

Public Testimony
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
September 28-October 1, 1988
Anchorage, Alaska

Halibut Management (Agenda C-2)

Anton Bowers, Sitka Independent Fishermen. In favor of some type of limited access for halibut.

Perfenia Pletnikoff, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. Spoke in favor of the proposal for trip limits in Area 4C and asked the Council to send it out for public review.

Dean Adams, Fishing Vessel Owners Assn. Doesn't agree with the Atka proposal - last year they already had more fishing days than other areas in the Aleutians.

IPHC (through Denby Lloyd). They agree with the report of the Halibut Regulatory Amendment Advisory Group. They believe the Area 4B proposal is not overtly allocative and falls within the type of regulations dealt with by the IPHC. They suggest the Council could endorse the proposal and forward it to the IPHC.

Central Bering Sea Fisheries: Donut Hole (Agenda C-6)

Ted Evans, AFTA. Mr. Evans said they are convinced that there is widespread illegal fishing in U.S. waters adjacent to the "donut hole" of the Bering Sea. He submitted an industry-drafted document outlining suggested actions by the Departments of State, Justice, Transportation and NOAA to assure the integrity of Bering Sea fisheries management.

Barry Collier, PSPA. Mr. Collier submitted a draft letter from PSPA to Ambassador Ed Wolfe concerning management of the fisheries in the donut, and Jim Brennan, Asst. Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, expressing concern over reports of large quantities of Pacific salmon being taken in the high seas squid fishery. The Council was asked to endorse the letter to Ambassador Wolfe and to send one of their own expressing concern.

Harold Sparck, Western Alaska fisheries. Mr. Sparck presented a proposal that would separate the fisheries conservation issue from military concerns of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. in the international waters of the Bering Sea. If this could be accomplished progress could be made on fisheries management of the resources in the donut.

Mr. Morimoto, Japan Fisheries Agency. A multinational approach is required to deal with the fisheries in the donut, not just the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Japan has suggested a multinational organization be formed to deal with fisheries management and conservation issues for the international waters of the Bering Sea and asked the Council to use their influence to promote the suggestion.

Public Testimony
North Atlantic Fishery Management Council
September 1-October 1, 1988
Washington, D.C.

Atlantic Management Agency (A-5)

Atlantic Management Agency, North Atlantic Fishery Management Council. In favor of some type of limited access for Atlantic.

Atlantic Management Agency, Council. In favor of some type of limited access for Atlantic. The proposal for a limited access for Atlantic is not for public review.

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Atlantic Management Agency (A-6)

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Ted West, Key Fisheries. Illegal fishing in U.S. waters is damaging foreign markets for U.S. fishermen. Coast Guard budgets should be enhanced and a moratorium on fishing in the donut should be initiated.

Foreign Allocations (Agenda C-8)

Ted West, Key Fisheries. Now that there is no TALFF cod markets are opening up for American fishermen. If TALFF is allocated it will negatively affect U.S. markets for cod.

Mark Springer, City of Hooper Bay. In favor of the request by NPL because of the support they've given Western Alaska communities.

Jay Hastings, Japan Fisheries Assn. Favors NPL request. The longliners involved are from small fishing companies and are not trading companies. The fish will mostly be used locally in markets not currently being supplied by U.S. fishermen.

John Jemewouk, Fred Bradley, KEG Fisheries. Favor an allocation to NPL for their cooperation with Western Alaska communities.

Mark Snigaroff, Atka Fishermen's Assn. They have been working with NPL since 1985 and have been able to develop their industry through the help of the Japanese. In favor of an allocation of cod to NPL.

Wm. Nicholson, Bristol Bay Herring Co-op. Last year their herring fishery became fully Americanized. This is because of the assistance they have received over the years from NPL. Favors an allocation of cod to NPL.

Mr. Takaoka, Chairman of the Japanese North Pacific Longline Assn. Reviewed the various projects they have supported in Western Alaska and requested the Council recommend an allocation to them.

Paul Kelly, NPL. NPL has participated in projects with Western Alaska communities this year even though no TALFF has been available.

Harold Sparck, Western Alaska fisheries. They have been working since 1985 with NPL and support an allocation to them.

Dave Woodruff, Kodiak Seafoods Processors. Opposes any cod allocation from the Gulf of Alaska. If there are 12,000 tons of cod available in the Gulf, then U.S. fishermen have the ability to catch and process it.

Gulf of Alaska Amendment 17a (D-3(a))

Paul Clampitt, F/V MAJESTIC, Washington. Against a split season; same reasons that the AP report summarized. As far as halibut bycatch, it's not clear that there will be any savings.

