

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

September 21, 1977

The groundfish management team reported their comments on the Advisory Panel Recommendations relating to the sablefish fishery. The Panel reaffirmed its recommendation that sablefish OY be set at 13,000 metric tons. A copy of their recommendation is your Agenda Item 5.

The Advisory Panel accepts the management team comments on Item No. 3, ...no foreign longlining south and east of Cape St. Elias.

The Panel recommendations are that Item #4 read, "no foreign trawling year around in four sablefish sanctuaries and accepts the rationale presented by the management team. The Panel recommends adoption of Item #5.

The troll plan received a substantial amount of comment. The Advisory Panel has not had a sufficient amount of input or enough time to make specific recommendations on the troll plan at this time and expects to present comments and perhaps additional options at a later date. The two options in the

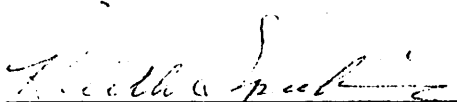
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plan present a serious impact on the troll fishery that the Panel believes must be weighed against the urgent need for conservation and rebuilding of wild stocks. The Panel was briefed by drafting team members Gary Gunstrom and William Heard.

The Panel discussed the model charter proposed in Agenda Item #9 and recommends that the Council adopt the recommendations contained in my letter of September 14, 1977, to Executive Director Branson. The Advisory Panel also notes that the Panel should serve at the pleasure of the Council and not the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Panel commented on the lack of consumer data contained in the management plans and suggests that information similar to that contained in the material prepared by our consumer member, Carlene Welfelt, be incorporated in all management plans. A copy is enclosed.

  
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Keith Specking  
Chairman, Advisory Panel  
September 22, 1977

8/22/77

To: Mr. Keith Specking  
Chairman, Advisory Panel

From: Carlene Welfelt

In an effort to come to grips with my role as a consumer representative on the AP, I have attempted to develop a working statement for use as a guideline in reviewing fishery management plans. I submit it for the panel's consideration and comment.

Also attached are my comments on the fishery management plans currently before us.

At this time, too, I would like to propose the AP endorse the recommendation of the Council's executive director that another consumer representative be appointed to the AP.

*Carlene Welfelt*

Attachments

8/22/77

Working Paper  
STATEMENT OF THE CONSUMER INTEREST

A stated purpose of the FCMA is to establish fishery management councils to prepare fishery management plans under circumstances which will enable the consumer to participate in and advise on the establishment and administration of such plans.

To define the consumer interest in the development of fishery management plans, the following working statement is proposed:

The consumer interest encompasses the availability of a quality product at a fair price.

In assessing the adequacy of any particular fishery management plan's content to satisfy this interest, the following factors in the above statement are suggested for consideration:

I. THE CONSUMER: Is he identified? Among several consumers, what percentage of that role does each occupy? Is he foreign or domestic? Are his numbers increasing, declining, remaining steady?

II. THE PRODUCT: Is it identified in the consumer's terms (i.e., in terms of pounds of frozen fish sticks as opposed to numbers of fish)? Among several products, what percentage of the market does each occupy? Is it an existing or a new product?

III. PRODUCT AVAILABILITY: Does the plan propose to increase, maintain, or decrease the product's availability? To what extent? What factors--volume of foreign or domestic catch, gear restrictions, processing requirements, etc.--are operating to affect availability? Does availability meet current or projected demand?

IV. PRODUCT QUALITY: As the result of proposed changes in fisheries management, will quality of the product be maintained? increased? decreased? Again, what factors are operating to affect quality?

V. PRICE: As with the product's availability, does the plan propose to increase, decrease, or maintain current prices? To what extent? Again, what factors--volume of foreign or domestic catch, gear restrictions, processing requirements, etc.--are operating to affect the price? Is the price anticipated to affect demand?

For the consumer to participate in the planning process, he needs first and foremost the information on which to base his decisions in areas affecting his interests. It's realized that in many instances the specific data simply are not available at this time. In those cases, it's hoped these thoughts will provide an indication of the types of data that are required to assure maximum consumer participation in future management plans. Where they are available, the data should be incorporated into the plans.

A brief discussion of the Ground Fish Management and Tanner Crab Off Alaska plans, using this working statement, is attached.

Carlene M. Welfelt

Attachments

8/22/77

Gulf of Alaska  
Ground Fish Management Plan

I. THE CONSUMER: 3.5.1.3 Identified as institutions, restaurants, and retail outlets. Does not describe halibut consumer. Does not give percentage of consumer role each holds. This list does not account for users of other products mentioned throughout the plan, such as bait, fertilizer, oil, vitamins, etc. In the case of ground fish, it would be helpful to tie the consumer to the species involved.

II. THE PRODUCT: 3.5.1.3 Identified as predominantly fish fillets. Does not describe halibut products. Again, other products--fertilizers, bait, etc.--need to be identified and quantified and tied to the species involved.

III. PRODUCT AVAILABILITY: 3.5.1.4 Information on the availability of imported products (expected to decline) and domestic products (expected to increase) is scattered with regard to species (halibut, pollock, sablefish, etc.) throughout the plan. One can get a general picture of overall causes and effects in the plan as a whole; however, a tabular summary of specific products, foreign and domestic sources available for foreign and domestic consumption, would be useful in assessing availability now and in the future.

IV. PRODUCT QUALITY: p. 3-91 Only the quality of Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, etc., listed on p. 3-82 appears to be affected by processing requirements of the management plan. The consumer may be alerted that the requirement to mince or shred these fish in order to fully utilize domestically caught fish may decrease the overall quality of the products to be identified under "I." above, or even decrease certain product availability identified under "II."

