

**Draft Summary
Joint Board-Council Meeting
February 8, 2000**

Preseason Gear Restrictions

Council and Board received staff reports and new information bearing on the issue of prospecting prior to the crab season. There was little discussion, and no action taken by either body.

Crab Management

Members received reports on a revision to the crab plan proposed by Mr. Austin, rebuilding plans for opilio, bairdi and blue king crab, potential crab cooperatives, and AFA crab sideboards. Board members had not had sufficient time to review the problem statement prepared regarding crab cooperatives and may comment during their meeting in March. There was discussion of proposed state requirements for observer coverage on AFA vessels and whether that would be disproportionately burdensome on those vessels compared to non-AFA crab vessels. There also was concern expressed whether sufficient observers were available to meet the needs of the fishing fleet.

Proposals

In reviewing proposals before the Council, Board members expressed concerns with any change in area closures related to chum salmon bycatch management measures. Their concern was based on the poor stock status of Western Alaska Chum salmon stocks. Concerning Board proposal 195, Council members expressed the need for any rockfish retention requirements to be consistent with Council action on shorttraker/rougheye and demersal shelf rockfish retention initiatives. Dr. White noted that when the board considers #418 on the prohibition of trawling, it will start with the original proposal which applies to all state waters, not just the Aleutians. The proposal will need to be focused during the March Board meeting.

Habitat Areas of Particular Concern

An overview of the Council amendment package was presented. It was noted that there needs to be stakeholder input on any proposed designations related to HAPC and any management measures which may eventually be applied.

Halibut Management

NOAA GC noted that the development of any halibut charterboat IFQ system would not be hampered by the current legislated moratorium relating to federal fishery management plans. The Board noted that the local area management plan process was now being applied to species other than halibut. Concerning subsistence, the Board noted that it is trying to establish an MOU with the seven federal agencies working on subsistence in Alaska, and that the Council needs to be involved in the process and planning for subsistence.

Steller Sea Lions

It was noted that the Board needs to be made fully aware of critical habitat needs for Stellers.