

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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MINUTES

ADVISORY PANEL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Westward Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
December 8-9, 1980

The Advisory Panel convened Monday, December 8, 1980 at the Westward Hilton Hotel in Anchorage at 9:30 a.m. and recessed at 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 a.m., December 9, 1980. The following panel members were present: Harry Wilde, Tony Vaska, Sharon Macklin, Robert Blake, Jeff Stephan, Jesse Foster, Dan O'Hara, Ray Lewis, Charles Jensen, Alvin Burch, Jack Phillips, Kenneth Olsen, Joseph Kurtz, Don Rawlinson, Weaver Ivanoff, Al Otness, Bud Boddy, and Chairman Robert Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson.

APPROVAL OF ADVISORY PANEL AGENDA

The agenda was approved by all Advisory Panel members.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER AP MINUTES

The minutes from the September meeting were approved by all Advisory Panel members.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. Mr. Jim Branson presented the Director's Report. During the report, he included an update on the Breaux Bill which has been passed by the U.S. Congress; summary of the Council Chairman's meeting, and reviewed the status of various fisheries management plans.

B-2 The Advisory Panel would like to thank Vidar Weststad and Alan Kingsbury for their help on the Herring Plan. Bob Otto and Marty Eatons explanations on Tanner Crab were appreciated by the Advisory Panel members also. The AP also thanks Dennis Pedersen for a report on the joint venture operations this year.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee Appointments.

The AP requests that the Council consider for appointment to SSC a member from the International Pacific Halibut Commission. If necessary the SSC charter should be amended to provide for additional representation from the IPHC.

C-2 Council Meeting Schedule for 1981. The AP approved the recommendation to move the January 1981 meeting from January 23-24 to January 5-9 in order to meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries in Juneau.

C-3 Policy on Public Participation at Plan Development Team Meetings. The AP request that the Council define exactly the relationship of AP members that may be assigned to PDTs. The AP proposes that a minimum of 2 people from the AP be assigned as regular members of a PDT. In addition to the assigned AP members, the AP chairman and vice-chairman should be welcome at PDT meetings as participants. AP members assigned to PDT's should be informed of all PDT meetings in a timely manner.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Foreign Permit Applications and 1981 Allocations.

- (a) Review permit applications from ships with violations since March, 1977.

A motion was adopted by the AP, with Don Rawlinson abstaining, proposing that permits to foreign vessels that have had a history of underlogging or inferring with observers be denied their 1981 permits. It was further passed unanimously that the amount that foreign nations overlogged be deducted from their 1981 TALFF.

- (b) Review permits from Polish ships in light of their performance - gear conflicts and violations.

The AP request that the Council ask the State Department to reduce or eliminate the Polish allocation in lieu of the gear conflicts and violations recorded during the last two fishing seasons.

- (c) St. George Tanaq Corporation request for greater allocation for Taiwan so they can conduct a joint venture with them.

The AP is reluctant to act on this request until additional information is provided by St. George Tanaq Corp., regarding a performance schedule on training; a detailed schedule on vessel purchases from profits, and testimony from the St. George community.

- (d) Request by All Marine Products for additional allocation to Japan of 50,000 mt of pollock.

The AP unanimously turned down this request.

- (e) Review request from Nordstern (West Germany) for 1981 allocation of 63,200 mt.

The AP rejects the request for increasing the German allocation from 26,000 mt to 63,200 mt unanimously. The AP proposes that no additional allocation be given to the German Government until the Council has been informed of the purchases of U.S. product from the Germans for their initial allocation and that any additional allocation be predicated upon the German purchases of a pound of U.S. product for a pound of additional allocation.

- (f) Review request for a Soviet allocation to allow Soviet catcher/processors in joint ventures to augment their catch.

The AP proposes that the Soviet Union does not need a allocation in order to keep their catcher/processors fully occupied while involved in joint venture operations where U.S. catcher vessels are delivering to Soviet processors. If the Soviet Union wants additional allocations in FCZ they should consult the U.S. State Department. Dennis Pedersen gave testimony regarding the joint venture operations this year.

