

CERTIFIED:


Robert D. Alverson, Chairman

ADVISORY PANEL REPORT
Meeting of February 6, 1980
Anchorage, Alaska

The Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was called to order by Chairman Robert D. Alverson at 9:35 a.m. in the Aleutian Room of the Anchorage Westward Hilton. The following Panel members were present: A.W. Boddy, O.L. Burch, R. Chlupach, C. Jensen, J. Kurtz, R. Lewis, A. Otness, J. Phillips, D. Rawlinson, J. Foster, J. Stephan, T. Vaska, W. Scott, S. Macklin, B. Blake, D. O'Hara, J. Stephen, and Chairman R. Alverson.

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson at 9:35 a.m., February 6, 1980. The following new members were introduced: William Scott, Sharon Macklin, and Tony Vaska.

B. Approval of Agenda

All panel members approved the agenda as amended.

C. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's Report was presented by Jim H. Branson. He informed the panel of a delay in the presentation of the King Crab plan and indicated it would be available at the March meeting. Action on the plan can be expected in April.

D. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by all panel members.

F. Old Business

F-3. Public Hearing Schedule/Herring.

(Bethel, Togiak, Tooksook Bay on Feb. 9; Hooper Bay, Feb.10.)

Member Tony Vaska volunteered to attend the Herring public hearing in Tooksook Bay. He was also appointed as the Advisory Panel representative to the Herring FMP team.

G. Fishery Management Plans

- G-1. Troll Salmon FMP.
(Proposed amendment, Washington DOF letter & severability clause.)

The Advisory Panel passed the following motion: To include in Amendment No. 1 the language of a severability clause in order to preserve the balance of the troll salmon FMP in the event any portion of it is not accepted by the Secretary of Commerce. The Advisory Panel strongly reaffirms its January 9, 1980 statement on the ban on handtrolling in the FCZ. The vote was 12 to 1 on the motion.

Sharon Macklin was appointed as the Advisory Panel representative to the Troll Salmon FMP development team.

- G-2. GOA Groundfish FMP
(Proposed amendments, comment on Release of Reserves.)

The Advisory Panel approved the following motion with respect to the Release of Reserves scheduled for March 2, 1980: That there be no Release of Reserves prior to May 2, 1980 pending an evaluation of the domestic and foreign effort. There was specific concern in the Advisory Panel in regards to the release of any POP, Sablefish and Pacific Cod. The reason for this is a concern for the status of stocks of POP and the expansion of the domestic fleet for Sablefish and Pacific Cod. It was felt that the fishing rate of the foreign effort for the other species was well within the TALFF allocations to date and that the domestic effort, including joint venture fishing, has not had time to demonstrate its potential. It was also felt that release of reserves by May 2 or July 2 would supply ample time for foreign fleet planning.

- G-3. BS/A Groundfish FMP
(Proposed amendments, comment on Release of Reserves.)

Allen Burch was appointed as Advisory Panel representative to the GOA and BS/A Groundfish FMPs plan development team. After a discussion of the reserve release, the panel adopted the following motion: That there be no release of reserves in the BS/A area prior to May 2, 1980. The vote was unanimous. The rationale for this motion is the same as for consideration of the Release of Reserves in the GOA.

The Advisory Panel asks that the Council request the State Department to take under consideration before the disposition of the Soviet quota withheld in the BS/A the following concerns:

1. Any significant allocation to the Korean Government may jeopardize any joint venture program as conducted by KMIDC (Korean Marine Industrial Development Corporation).
2. The high incidental catch of Salmon and Halibut by the Japanese Hokutan trawlers (Japanese landbased small stern trawlers).

3. The underlogging practices of any nation engaged in the U.S. Fishery off Alaska.

G-4. Tanner Crab FMP
(Discussion on last Amendment & Board of Fisheries Tanner Crab resolution.)

The Advisory Panel passed the following motion: The closing date for C. opilio should be decided on the basis of biological criteria traditionally used in crab management, i.e., CPUE rates, attainment of OY, deadloss consideration. The vote was 14 to 1.

There was a motion unanimously passed requesting that the crab management team for Tanner crab and the BS/A groundfish team give an opinion on whether or not to permit the storage of crab pots in the pot sanctuary area.

AP member William Scott was appointed as the Panel Representative to the Tanner crab FMP development team.

H. New Business

H-1. Fishery Development activities, foreign allocations in return for markets and import/export agreements.

The Advisory Panel did not feel they had sufficient information to make a decision on this subject. The AP would like more time to evaluate the concept of trading foreign allocations in return for markets and import/ export agreements. It was requested that this subject be included in the next meeting's agenda.

H-2. U.S. incentive to harvest pollock.

Dr. Donald Bevan addressed the AP on the subject of a concept of "SEASTEAD" rights with respect to providing incentives for American fisherman to harvest pollock. There was no comment from the AP.

H-3. March Council meeting 27-28. (Possible joint meeting.)

All AP members were advised of the dates for the March meeting and were made aware that the schedule may call for a 2 day meeting.

H-4. NMFS vessel financing programs.

The AP passed the following motion on a vote of 11 to 4: The concept of Salmon as a conditional fishery in Alaska should be eliminated from consideration under vessel financing programs of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

H-5. Navigational aids for False Pass.

The AP unanimously approved a motion to request immediate up-grading of navigational aids in the False Pass area of the Aleutian Islands. The request should be brought to the attention of Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce.

H-6. American Fur Seal Convention.

It was unanimously requested that the Council should be represented at the March 18, 1980 hearing before the subcommittee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in the House of Representatives. The AP reiterates its prior position of continuing the Fur Seal Convention.

H-7. Misty Moon Ground BS/A.

The AP unanimously requests North Pacific Council to reconsider its action regarding the lifting of foreign regulations in the Misty Moon Ground area. The AP requests that between the months of December through May no more than 3 foreign vessels may fish at any one time in this area and each vessel must have an observer on board.

The AP was not aware last meeting that it was the intent of the Council to relax foreign regulations with regard to this area. They are concerned that the lack of information available neither supported the elimination or continuance of the restricted area, however due to the poor condition of the halibut resource in this area it is felt a more conservative approach should be undertaken.

I. Reports, Contracts, Proposals

I-3. Limited Entry proposals (comparison of systems in effect).

No action was required, none was taken.