Ed Hunt, Key Fisheries. Although fishing in U.S. waters is increasing, fishing vessels for U.S. fishermen. Some vessels should be enhanced and a moratorium on fishing in the Bering Sea should be established.

Foreign Allocations (Agenda 2)

Ed Hunt, Key Fisheries. Now that there is no TAITF cod harvest are opening up for American fishermen. If TAITF is allocated it will negatively affect U.S. markets for cod.

Mark Bradley, City of Homer, Alaska. In favor of the request for the Bering Sea. The support they give is an Alaska community.

Ray Johnson, Japan Fisheries Area. Favorable request. The fishermen involved are from small fishing companies and are not trading companies. The fish will mostly be used locally in markets not currently being supplied by U.S. fishermen.

Jim Johnson, Fred Bradley, Key Fisheries. Favorable request for the Bering Sea. Their cooperation with Western Alaska communities.

Mark Bradley, Alaska Fishermen's Assn. They have been working with TAITF since 1985 and have been able to develop their industry through the help of the Japanese. In favor of an allocation of 100,000 TMT.

Jim Johnson, Bristol Bay Fishing Co-op. Last year their Bristol Bay fishery became fully Americanized. This is because of the assistance they have received over the years from TAITF. Favorable allocation of cod to them.

Mr. Takahashi, Chairman of the Japanese North Pacific Council. Favorable. Reviewers of the Japanese project they have supported in Western Alaska and requested the Council review and an allocation to them.

Ray Kelly, MPA. MPA has participated in projects with Western Alaska communities this year even though no TAITF has been available.

Mark Bradley, Western Alaska Fisheries. They have been working since 1981 with MPA and support an allocation to them.

Ray Johnson, Bristol Bay Fishing Co-op. Favorable request for allocation from the City of Homer. If there are 10,000 tons of cod available in the Gulf, then U.S. fishermen have the ability to catch and process it.

Gov. of Alaska Management (P-3(a))

Ed Hunt, Key Fisheries. Against a split season; some reasons that the Al report suggested. As far as halibut harvest, it's not clear that there will be any savings.

Jack Crowley, FVOA. He doesn't see any advantage of splitting the season. Maintain the status quo for safety and economic reasons.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA, Kodiak. Within UFMA there is virtually no support for a 50/50 or 25/75 split. They could come to no consensus on the status quo or a 75/25 split.

Anton Bowers, Sitka Independent Fishermen. There is no reason to split the season; the Bering Sea is remains open for those who still want to fish. For safety reasons, status quo should be maintained.

Mike McCune, ALASKA I. Opposed to a split season for safety reasons. Favors status quo.

John Bruce, DSFU. Supports AP's recommendation; maintain the status quo for safety reasons.

Jon Rowley, FishWorks!. The split season approach was his idea to address quality problems. He really would prefer some type of IFQ system. Suggested that maybe a partial split season could be implemented in order to gather more data.

Gulf of Alaska Apportionments/Stocks - D-3(b-c)

Bill Aron told the Council that the Center has met with Kodiak fishermen about the Shelikof Strait pollock stocks. Because of their concern, Kodiak fishermen have volunteered to provide assistance in gathering data needed to make management decisions. The Center plans to repeat the hydroacoustic survey in 1989 and will also be meeting with the Soviets in October and hope to be able to get support for additional trawl surveys in the Gulf to help determine if substantial spawning stocks of pollock exist outside of Shelikof Strait. In December they will meet with fishermen in Kodiak and Seattle to lay out detailed research plans the Center has developed and also to provide information on research they would like to do but do not have resources to accomplish at this time.

Anton Bowers, Sitka Independent Fishermen. Would like to see pollock stocks stay in good condition and thinks fishermen should not be allowed to target on spawning pollock as is done in Shelikof. He thinks the ABC for sablefish is too high; 20,000 mt would be more conservative.

Paul Fuhs, Dutch Harbor, Alaska. The bycatch problem will not improve until there is some kind of share quota system where people can buy it so valuable resources will not be wasted. Also briefed the Council on a proposal he and Senator Sturgulewski made to the Arctic Research Commission for a comprehensive interdisciplinary international study of the Bering Sea. He requested the Council write a letter in support of the proposal and possibly offer to participate in the design of the project. Mr. Fuhs also said that Dutch Harbor is in the process of creating a Bering Sea Marine Science Institute.

