union was not given a specific allocation of Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Catches of that species in those areas are counted against the Soviet allocation of "other groundfish".

JAPANESE PROVISIONAL CATCHES REPORTED THROUGH JUNE 1977

NMFS
August 22, 1977
REMAINING

| SPECIES/AREA | TOTAL THRU JUNE | ALLOCATION | REMAINING |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| <u>Pollock</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 192,941.0 | 792,300 | 599,359.0 |
| Gulf | 7,405.8 | 44,100 | 36,694.2 |
| <u>Sablefish</u> | | | |
| BS 1/ | 518.9 | 3,600 | 3,081.1 |
| A 1/ | 517.2 | 2,000 | 1,482.8 |
| Gulf-S.E. 2/ | 2,242.8 (21.3) | 3,750 | 1,057.2 |
| Gulf-C&W 2/ | 4,290.5 (109.0) | 10,150 | 5,859.5 |
| <u>Pacific Cod</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 10,430.5 | 38,100 | 27,669.5 |
| Gulf | 319.5 | 1,600 | 1,280.5 |
| <u>Flatfish</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 41,344.2 | 123,600 | 82,255.8 |
| Gulf | 5,456.0 | 18,700 | 13,244.0 |
| <u>Herring</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 3,238.9 | 5,800 | 2,551.1 |
| <u>Rockfish</u> | | | |
| BS | 487.5 | 2,800 | 2,312.5 |
| A | 3,723.9 | 6,500 | 2,776.1 |
| Gulf | 10,334.4 | 22,500 | 12,165.6 |
| <u>Squid</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 2,232.6 | 10,000 | 7,767.4 |
| <u>Other Groundfish</u> | | | |
| BS | 12,682.9 | 40,400 | 27,717.1 |
| A | 9,345.2 | 23,100 | 13,754.8 |
| Gulf | * 1,574.4 | 4,200 | 2,625.6 |

1/ Longline and Trawl

2/ Longline with trawl in parentheses

* includes squid

SOUTH KOREAN PROVISIONAL CATCHES REPORTED
THROUGH JUNE 1977

NMFS
August 22, 1977

| SPECIES/AREA | TOTAL THRU JUNE | ALLOCATION | REMAINING |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| <u>Pollock</u> | | | |
| BS/A | 2,386.5 | 40,000 | 37,613.5 |
| Gulf | 0 | 35,800 | 35,800.0 |
| <u>Sablefish</u> | | | |
| BS | 0 | 400 | 400.0 |
| A | 65.4 | 200 | 134.6 |
| Gulf-S.E. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gulf-C&W | 357.3 | 1,600 | 1,242.7 |
| <u>Pacific Ocean Perch</u> | | | |
| Gulf | 0 | 500 | 500.0 |
| <u>Other Rockfish</u> | | | |
| Gulf | 0 | 100 | 100.0 |
| <u>Other Groundfish</u> | | | |
| BS | 0 | 1,600 | 1,600.0 |
| A | 0.93 | 890 | 889.07 |
| Gulf | 0 | 100 | 100.0 |