


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: January 22, 1996

SUBJECT: Improved Retention and Utilization

ESTIMATED TIME

1 HOUR

**ACTION REQUIRED**

The lengthy furlough of government employees precluded much additional work since the December meeting on the proposed measures to improve retention and utilization in the groundfish fisheries. The following committee was appointed recently to address implementational issues and they will meet briefly Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. to determine when and where to meet in February and March in order to report back to the Council in April:

Joe Kyle, Chair  
Chris Blackburn  
Vince Curry  
John Henderschedt  
Steve Hughes  
John Iani

Paul MacGregor  
Bob Mikol  
Lisa Polito  
Thorn Smith  
Arni Thomson

There was lengthy discussion of the committee's role at the December meeting. I originally had envisioned the committee to be a sounding board for the analyst, Dr. Lew Queirolo, to work through the plethora of implementational issues that inevitably will arise, particularly concerning the improved utilization aspects.

The original motion placed on the table in December was very general in that it identified three fisheries to be examined for improved retention and utilization, but did not specifically identify measures to be analyzed. The thrust of the motion was to leave that up to the committee. This original motion was amended, however, to include very specific measures, as shown in item C-4(a). After reviewing the Council's discussion in December, I have concluded that those measures are the ones you wanted analyzed, and that the role of the committee is to consider the practicality and enforceability of the measures, not develop a whole new set of measures that the Council might pursue.

This is not to say that the committee might not come up with compelling arguments to adjust or even drop some of the components. I do believe, though, that the committee's primary purpose is to tell us how we can best implement the measures if the Council decides to adopt the new standards for retention and utilization. If this does not track with the Council's intent for the committee, we need to know now.

I envision the following schedule of events. Dr. Queirolo will work on the bulk of the analysis between now and April. The committee probably will need to meet twice, in February and March. Upon hearing the committee report in April, the Council then can decide if the alternatives need adjustments. The analysis will be available for initial review in June, and go to public review over the summer. A final decision can be scheduled for September. Barring any big hangups in writing the regulations, we should have a Secretarial decision by sometime in late March 1997. This will give the industry ample notice that the new retention and utilization rules will take effect in January 1998.

BSAI Improved Retention/Utilization

1. Improved Retention/Utilization in BSAI Groundfish Fisheries

**Retention Option 1 (Target Fishery Based):**

Subject Fisheries (includes all gear types in these fisheries)

1. pollock (bottom and mid-water)
2. rock sole
3. Pacific cod
4. yellowfin sole

Suboption A:

100% retention standard applies only to target species in the respective fisheries.

Suboption B:

100% retention standard applies to all target species (i.e., pollock, rock sole, p. cod, and yellowfin) taken in each of the respective fisheries.

**Retention Option 2 (Species Based):**

100% retention of all subject species in all BSAI groundfish fisheries

Subject Species

1. pollock
2. rock sole
3. Pacific cod
4. yellowfin sole

**Utilization Options:**

Option 1: Target species/subject species may be processed into any form. Product form could be meal or any other form, regardless of whether or not product is fit for human consumption.

Option 2: Target species/subject species must be processed into human consumptive form, based on a percentage of total round weight of harvest of target/subject species. Options for analysis of the minimum percentage of target species harvest which must be processed for human consumption are:

- Suboption A: 50%
- Suboption B: 70%
- Suboption C: 90%

Option 3: Reduction of target/subject species harvests to meal is limited to a maximum meal production rate for each target/subject species. Options for analysis of the maximum meal rate are:

Suboption A: 50%

Suboption B: 30%

Suboption C: 10%

2. Limited Processing for Catcher Vessels

Option 1: To allow processing of bycatch amounts of any groundfish species up to the directed fishing standard.