Jack Crowley, FVOA. He doesn't see any advantage of splitting the season. Maintain the status quo for safety and economic reasons.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak. Within HMA there is virtually no support for a split season. They could come to no consensus on the status quo or a split season.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak. There is no reason to split the season; the status quo remains open for those who still want to fish. For safety reasons, status quo should be maintained.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak. Opposed to a split season in HMA. Status quo.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak. Opposed to a split season in HMA. Status quo.

Don Foster, HMA, Kodiak. The split season approach was his idea to address quality problems. He would prefer some type of split season. He would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak - 9-23-82

Bill Sweeney told the Council that the center has met with Kodiak fishermen about the split season. He said that the center has met with Kodiak fishermen about the split season. He said that the center has met with Kodiak fishermen about the split season. He said that the center has met with Kodiak fishermen about the split season.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak. Would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season.

Bill Sweeney, HMA, Kodiak. The HMA fishermen would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season. He would like to see a split season.

Dave Woodruff, Kodiak Seafood Processors. Over \$50 million has been invested by Kodiak seafood processors and they anticipate a need for 69,000 mt of pollock next year. Pollock roe is an integral part of their operations and feel that they need well in excess of 10,000 mt from Shelikof. Because of the current stock status they would like to see 100% utilization of the stock - no roe stripping and discarding carcasses; observers on vessels to collect biological data, particularly on any factory trawler in Shelikof during the roe period; and suggest that the Council investigate mesh sizes as a means of allowing smaller fish escape. They also feel that the surveys are flawed and there is a larger pollock biomass in the Gulf than the survey show.

Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank. Presented data supporting her contention that there are more pollock available than the hydroacoustic survey estimates and recommended the Council use the 1987 bottom trawl survey as a base and allocate 80%, approximately 80,000 mt.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA. If there has to be a low harvest of pollock in the Gulf, he would like the Council to consider the needs of his members, which include the need for a fall fishery and a pollock bycatch in the fall cod fishery. Their association has discussed ways to share information so the needed data can be gathered for management of the resource. They also see a need for more port sampling, better information sharing programs, possibly a voluntary logbook program, and some of their members are also volunteering to take observers aboard during the season. He also pointed out that the fishery was late this year and that the hydroacoustic survey vessel may have left the area before the spawning biomass showed up and this may have some effect on the results.

Amendment 12a - Bering Sea/Aleutians (D-4(a))

Steve Hughes, Dave Fraser, Chris Blackburn, Bill Orr. They presented their own bycatch plan. Dave Fraser explained that they used the model developed by Council staff but substituted numbers they derived through their own research. Bill Orr pointed out that it is not a new plan but a way of implementing the original bycatch agreement.

Paul Clampitt, F/V MAJESTIC, Everett, Washington. He favors extending Amendment 10, making the halibut bycatch cap as low as possible, and allowing only 50% of each cap to be taken in any one particular zone.

Jack Crowley, FVOA. He agrees with Mr. Clampitt's suggestions. They are concerned about high halibut bycatch rates and urge the Council to protect the halibut nursery areas.

John Henderschedt, MRCI. Joint venture fishermen have been successful in reducing crab bycatch in the yellowfin sole and other flatfish fisheries at great cost to themselves. In 1988 the industry joint venture bycatch steering committee monitored bycatches and were successful in this effort. MRCI supports phased implementation of Alternative 3 as described by the Steve Hughes group.

Steve Hughes, Dave Hansen, Chris Blackburn, Bill Orr. They presented their own research plan. Dave Hansen explained that they had the model developed by Council staff but would like to have their own research. Bill Orr pointed out that it is not a new plan but a way of implementing the original research agreement.

Paul Campbell, W.V. Walker, O. Byerly, Washington. He favors extending Agreement 10, making the fishing license cap as low as possible, and allowing only 50% of each cap to be taken in any one particular year.

Jack Grayson, WVA. He agreed with Mr. Campbell's suggestion. They are concerned about high habitat patch sizes and urge the Council to protect the habitat nursery areas.

John Henderson, WVA. Joint venture fishermen have been successful in reducing crab bycatch in the yelloweye fishery and other fishery fisheries as far as to the industry. In 1988 the industry joint venture bycatch agreement was passed and was successful in that effort. WVA has passed implementation of Alternative 1 as described by the Steve Hughes group.

Amendment 10 - Fishing License (B-4)

John Henderson, WVA. It there has to be a low harvest of halibut in the Gulf, it would like the Council to consider the needs of the members, which include the need for a fall fishery and a pollock fishery in the fall cod fishery. Their association has discussed ways to share information on the needed data can be gathered for management of the resource. They also see a need for more joint sampling between management and fishing programs, possibly a voluntary fishery program, and some of their members are also volunteering to take observers aboard during the season. He also pointed out that the fishery was late this year and that the hydroacoustic survey gear may have left the area before the spawning biomass showed up and this may have had some effect on the results.

