

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Certified by:

*Steve Pennoyer*  
Chairman

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## MINUTES

### SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING May 22-23, 1979

The SSC meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Pennoyer at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 22nd. Present were:

Steve Pennoyer, Chairman  
Jack Robinson  
Don Bevan  
Ed Miles  
Frank Fukuhara  
Jack Lechner (arrived at noon on the 22nd)  
Al Millikan (present on Wednesday, May 23rd)

The SSC wished to express its sense of loss over the death of Prof. Donald McKernan. It noted his major contributions to the field of fisheries resource management. The SSC Chairman will send a note of condolences to Mrs. Pat McKernan.

#### DRAFT FMP/DEIS FOR THE HERRING FISHERY IN THE BERING/CHUKCHI SEA (Council Agenda Item #9)

The SSC reviewed the draft Bering Sea Herring FMP and a written report of its subcommittee which met on April 26 in Juneau to review this draft. Based on subcommittee recommendations the full Committee interacted with the planning team to consider certain plan revisions/modifications. The Committee found the plan to be unusually well organized and written for a first draft.

It is our understanding that the Council will not have to consider a final draft for public release until the August meeting. Based on this we recommend that the team be given until July to rework the draft and present it to the Council for review. The SSC has suggested substantial revisions to the sections on derivation of MSY-EY-ABC-OY, socio-economic analysis, management objectives and management options.

The SSC heard a presentation from Dr. Laevestu on ecosystem modeling as it and the DYNUMES model apply to herring, and from ADF&G staff on current status of the domestic Bering Sea herring fishery and stocks.

The planning team presented some data on possible herring/salmon savings trawl closures in the Bering Sea but will not be ready to finally discuss these options and supportive data until the June meeting. At that time the SSC will review the options and be prepared to discuss them with the Council as possible Bering Sea Groundfish Plan amendments.

The SSC will transmit its summarized suggestions on needed revisions to the drafting team soon, and individual editing or other comments will be routed through the SSC's herring plan subcommittee to the team.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP - RATTAIL OY (Council Agenda Item #10)

The SSC reviewed an amendment submitted by the Plan Development Team for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP setting the rattail OY at for 13,200 metric tons. The SSC concurs with the recommendations of the Plan Development Team.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP - CONFLICTS BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS (Council Agenda Item #12)

Mr. Branson reported on the problem of definition of management units. In some areas, waters the state considers internal are considered the State Department to be international, including areas such as the Chatham Straits in Southeast Alaska. In some of these areas Federal regulation under Council management plans would be less restrictive than State regulations. The question seems to be a legal one and the SSC took no stand on this topic although it would be willing to comment on the resource management implications of such area subdivisions if presented with data.

TANNER CRAB FMP (Council Agenda Item #13)

The Committee reviewed reports from ADF&G on the current status of the 78/79 domestic tanner crab fishery in the Bering Sea, the status of the Japanese tanner crab fishery from the Japanese tanner crab industry and a NMFS report entitled "Analysis of current fishery information relating to the stock of C. opilio north of 58° in the eastern Bering Sea" by the PDT. The last report was reviewed with team member Jerry Reeves.

It seems from the fishery performance to date that C. opilio availability north of 58°N is the same as last year and that the Japanese fishery should be able to achieve their TALFF. In any case, the harvest is primarily of crab above 107 mm which should provide adequate reproductive protection for the stocks. No further Council action seems warranted at this time.

It would seem that considering the reduced population size of C. opilio and the increased U.S. interest in this species that the Council may have to consider some redistribution of allocation in 1980 if these trends continue.

FMP/EIS FOR THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH FISHERY  
(Council Agenda Item #14)

The SSC heard testimony from Steve Johnson representing the Hokuten Trawlers Association and the Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, Paul MacGregor, representing the Japanese Longline/Gillnet Association and Scott Stafne representing the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association regarding the openings and closures to foreign fishing around the Aleutian Islands. The SSC discussed this matter thoroughly with Bert Larkin of the Plan Development Team. The SSC also reviewed a Decision paper provided by the Council staff. The SSC adopted the attached position paper.

REPORT FROM THE DAH WORKING GROUP (Council Agenda Item #15)

The Committee looked at a memorandum from Jim Branson to Council members and advisors regarding the DAH working group meeting. No action was taken.