- (g) The AP approved the joint venture permits that involved Japan and Pan Alaska and Japan and Universal Seafoods. This was passed with one opposed vote. The concern was, as the permit is written the Japanese processing vessel would be allowed to fish if it was not fully supplied by U.S. catcher vessels. The concern was one of enforcement.

- D-2 NMFS Proposed Foreign Fishing Fees for 1981. The AP proposes that the changed fee schedule be adopted.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- E-1 Salmon FMP. No formal Council action was required and the AP has taken no action regarding this subject. The AP would like to point out to the Council that it is lacking an active participant in troll salmon problems and to adequately address this issue the AP should have someone knowledgeable of the troll salmon problem and proposed FMP.
- E-2 Herring FMP. The AP proposes the adoption of area C as the herring savings area. The AP also proposes that the Council reassess the formula for determining the Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC) as there seemed to be concern that it may not adequately protect stocks of high seas herring.

The FMP was approved by the AP to be sent to the Secretary of Commerce. There were 3 members in opposition. Their concern was that the plan should not be approved for Secretarial review without additional review of the AIC formula.

- E-3 King Crab FMP. The AP took no action as the hearing process was not completed and deferred all action until January. The AP could have made some suggestions regarding a preference on certain plan options but felt this would pre-empt the hearing process.

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP. The AP unanimously moved to eliminate the foreign harvest of Tanner Crab and adopted II B. changing the C. bairdi OY's in the Bering Sea, Chignik and South Peninsula Management areas to reflect the latest estimates by NMFS and ADF&G. They are as follows:

	<u>Proposed 1981 OY</u> (millions of lbs)
Bering Sea	28.0 - 36.0
Chignik	5.0
South Peninsula	6.0

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. The AP propose that the PDT options regarding the Eastern Regulatory Area be added to the plan admmendments for public review. The AP proposes that the plan and admmendments be sent out for public review.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP. The AP recommends that the Council incorporate the new estimites of U.S. cod catches for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska in 1981 into the DAH for 1981, this will amount to approximately an additional 40,000 mt. The AP request the Council to contact those proposing to participate in this additional catch so that it can be distributed between the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.

F. CONTRACTS

Halibut Study - The AP requests that the Council have the limited entry workshop on halibut convene at the earliest possible time to discuss limited entry and halibut.

G. NEW BUSINESS

The AP request that the SSC, if at all possible, make a presentation to the Council this week regarding time and area closures effecting Chinook salmon in the Bering Sea.

In response to the Alaska Board of Fisheries resolution 80-79 FB regarding high seas interception of Western Alaska Chinook Salmon, the AP passed a motion requesting the Secretary of Commerce to exercise emergency authority to close INPFC areas I and II in the Bering sea in order to protect herring and salmon. This closure would be from November 1 to April 30, 1981. This motion only effects foregin regulations. There was one vote in opposition.

Certified by: _____

Date: _____

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES: December 8-10, 1980

Anchorage, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage December 8, 9 and 10. Members present were:

Steve Pennoyer and alternate John Clark

Donald Rosenberg

Bud Burgner

Al Millikan

Larry Hreha

Edward Miles

Rich Marasco

Jim Balsiger (alternate for Bill Aron)

George Rogers

Jerry McCrary (alternate for Jack Lechner)

B-5 SSC Operations

The SSC reviewed our draft document entitled "Scientific and Statistical Committee Organization and Operations, Policy and Procedures." The SSC made

modifications to this draft document and recommends to the Council our modified document for Council considerations (dated December 8, 1980, copy appended). The SSC requests that the Council approve this document as its SSC policy and procedures.

C-1 Scientific and Statistical Committee Appointments

The SSC met in closed session on December 8, 1980 to discuss matter of membership on the SSC. The results of that session are as follows:

A. International Pacific Halibut Commission Letter of October 22, 1980.

Although the SSC strongly supports the concept of a close working relationship between the SSC and the IPHC staff, we believe that it is more appropriate to achieve this by calling on international commission members as needed as advisors rather than by appointment to the SSC. This was determined to be the best course at the time the former Director resigned from the North Pacific SSC (see SSC minutes, March 22, 1977). We support the policy that membership on the SSC should not be based solely as representation from an agency or specific group.