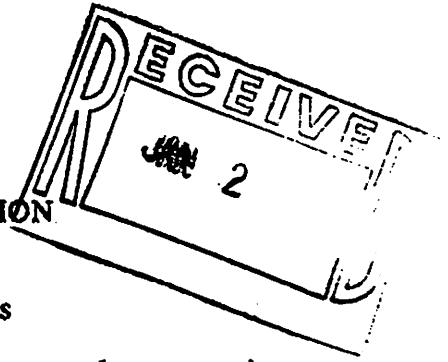
Option 2: To allow processing of targeted levels of species for which “restricted market opportunities” exist for catcher vessels.

Option 3: To allow processing of up to 5 mt round weight per day of any species for vessels under 60' and up to 18 mt round weight per day for vessels greater than 60'.

DAVID HILLSTRAND  
BOX 1500  
HOMER, ALASKA 99603  
(907) 235-8706

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
Attention: RICHARD LAUBER

AGENDA ITEM C-4 IMPROVED RETENTION AND UTILIZATION



In your newsletter on Page #4 you have the following problems

1. Bycatch and discard loss of groundfish, crab, herring, salmon and other non-target species.

a. The best way the NPFMC has addressed this issue is by closing down areas of high bycatch. This has been done with timed closures or permanent closures, depending upon the species and its movement or habitat needs.

b. I would encourage the NPFMC to continue in reducing bycatch before we see a collapse in another fishery.

c. In the Pribilof Island trawl closure we have seen the Blue King crab stocks recover again. Their range is increasing through the whole closure area; for this was the greatest area of crab bycatch, up to 50 crab a tow were the councils determining of an area of high crab bycatch.

2. Economic loss and waste associated with the discard mortality of target species harvested by not retained for economic reasons.

a. The NPFMC has proceeded as best it can but has been stopped on one issue and that is of allocation. The Council has made progress by having the fisheries cleaned up and allowing room for cleaner gear types. If the NPFMC would not have done so the entire fisheries would be closed because of the race for fish with gear types that are non selective in their fishing; which have extreme bycatch and destroy habitat. The BS/AI P. Cod allocation is where the council has made its progress and has received thanks from the many users.

b. I would encourage the NPFMC to proceed where ever possible to harvest a species with the gear that is the more selective in its harvesting. This is the best way for reducing discards. Gear that is selective also improves the quality and brings a higher price. Waste is also reduced by only retaining in ones catch the desired species.

3. Inability to provide for a long-term, stable fisheries-based economy due to loss of fishery resources through wasteful fishing practices.

a. Wasteful fishing practices needs to be defined; I would like the NPFMC to be bold enough to make a list of them specifically! Then to proceed with prohibiting fishing in this manner and encouraging fishing with those fishing practices that are clean.

b. Slow the fisheries down and clean it up! The only way you can do it is with changing our gear on our vessels.

c. You know what fisheries and how they should be fished! Yet will you do it?

4. Need to promote improved retention and utilization of fish resources by reducing waste of target groundfish species to achieve long-term sustainable economic benefits to the nation.

a. To promote retention and utilization of fish will be hard for the NPFMC. Only economics to a fisher will do so.

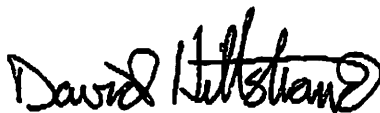
b. To improve retention and utilization of fish by reducing waste will be done by the NPFMC requiring those fishing to do so. in your options I would chose #2 in regards to retention.

#1. only encourages bycatch waste which is what we have today, it does deal with the targeted species; but not with bycatch and waste.

#2. being Require full retention of all four species when engaged in fishing for any of the four species. This reduces waste and cleans up bycatch!

a. In regards to utilization of the species retained, I would recommend starting off at 30% and increasing that percentage every three years by 10%. This will give the fleet time to adjust.

b. The off shore sector will have the hardest time in processing at sea, while the onshore fleet will have the canneries that will be able to adjust a lot better. This may cause a switch in processing at sea. Which may be what should have been done, and go along with the NPFMC adjective in onshore offshore allocations.



David Hillstrand