TROLL SALMON (Council Agenda Item #16)

ADF&G representative Guy Thornburgh reported on the progress of the Development Team for the comprehensive salmon FMP. He stated they had met four times to date, and have prepared considerable data. The next meeting will be with the Steering Committee during the 2nd week of June. They will then develop a document which will be presented to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Council sometime in July. The goal is to have a final report to the Board and Council by September 1.

REVIEW OF CONTRACT 78-4, THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF COMPUTERIZED FISHERY INFORMATION SYSTEM (Council Agenda Item #19)

The SSC reviewed the report of the Contract Monitoring Committee and concurs with its recommendations.

The consultant's review has determined that the project has been designed in a sound manner and the management is in capable hands. The critical element for success in completing the contract is the commitment of additional data staff at an appropriate level of ability. We suggest the Council should seek a commitment for additional staff from the Commissioner of Fish and Game.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF LIMITED ENTRY UPON TWO GROUPS OF TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN

This proposal was mailed by Council staff to the SSC asking for their review. The SSC does not consider this proposal meeting guidelines appropriate for Council funding. They feel studies which are ongoing may accomplish the same ends. The SSC socioeconomic study group was asked to look into the qualifications of the study proponents for possible reference to other interested parties.

STAFF SUPPORT CONCEPT

Mr. Branson met with the SSC and discussed the concept of providing various SSC subcommittees and working groups with staff help in the way of a graduate student or other assistance, within some reasonable cost to the Council to help ease the work load. The SSC endorsed this concept. They stated the subcommittee chairman could identify the needs and go through the Executive Director rather than the full SSC.

SSC ALTERNATES

In March the Council gave approval to the federal/state members of the SSC to designate alternates to serve at the SSC meeting when the regular member is unable to attend. The SSC was provided with resume's and recommends the Council approve the following alternates:

for Jack Robinson - Larry Hreha  
for Frank Fukuhara - Jim Balsiger  
for Al Millikan - Charles Woelke  
for Jack Lechner - Jerry McCrary

The resignation of Dr. Crutchfield was regretfully noted. George Rogers and Ed Miles were asked to discuss the needs of the SSC, consider Dr. Scott (recommended by Dr. Crutchfield) and other possible socio-economists and report back to the SSC with their recommendations for a replacement at the next meeting.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SOCIOECONOMIC DATA NEEDS: CENTAUR QUESTIONNAIRE

A brief report was heard from Chairman Ed Miles of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Socio-economic Data Needs. At its January meeting the Council appointed this 7-member group to pursue an alternative approach to the general questionnaire submitted by Centaur Associates on the problem. Dr. Miles reported the group met in Seattle on May 8, 1979 and used as its working documents the following FMP's and draft FMP's: Gulf of Alaska Trawl Plan, Bering Sea Trawl Plan, King Crab Plan, Tanner Crab Plan, Ocean Salmon Plan, Bering Sea Herring Plan. the Working Group approached each Plan with the following set of questions:

1. What major analytic problems were posed?
2. What socioeconomic information would have been useful but was missing?

3. What data presented were not used or were irrelevant to major analytic questions posed?
4. What sources of information were used, how effectively?
5. What information on community characteristics appeared to be necessary independently of particular FMP's?

At the Seattle meeting the Working Group agreed on some general guidelines (which it wishes to recommend to the Council) and then proceeded to a collective evaluation of the King Crab FMP. Following that, individual assignments were made relative to the remaining plans, and a second meeting was held in Anchorage on March 21.

The Working Group concluded that the PDT's should adopt a selective approach to the management plan outline recommended by the SSC. Only those items deemed appropriate to the specific plan should be included. More importantly, socioeconomic data was deemed necessary because (1) the EIS requirements demand a capability of assessing socioeconomic impacts of different management options considered; and (2) determination of OY requires assessment of the major socioeconomic analytic problems posed by each FMP.

The Working Group outlined what it thinks are the major analytic problems posed by each Plan and recommended that most of the effort expended in collecting data be directed at analyzing problems it identifies in a written report, the first part of which was circulated in draft form to the SSC. The complete final report will be forwarded to the Council by June 15.