B. Recommendation for Vacant SSC Position. The SSC reviewed resumes for two individuals which have been recommended for the vacant SSC position. The SSC was not displeased with the qualifications of these two individuals. The committee was concerned that we had not solicited interest from all the scientific community. Therefore, in order that all interested scientists may have an opportunity, the

SSC is postponing its recommendation and is requesting that all interested scientists be invited to apply. This will allow the SSC to make a final recommendation by the February Council meeting.

C. Dr. George Rogers. The SSC regrets that Dr. Rogers has found it necessary to resign from the SSC. Throughout his four years of tenure with the committee, Dr. Rogers has made many significant contributions to the committee's deliberations. The committee will surely miss Dr. Rogers' contributions and hopes that he will be able to continue, at least in an informal manner, his relationship with the committee and the Council.

D. Officers. The SSC requests confirmation of the following officers for the 1981 year.

Chairman Donald Rosenberg

Vice Chairman Richard Marasco

C-3 "Policy on Closed Plan Development Team Meetings"

The SSC reviewed the draft policy presented by the Council staff on the matter of closed meeting for the PDT. The SSC is concerned that the policy would be excessively restrictive to the action of the PDT and could restrict input from the public and other agency personnel (other than those assigned to the PDT). We also believed that this proposed policy may be viewed by the public as not to be in their best interest. The SSC reviewed our statement contained within our September 25, 1980 document entitled "North Pacific Fishery Management

Council Operations, A Critique with Suggestions for Improvement." Specifically, our statement concerning this matter is contained in Annex I, item C. The SSC still supports that statement.

E-1 Salmon FMP

The SSC reviewed the statement of purpose and objectives for the Intercouncil Salmon Coordinating Committee as provided in the memorandum dated December 1, 1980. The SSC has no comment on either the purpose or the specific objectives.

E-2 Herring FMP

The SSC considered recent revisions in the draft Fishery Management Plan for Bering/Chukchi Sea Herring. The SSC recommends the plan be approved for submission to the Secretary after minor revisions for clarification are incorporated into the discussion on herring savings areas.

The revisions are intended to clarify the herring savings area concept. The intent of the plan is to provide an initial Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC) for high seas groundfish and trawl fisheries before OY is set. Any surplus OY will be allocated to high seas fisheries after the onshore fishery is completed. If the surplus OY is caught and the AIC is caught, specified offshore areas would be closed to trawling to prevent further harvest of herring.

Four alternate savings areas are presented in the plan. On the basis of the information presented to it, the SSC is unable to find any clear justification for choosing one option over the others. While it is not possible to quantify

the savings in each case precisely, each option would appear to provide only relatively small benefits.

The point was made in the public discussion that since the savings would be small in each case, the SSC should recommend the option which causes the least economic disruption for the foreign fleets concerned. However, the SSC thinks this is an issue which falls completely under the judgment of the Council.

The SSC discussed two divergent estimates of the 1980 herring spawning biomass in the eastern Bering Sea. The standard and accepted aerial survey technique utilized for the FMP indicated a significant decrease in abundance from 1979 levels while a predictive modeling technique suggested 1979 and 1980 biomass levels should have been similar.

After considerable discussion with team members and ADF&G biologists by our subgroup, it was concluded that there was ample evidence that the population had declined. However, the exact extent of the decline is uncertain.

The aerial survey estimate suggests that OY was exceeded while the modeling technique indicated that a small OY surplus is available. We conclude the OY was achieved during the onshore fishery and no surplus is available for allocation to offshore fisheries during the November 1980 to March 1981 period. The SSC recommends that the Regional Director be notified of this determination.

The SSC also received public comments regarding concern over the formula to determine AIC (page 94). The SSC recognizes the limitation of the formula but

considers it the best alternative available. We therefore recommend that the AIC formula remain in the plan.

Although we received testimony, pro and con, that AIC need not be included in OY, we did not pass judgment on this issue.

E-3 King Crab

The SSC took no action regarding the draft King Crab FMP. We have scheduled a meeting of our subcommittee during the January SSC meeting to start preliminary discussion of the public testimony.

E-4 Tanner Crab

The SSC reviewed draft amendment #7 and our past reviews of the documents which support the various options proposed.