V. PRICE: 3.5.1.2 Averages for domestic halibut and sablefish products are given. Current prices of all products, imported and domestic, are desirable. As price increases are predicted as the result of decreases in the availability of imports, information on price changes of the various products after domestic takeover of the fisheries will be desirable as they become available.

GENERAL: Much consumer information is scattered throughout the plan; however, it is difficult to get a consolidated, comprehensive picture of the ground fish situation. The halibut fishery, for example,

is practically divorced from the plan, rather than being integrated into an overall picture. Yet an option before the Council is the development of other ground fish at the expense of the halibut fishery.

In considering the option of delivery by U. S. fishermen of their catch to foreign factory ships, the impact on the consumer's areas of interest in terms of product availability, quality, and price are due consideration.

8/22/77

Tanner Crab Off Alaska

I. THE CONSUMER: Not identified.

II. THE PRODUCT: Domestic products are identified as canned crab, frozen whole crabs, frozen sections, and frozen meats (p. 40). There is no indication of imported products by type or quantity.

III. AVAILABILITY. Pounds of domestic products available in 1975 are tabulated on p. 42.

IV. PRODUCT QUALITY: Not considered.

V. PRICE: Wholesale prices of each identified domestic product in 1975 are given on p. 42.

GENERAL: The intention of the plan to maintain the status quo in this fishery is apparent. No options and/or supporting information are identified which invite consumer participation or advice.

No use of the sort of consumer information being developed by the Alaska Sea Grant Program in their Bering Sea Tanner Crab Resource: U. S. Production Capacity & Marketing report appears to have been utilized.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P. O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99803

AGENDA ITEM #11  
Sept. 1977

Reply to Attn. of:

Date : September 9, 1977

To : Harry L. Rietze  
Director, Alaska Region  
*Harry L. Rietze*

From : Walter G. Jones  
Chief, Fisheries Development

Subject: Fisheries Development Activity Report - August, 1977

Pribilof Island Harbor Project

Three proposals for preliminary economic, engineering, and environmental impact studies on locating a harbor for commercial fishery vessels and processing facilities on St. Paul Island of the Pribilof Islands were drafted. The proposals were submitted through The Alaska and Northwest Regional Offices, for possible year end funding, but were received too late for contract bidding this fiscal year according to NASO. Alaska District Corps of Engineer officers in Anchorage were consulted by Walt Jones and Dick Frazier, NMFS Seattle, for their input into the proposed studies. The Corp of Engineers will not have funds for these studies before FY79, according to C.E. officers.

Alaska Fisheries Development Steering Committee (AFDSC) Progress

In accordance with instructions from the AFDSC Chairman Rick Lauber, a survey form to obtain industry ideas on fishery development target species and activity priorities was drafted and mailed to industry representatives over the Chairman's signature. Replies have been received from a majority of the processors and four fishermen's associations. A follow-up letter was drafted as instructed by the Advisory Panel at the August meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in Kodiak to solicit more response from fishermen and processors.

Advisory Panel Chairman Keith Specking appointed Bob Alverson, Fishing Vessel Owner's Association, and Joe Kurtz (Halibut Joe) Seldovia, Alaska, to the Alaska Fisheries Development Steering Committee.

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## Ketchikan Gateway Borough Fisheries Development Task Force

The Ketchikan City Council and The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly, in an endeavor to broaden the area's economic base, formed a Fisheries Development Task Force supported by OEDP funds. The Task Force has succeeded in re-opening the Deer Park salmon hatchery for an aquaculture project to produce king salmon fry/fingerlings. The Task Force has now turned its attention toward the possibilities of developing bottomfish fishing and processing enterprises for Ketchikan.

Walt Jones, and Dick Reynolds (Alaska Division of Economic Development), were invited to discuss development possibilities with the Task Force and Assembly members. At a meeting, it was agreed that Ketchikan's problems with development of bottomfish and unutilized fishery resources of the area are the same as those of other southeastern Alaska communities. Namely, there is not enough biological, technical, or economic information available on a year around production basis to evaluate the feasibility of fishing and processing operations. A joint cooperative research/production trial study proposal will be formulated which will include fishery resources of inside and offshore waters of southeast Alaska. Participation in the study will be asked of the State of Alaska, Federal Government Agencies (NMFS, OSG, EDA) University of Alaska, local community organizations, fishermen and processors. A meeting coordinated by Ira Winograd, Ketchikan Fishing Task Force, to plan and draft the proposal is scheduled for September 26, 1977 in Ketchikan.

### Cordova Bottomfish Fishery Development

Craig Weise, University of Alaska Marine Advisory Agent, Cordova, visited the Regional Office to discuss development of fishery resources in the Prince William Sound area for small boat fishermen of Cordova. The problems of Cordova fishermen/processors for developing bottomfish resources is much the same as in southeast Alaska. Craig has set up meetings in Cordova October 4-5, 1977 to discuss and plan action needed to develop bottomfish resources of the area.

### Kodiak Groundfish Development

New England Fish Company will be ready to take delivery of bottomfish at their Kodiak plant by November this year according to company officers. There is (or may be) a problem, however, in that the company reportedly cannot get a commitment from Kodiak fishermen to deliver groundfish (Pacific cod and pollock) on a sustained basis to the Kodiak

plant. Whether the problem is real or fancied, the State of Alaska is concerned about NEFCO being able to deliver on its contract with the State's fishery development project. Dick Reynolds has asked for assistance from NMFS to work out solutions to the problem. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 1977 in Seattle with NMFS Alaska Region and Northwest and Alaska Fishery Center staff and with representatives of NEFCO, Icicle Seafoods, EDA and other industry groups who may be involved to work out a program to remedy the problem.