The SSC felt the working group was on track and had made good use of its time and efforts. We concur with the Group's approach and results reviewed to date, including the portion of its draft report reviewed by us on May 22.

#### KING CRAB FMP

The King crab plan subcommittee chairman, Dr. Fukuhara reported that he had only recently received committee member comments on the plan and then only from a few members. The course of action suggested was that the remaining committee members submit their comments to Dr. Fukuhara within the next three weeks and he will prepare a summary for review by the SSC at their June meeting. Final comments will be submitted to the PDT no later than the July meeting.

Kodiak crab research biologist Guy Powell of the PDT presented data on the current state management regime as applied to king crab stocks in the Kodiak area and life history data on king crab. The presentation stimulated further requests for data to be initiated through the comment process reviewed above.

OPTIMUM YIELD PAPER

The SSC has had an opportunity to briefly review the Pacific Council's paper on optimum yield. Our initial reaction is that we support the general concepts presented. While we believe the definitions meet the requirements of the FCMA, the SSC suggests that the Council seek advice from its counsel on the legality of the proposal.

We intend to review the paper in detail and report to the Council at its next meeting.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED BY SSC AT MAY 22-23 MEETING

1. Report of Contract Monitoring Committee on the ADF&G Contract entitled "Development and Enhancement of a Computerized Fishery Information System".
2. Proposal presented by A. J. Koslow entitled "Limited Entry and the American Fisherman: A Case Study of the Bristol Bay, Alaska Salmon Fishery."
3. "Report to the North Pacific Council on Socioeconomic Data Needs" by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Socioeconomic Data Needs.
4. Presentation of Hokuten Trawlers Association and the Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, presented by their attorney Steve Johnson.
5. Herring FMP Subcommittee review of the Herring FMP, with accompanying reports.
6. Proposed Amendment to Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP regarding Rattail OY.
7. Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish FMP Decision Paper (longline sanctuaries)
8. DAH Working Group Report
9. Paper on Optimum Yield drafted by the SSC of the Pacific Council
10. Paper entitled "Analysis of Current Fishery Information Relating to the Stock of C. Opilio North of 58° in the Eastern Bering Sea"
11. Status Report of the 1978/79 Domestic Tanner Crab Fishery in the Bering Sea by Marton F. Eaton.
12. Resume of SSC Alternates.

May 23, 1979

SSC STATEMENT CONCERNING THE OPTION OF EXTENDING THE LONGLINE SANCTUARY BEYOND 176° W IN THE DRAFT FMP FOR BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN TRAWL FISHERIES

The SSC notes that this issue contains both scientific/technical and nonscientific/technical issues. The SSC restricts its considerations to the scientific/technical issues only leaving it up to the Council to consider the substantial nonscientific issues that bear upon whether the longline sanctuary should be extended to accommodate the interests of Japanese trawlers and longliners faced with exclusions by both USSR and US actions.

The SSC also wishes to note that it was unable to arrive at definitive interpretations of the conservation problems that might be involved as a result of information which is unavailable concerning depressed stocks of king crab, Pacific ocean perch, sablefish and halibut. King crab stocks in the area are depressed and need to be rebuilt, however, we lack observer information on the dimensions of the incidental catch problems for most years. There is an absence of detailed information, as well, on halibut stocks in the area and we do not have at our disposal information concerning the effects of increased effort on the status of stocks of sablefish and Pacific ocean perch. We should continue to address these questions and review any decision next year.

The SSC suggests for the Council's consideration an alternative option (Option I) which would protect the crab from trawling during softshell conditions and prevent gear conflict between trawlers and domestic crab fishermen. This option would require the adoption of a six-month closure (January 1 to June 30) from 176°W to 178°30'W south of the Aleutians, and 176°W to 179°E, north of the Aleutians. We believe that an extension of the longline sanctuary, at least to this extent, is warranted by scientific evidence.

If the Council wishes to consider the extension of the longline sanctuary beyond 176°W, they should be aware that crab conservation is not an issue south of the Aleutians and west of 178°30'W. There is, however, a potential problem of interference of crab fishing by the trawl fishery, with potential adverse impact on the crab resource, north and south of the Aleutians from 176°W to 178°30'W and north of the Aleutians between 178°30'W and 179°E including the Petrel Bank area. As a result of this, the Council should consider, if they adopt a twelve-month closure north and south of the Aleutians between 176°W and 178°30'W, the need to protect Petrel Bank by adopting a closure from January 1 to June 30 from 178°30'W to 179°E north of the Aleutians. (Option 2)

Both these options should include a trawl closure from January 1 to April 30 west of 179°E, north of the Aleutians and west of 178°30'W, south of the Aleutians.