The SSC finds that the data and analysis provided in the report entitled "Market Aspects of the Foreign Allocation of C. opilio Tanner Crab in the Bering Sea Under the Framework of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976" by J. Richardson, is the best information available at this time. We therefore recommend to the Council the option setting OY equal to DAH but not to exceed ABC. The SSC concurs with the conclusion in the above report that the U.S. industry can harvest the total OY for C. opilio and that the actual amount harvested will be based upon market conditions. We support the conclusion that a foreign allocation does have a direct effect on those market conditions.

→ DAH for *C. opilio* in BS as expected harvest of 36.9 million lb → 91 million lbs

The SSC reviewed the changes in OY in the draft amendment. The SSC provides the following comments.

Bering Sea. The proposed amendment provides for an OY range of 34 to 44 million pounds. At the time that the amendment was drafted this was the best available information. The estimate has been updated by the PDT. The PDT is now recommending that the OY range for 1981 should be 28 to 36 million pounds. The SSC agrees with the scientific reason for this proposed reduction and recommends to the Council an OY range for C. bairdi in the Bering Sea of 28 to 36 million pounds. The SSC also noted that the 19~~69~~⁷⁹-80 harvest of C. bairdi in the area exceeded the upper end of that range (36.6 million pounds).

Chignik and South Peninsula. The SSC has not received any written reports which support the proposed OY values. The SSC did request and received a presentation by the staff of ADF&G on these proposed OY values.

The SSC was informed that Chignik area value was the upper limit of a proposed harvest guideline of 2 to 5 million pounds. This harvest guideline was based upon 3 years of historical catch data.

The South Peninsula value was the upper limit of a proposed harvest guideline of 3 to 6 million pounds. This harvest guideline was based upon an annual pot survey and a noted decrease in the commercial catch.

Since the SSC has not had the opportunity to review the actual data or written staff reports, we did not take a position on these proposed changes.

The SSC would like the Council to note that other OY values in the plan should be reviewed and possibly amended. The SSC had assumed this would take place when we approved the initial draft amendment of our September 1980 meeting.

The SSC also finds that neither the Council staff nor the management agencies know who is responsible for maintenance of this or any of the Council FMP's. The SSC once again recommends that the Council accept the concept for plan maintenance outlined in Annex II to our document entitled "North Pacific Fishery Management Council Operation, A Critique with Suggestions for Improvement," dated September 25, 1980, and that the Council and the management agencies proceed to appoint staff members to Plan Maintenance Teams. This should be done for every plan which has been submitted or approved.

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The SSC reviewed the proposed amendments to the FMP. The SSC recommends the amendment be released for public review subject to the following modifications:

- A. That clarification of what is meant by the statement "Sablefish catch levels not to increase" that is included in Options A, B, and C be made. It was determined that "catch" should be replaced with OY.

- B. That the following option be included:

Option D (Status Quo)

- a. Foreign trawling allowed only with off-bottom gear from December 1 to May 31. No restrictions on trawl gear from June 1 to November 30.
 - b. POP TALFF = 10,205 mt.
 - c. POP DAH = 1,315 mt.
 - d. Sablefish OY = 7,100 mt.
 - e. Present sanctuaries in the FMP would be continued.
- C. That the following option be included which proposes the use of a communication mechanism to resolve gear conflicts:

Option E

- a. Adopt an agreed on communication system to minimize gear conflicts.
- b. POP TALFF = 500 mt.
- c. POP DAH = 500 mt.
- d. Sablefish OY = 7,100 mt: *are next to inches?*
- e. Present sanctuaries in the FMP would be continued.

It should be noted by the Council that the amendment package has been developed on the basis of a 12 month fishing period.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish FMP

Incidental Catch. The SSC reviewed the status of the analysis of the incidental catch in the Bering Sea which is being undertaken by the ad hoc SSC

subgroup. We were informed that the report of that group is being developed. We received a presentation by Dr. Low of the NWAFC on the status of a computer model which will allow detected analysis of possible impacts of time/area closures.

We were informed that the final report will be available by our January meeting. We are planning a review of that report during January and should then be able to provide the council with guidance by the February meeting.