John Henderson, WVA. Joint venture fishermen have been successful in reducing crab bycatch in the yelloweye fishery and other fishery fisheries as far as to the industry. In 1988 the industry joint venture bycatch agreement was passed and was successful in that effort. WVA has passed implementation of Alternative 1 as described by the Steve Hughes group.

Lyle Yeck, F/V RAVEN. Supports the industry proposal (Hughes, et al). Industry can control bycatch within itself and supports the phase-in approach as described by the Hughes group.

Steve Hoag, IPHC. IPHC sees this proposal as an allocation issue. They will evaluate this amendment from the standpoint of the ABC. Any halibut bycatch allowance will be deducted from the directed fishery allocations. He pointed out that this will not only affect the Bering Sea, but all areas because of the migration pattern of halibut. They do support a system that puts a cap on halibut bycatch.

Phil Chitwood, Arctic Alaska Fisheries Corp. Supports the Ad hoc Bycatch Committee proposal, but in order for concerns of NMFS to be addressed, suggest extending Amendment for one year with an increase in the bairdi cap because of the biomass increase.

Wally Pereyra, ProFish Int'l. He is still concerned about the whole bycatch issue. Scientists have said that the bycatch amounts are not harmful to the resource. Urged the Council to carefully consider regulations that might result in shutting down a DAP fishery prematurely. At this time the bycatch plan we could support would be the extension of Amendment 10.

Pete Granger, AHSFA. Supports the proposal by Steve Hughes' group.

Linda Kozak, Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Assn. Caps are important but they would like to see a lower halibut cap; 2,500 - 3,000 mt is more than sufficient. They recognize that the area is an important nursery ground, but with the stocks in a predicted decline they feel that 3,500 or 3,900 mt is way too high. The cap is allocative in nature and the directed fishery could lose as much as 15% to 17% at 3,900 mt. They recommend that the Council consider a 2,500 mt, or at the very most, 3,000 mt halibut cap.

Tom Casey, Seattle. The group he represents, 12 king crab fishing vessels operating in the Bering Sea, sponsored Alternative 4 which recommends giving Zone 1 special treatment because it is a breeding ground for crab and halibut.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners Assn. Even though the halibut bycatch is taken in the Bering Sea, the whole halibut industry will lose quota as a result. All crab bycatch caps are based on the biomass and rely on the hope that the crab going under the trawls are going to live. Until the real mortality rates are determined there is no assurance of how the resource is being affected. Observer coverage is needed to determine bycatch.

Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition. Mr. Thomson submitted a written proposal which supports the AP recommendation for the fixed caps on king and bairdi crab and halibut for 1989 and 1990 with an accompanying "shadow" program designed around the Alternative 3 proposal of the EA/RIR.

Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers. Supports the proposal of the ad hoc Bycatch Committee's proposal. The implementation of a framework is difficult at this time; there are a lot of details to be worked out and it will take compromise within the industry and management agencies until the system is perfected.

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The Yack, W. RAVIN. Support the industry proposal (highest, 20.5).
Industry can control hydraulic system and supports the phase-in approach
as described by the higher group.

Steve Hagg, IMC. IFR sees this proposal as an allocation issue. They will
evaluate this against the ABC. Any further hydraulic
allowance will be deducted from the allocated phase allocations. He pointed
out that this will not only affect the better but all areas because of
the market pattern of balance. They do support a system that puts a cap on
initial hydraulic.

Bill Whitlock, Arctic Alaska Fisheries Board. Support the ABC because
Contract proposal, but an order for quantity of this cap addition suggests
extending Amendment for one year with a increase in the third cap because of
the increase in volume.

Wally Feryny, President, Alaska. He is still concerned about the hydraulic
issue. Comments have said that the hydraulic amount was not related to the
resources. If the Council is seriously considering regulations that might
result in shutting down a BAP, please remember, we like the hydraulic
plan we could support would be the extension of Amendment 10.

Bob Granger, ADM. Support the proposal by Steve Hagg, group.

Linda Kosak, Kotik Fisheries Vessel Owners Assn. They are important but
they would like to see a lower hydraulic cap; 2,500 - 3,500 mt. It is more than
adequate. They recommend that the cap be an amount necessary, round, but
with the stock in a previous decline that had 3,500 or 3,900 mt. in a way
too high. The cap is allocated in nature and the directed fishery could lose
as much as 15% to 17% at 3,500 mt. They recommend that the Council consider a
2,500 mt. or at the very least, 3,000 mt. hydraulic cap.