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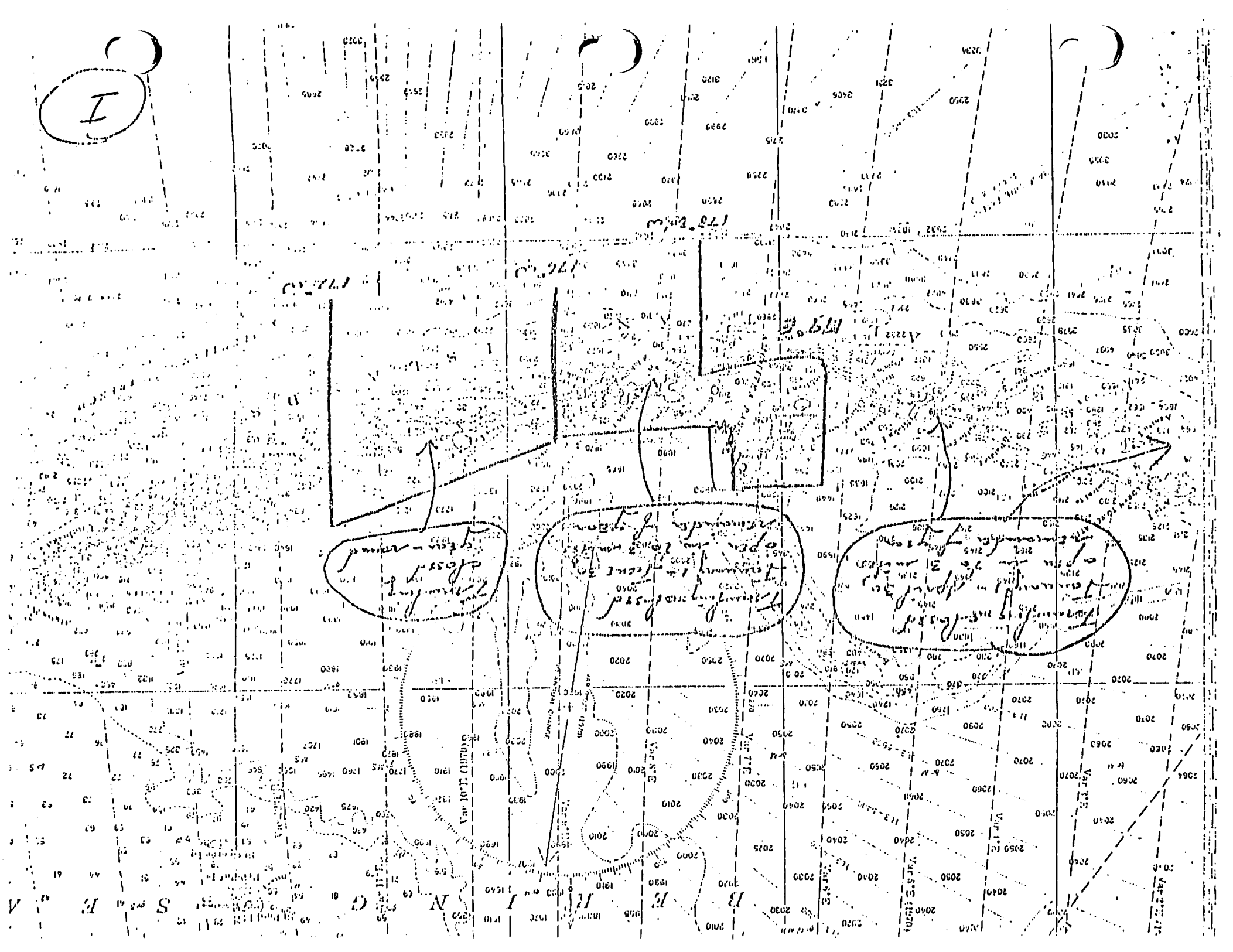
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