DAH - Pacific Cod. (Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea). The SSC received an industrial update of forecasts for the 1981 domestic catch levels of Pacific Cod for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. It was indicated that domestic catch levels could approach 70 to 90 thousand mt. The SSC recommends that catch levels of this magnitude could be accommodated by:

1. the unallocated TALFF's for all species in the Western and Central Gulf management areas be held until April,
2. 50% of the TALFF for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area not be allocated until April, and
3. 10% of the TALFF for all other species for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area not be allocated until April.

It is recommended that the State Department consult with NMFS prior to the release of the unallocated TALFF. Actual calculation of this unallocated TALFF concept is provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1

GULF OF ALASKA 1981 OY'S, TALFF'S, RESERVES (mt)

November 1, 1980 to December 31, 1981

	<u>Pacific Cod</u>		<u>Pollock</u>	
	<u>West</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>Central</u>
OY	19,320	39,130	66,500	111,066
DAH	2,193	7,058	6,737	15,540
Reserve	3,864	7,826	13,300	22,213
Allocated TALFF	9,094	17,425	29,338	59,181
Unallocated TALFF	4,169	7,621	17,125	14,132
Maximum Possible Resource for Domestic Fishermen <i>incl. JU</i> (DAH + Reserve + Unallocated TALFF)	10,226	22,505	37,162	51,885

BERING SEA/ALEUTIANS

- 12 month -

	<u>Pacific Cod</u>	<u>Pollock</u>
OY	70,700	1,100,000
DAH	24,265	19,550
Reserve	14,935	50,000
TALFF	31,500	1,030,450
Recommended Unallocated TALFF	15,750 (50%)	103,045 (10%)
Maximum Possible Resource for Domestic Fishermen	54,950	172,595

Modified Approach to DAH and Reserves. (Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea). It is recommended that the following DAH and reserve mechanism be examined for the possibility of inclusion in the current Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands amendment packages.

The DAH for a fishing year will be set equal to the domestic catch taken during the 12 month period ending the preceding September 30. DAH may not exceed OY.

The reserve will be set to accommodate the difference between the domestic catch forecast from the NMFS survey and DAH as set above. The NMFS survey will be conducted annually by the NMFS Regional Office to compile expected harvest figures from fishermen and processors.

F-1 Contracts

Contract 78-5 "Assessment of Spawning Herring and Capelin Stock of Selected Coastal Areas in the Eastern Bering Sea."

The SSC reviewed Appendix A to the Final Report for this contract. Recommendation of approval of the final report for this contract was made by the SSC of its July 22-23, 1980 meeting. This appendix was the final portion of that contract requiring an evaluation of color and infra-red photography for the assessment of potential herring spawning grounds in the Bering Sea.

The SSC recommends approval of this contract subject to the requirement that the contractor insert a minor modification stating that additional tracks of data are available. The contractor has been notified of this requirement and has agreed to comply.

Contract 79-3 "Ocean Salmon Micro-Wire Tag Recovery Program, Southeast Alaska-1979."

The SSC reviewed the modified draft report (dated November 1980) for the above contract. The SSC finds that the contractor has taken into consideration past SSC comments on this report. We therefore recommend approval of this contract and recommend that the report become an official Council document. We have noted some minor typing corrections.

Contract 80-6 "A Study to Determine the Applicability of Limited Entry in the Halibut Fishery Off Alaska."

The SSC has not been able to complete its review of the draft report on this contract. Our subgroup will complete its review by our January meeting, and we will be prepared to forward comments to the contractor at that time.

Contract 80-5 "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishery Off Alaska"

The SSC received the draft report entitled "Fisheries Management Plan for the High Seas Salmon Fishery Off the Coast of Alaska East of 175° East

Longitude" dated November 1980.. The SSC has assigned responsibility for the review to its Salmon Subcommittee. We will be prepared to provide the Council with our preliminary review by the January meeting.

Contract 81-3 "A Comparison of Halibut and Crab Catches In: (1) Side-Entry and Top-Entry Crab Pots, and (2) Side-Entry Crab Pots with and without Tanner Boards."

The SSC reviewed the draft final report on the above contract. The SSC has drafted several questions for the contractor regarding the analysis of the data. These questions are being forwarded and the answer and final draft report will be reviewed at our January meeting.