Tom Heavy, Seattle. The group is representative of King and fishing vessels
operating in the fishing sea, sponsored by Alaska with a reasonable giving
some special treatment because of the hydraulic group for ship and harbor.

Oliver, Kotik Fisheries Assn. Even though the hydraulic hydraulic is taken
to the marine sea, the whole hydraulic industry will lose ground as a result.
All our hydraulic cap are based on the biomass and rely on the hope that the
cap going into the extended time to live. Until the hydraulic water
and management there is no assurance of how the resource is being affected.
However coverage is needed to determine hydraulic.

And Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition. Mr. Thomson stated a written proposal
which supports the A recommendation for the third cap on King and harbor
and are building for 1992 and 1993 with an accompanying "shadow" program
business around the Amendment 3 proposal of the ARAIR.

Ed Lane, Alaska Fishery Trustees. Support the proposal of the ABC because
Hydraulic Committee's proposal. The implementation of a framework is difficult
at this time; there are a lot of questions to be worked out and it will take
concerns with the industry and management agencies until the system is
revised.

John Bruce, DSFU. Concerned with the halibut bycatch cap. Any bycatch set will be deducted from the directed fishery and will have a direct economic impact on halibut fishermen. The average size of halibut is decreasing and that will increase the number caught when halibut abundance is decreasing. Recommends extending Amendment 10, but keeping the halibut bycatch at 2,000 mt.

Arne Aadland, Ken Larson, NPFVOA. They support the Steve Hughes group proposal presented earlier in the meeting.

John Crowley, FVOA. Agrees with John Bruce's testimony.

Harold Sparck, Kokechik Fishermen's Assn. Any bycatch regime will have an impact on the small Western Alaska fisheries and they will be limited in their ability to expand. They have had no representation on the Bycatch Committee.

Resource Assessment Document and Apportionments (Agenda D-4(b-c))

Dean Adams, FVOA. Concerned about sablefish stocks in the Aleutian Islands. In just one year there has been a dramatic drop in CPUE and the situation should be reviewed by the scientists. Do not support any attempt to raise the sablefish quota in the Aleutians.

Dave Fraser, MTC. Difficult to comment on PSCs because they were established by Amendment 12 and the implementing regulations were just released. Suggest the Council reads them and consider making comments to NMFS during the comment period to be sure they reflect the policy intent of the Council's actions.

Anton Bowers, Sitka Independent Fishermen. Disagrees with the recommended ABC for sablefish in the eastern Bering Sea; the exploitation rate is too high.

Pete Granger, AHSFA. Submitted written proposal requesting the Council combine the A & B joint venture pollock seasons in the Bering Sea and Aleutians for 1989.

Sablefish Bycatch in the Bering Sea (Agenda D-4(d))

Paul Clampitt, FVOA. Supports the proposal by Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Assn to reduce bycatch allowance of sablefish in the Bering Sea to 4%. Also would like to see a meaningful observer program in place.

Ted West, Key Fisheries. Favors 1% sablefish bycatch and an allocation by fixed gear for the directed fishery.

David Little, Clipper Seafoods. In favor of 4% bycatch for sablefish in the Bering Sea along with a directed fishery allocated by gear type.

Linda Kozak, KLVOA. Would like Council to move quickly on the directed fishery proposal too because it is a conservation issue as well as allocative. Supports the AP proposal of 4%.

Paul MacGregor, AFTA. Most bycatch in that area is only around 4% which shows that most fishermen can prosecute the fishery with a smaller amount than what is now allowed.

Phil Chitwood, Arctic Alaska Fisheries. The average bycatch is around 4% but some longliners are taking more. He feels 10% would be reasonable and would force trawlers to be more careful and allow longliners to fish too.

Dean Adams, FVOA. Inexperienced companies may be responsible for the larger amounts of bycatch. FVOA agrees with the points made by Ted West and David Little.

Anton Bowers, Sitka Independent Fishermen. He feels they could get along with a 1% bycatch.

Bill Orr, Golden Age Fisheries. There is no need for a new regulation. The Regional Director has all the authority he needs to handle this problem. The directed fishing definition is applied on a vessel-by-vessel basis. If they (trawlers) are forced out of these fisheries, there is no where else for their vessels to go.

Arni Thomson, ACC. Support KLVOA proposal for emergency rule to reduce sablefish bycatch in the Bering Sea to 4%. Also support the KLVOA proposal for an amendment to allocate by gear types.