Contract 79-4 "Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fisheries Data"

The SSC briefly reviewed the quarterly report dated October 31, 1980. No comments were made on the progress being made by the contractor. The SSC did note the attached preliminary report entitled "Spatial and Temporal Variation in Undersize Chinook Salmon Encounter Rates in the Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery." This report was noted and referred for information to our Salmon Subcommittee.

Contract 80-3 "Seasonal Use and Feeding Habits of Walruses in the Proposed Bristol Bay Clam Fishery Area."

The SSC reviewed the quarterly report dated September 1980 on this contract. The Council staff cleared up concerns regarding allocation of

additional resources to this contract. The SSC finds that the contractor is making sufficient progress.

F-2 Marine Mammal RFP

The SSC had approached the point of approving, with minor modification, RFP 81-1. This RFP was prepared on October 31, 1980 in line with various reviews of the original draft.

The study was originally requested by the Marine Mammal Commission. Dr. Douglas Chapman, Commissioner of the MMC, prepared the original scope of work which was conveyed to the NPFMC.

However, on December 8, 1980 the SSC received a communication from Dr. William Aron, Center Director NWAFC, pertinent to RFP 81-1. Dr. Aron indicated that a substantial portion of the work requested in that RFP has already been accomplished by personnel of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle.

In view of this information, the SSC recommends that further action on RFP 81-1 be tabled until such time as the information compiled by the NMML can be reviewed and evaluated. A letter of request for additional information, to Dr. Aron, has been prepared. The request was that an appropriate staff member of the NMML present, to the SSC, a written report addressing work statements 1 through 3 of RFP 81-1.

The SSC has requested that the written report be made available in time for the January meeting of the SSC. Dr. Aron and/or his designee has been

requested to present a review of that report, to the SSC, at the January meeting.

F-3 Other RFP.

The SSC reviewed the status of other objective statements and work tasks for the studies identified by the SSC programmatic budget subcommittee.

That status is as follows:

- A. Predator/Prey Interactions. The SSC recommends that the Council withdraw the consideration of the study as an RFP. The NWAFC is considering funding this work directly and there is no need for a council RFP.
- B. Herring Stock Data. The objective and tasks are still being developed and will be ready for our review by our January meeting.
- C. Incidental Catch of Salmon. The objective and tasks are still being developed and will be ready for our review by our January meeting.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATION
AND
OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES
December 8, 1980

The Fishery and Conservation and Management Act of 1976 specifically established Scientific and Statistical Committees to assist in the development collection and evaluation of scientific information relevant to Council responsibilities.

The Operations Policy and Procedures set forth below were developed to assist the SSC of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to provide the Council with timely, accurate and complete scientific advice.

This Committee will address all scientific issues submitted to it by the Council or the Executive Director. For the purposes of this document "scientific information" refers essentially to biological information, environmental data, fishery statistics, and technical socioeconomic information.

Scientific advice to the Council will, as much as possible, be objective and unbiased. It is the explicit intent of the SSC to disassociate itself with nonscientific issues and issues which are clearly of a political nature. Documents and issues not requiring objective scientific findings will not be considered by the committee.

ORGANIZATION

Membership

Members of the SSC are appointed by the Council. The Committee is composed of fishery scientists and economists from state and federal agencies, academic institutions and the private sector. Although there is no official policy on government agency representation, scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the fisheries management agencies of Oregon, Washington and Alaska have served on the committee since its inception.

The Committee should remain small (10-15 members). Expertise of members should cover the range of most species and disciplines which are normally considered by the committee. Specific expertise not available within the committee can be obtained on a case by case basis.

The Committee shall review membership at least once each year relative to the mix of disciplines represented on the committee which are required to fulfill its responsibilities. Recommendations on membership will be submitted to the Council whenever appropriate.

Meetings

Meetings will be scheduled by the chairman of the SSC with concurrence of the Executive Director of the Council, and may be scheduled at any location approved by the Executive Director. Meetings of the SSC as a whole are called to:

1. Review fishery management plans
2. Review reports of subcommittees
3. Consider scientific and technical reports submitted for review
4. Review proposed amendments to FMP's and supporting data
5. Consider special requests from the Council
6. Consider any other issues which are within the purview of the charter

Committee meetings will be open to the public. All documents, unless specifically identified as confidential, will be considered public documents and will be available to the public.

Committee meetings may be closed to the public for discussions relating to recommendations on membership and procedures. Results of such closed sessions shall be reported during the next open meeting.

Notice of meeting schedules and agenda items will be published far enough in advance to allow full public attendance. The committee will be open to public input regarding specific agenda items or other issues which relate to SSC responsibilities.

A report summarizing the results of the meeting, specifically addressing each topic discussed, will be prepared and submitted to the council. The chairman of the SSC or his designee will attend all Council meetings and will be available to answer questions relative to the SSC report.

Subcommittees

A. Fishery Resource Subcommittees

A subcommittee of at least three SSC members shall be established for each of the resources which form a management unit. Subcommittee members shall be appointed by the chairman of the SSC on the basis of resource and fishery expertise.

The purpose of the subcommittees is to provide initial comprehensive review of major documents and to provide written recommendations and guidance to the SSC and to the plan development teams. Responsibilities specifically include review of:

1. FMP's
2. Proposed FMP amendments
3. Status of stock documents
4. Survey reports
5. Other documents assigned by the chairman of the SSC or the Council.

Subcommittees are also charged with evaluating the adequacy of data, with requesting new or additional data, and with proposing research to acquire needed scientific information.

B. Ad Hoc Committees

Ad hoc subcommittees shall be appointed by the chairman of the SSC whenever appropriate. For example, subcommittees have been appointed to develop procedures to determine DAH, to evaluate coordination of state ADF&G and NPFMC management systems and to determine socioeconomic data needs for FMP's.

Subcommittees will meet independently of the SSC to conduct their business. Reports of their findings and recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the entire SSC.

Staff Support

The Executive Director is requested to assign a staff member as SSC coordinator. The coordinator will be present at all SSC meetings to advise the Committee on administrative matters. It will also be the responsibility of this person to coordinate SSC reports, requests for data, initiate communication with plan development teams, draft routine correspondence on behalf of the SSC, and generally coordinate the activities of the committee.

OPERATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy on Review of Scientific and Technical Documents

It is essential, in order to provide the best possible scientific advice, to maintain scientific integrity and to retain and enhance the credibility of the Committee with the Council, the public and the scientific community, the full and complete consideration to be given each document under review. Accordingly, the following review procedure is established:

Major Documents

- A. Each major document must be submitted to the SSC at least thirty (30) days prior to scheduled consideration by the Committee. Major documents are:
1. FMP's
 2. Major FMP amendments
 3. Final contract reports
 4. Status of stock reports
 5. Scientific reports
 6. Any other document which the Committee feels warrants comprehensive scientific review and/or analysis.
- B. Major documents will be reviewed by a Fishery Resource Subcommittee and by the entire SSC.

Major documents will be automatically scheduled for review at the first regularly scheduled SSC meeting following the thirty day review period.

The chairman of the Fishery Resource Subcommittee is responsible for scheduling a comprehensive review of major documents by the Subcommittee prior to the SSC review. A written report of findings will be submitted to the SSC at or prior to the scheduled SSC review.

- C. Major documents which address issues of an emergency nature will be reviewed on an expedited basis only upon request of the Council or the Executive Director. The Committee specifically discourages the emergency review procedure.

Other Documents

- A. Documents of less substance or significance must be received at least fifteen (15) days prior to a regularly scheduled Committee meeting. These include:

1. Minor FMP amendments
2. Project proposals
3. Interim project reports
4. Regulation proposals
5. Data requests
6. Other minor documents submitted by the Council or the Executive Director.

- B. These documents will be placed on the agenda of the first regularly scheduled SSC meeting after the 15 day review period. Fishery Resource Subcommittees have the option to conduct a separate review of these documents prior to SSC review.

- C. The SSC will be flexible in the prosecution of this procedure. Whenever possible, documents in this category which are received late will be considered if the nature of the document is considered high priority or if time permits.

Public Hearings

Whenever practicable, at least one member of a Fishery Review Subcommittee will participate in public hearings conducted by the Council.