

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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12/4/87

DRAFT AGENDA

79th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

December 8-11, 1987
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 1987, at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, and continue as necessary through Friday, December 11. Other meetings to be held during the week are:

Committee/Panel

Scientific & Statistical Committee
Permit Review Committee
Domestic Observer Committee
Advisory Panel
Bycatch Management Committee

Beginning

2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 6
2:30 p.m., Sunday, December 6
7:00 p.m., Sunday, December 6
10:00 a.m., Monday, December 7
To be Announced

Other meetings may be held on short notice. The Advisory Panel Nominating Committee will meet in executive session during the week and the Council will meet in executive session at noon on Wednesday, December 9, to review nominations to the Advisory Panel; all other meetings are open to the public. All meetings will be held at the Hilton Hotel unless otherwise noted.

MAIN ISSUES

Of the items requiring Council attention in December the following are expected to involve the most discussion and public comment:

Halibut Management (C-4)

The Council will consider final approval of allocative measures in the halibut fishery for IPHC Regulatory Areas 4C (Pribilof Islands) and 4E (Nelson Island). These measures include designating fishing periods, limiting amounts of fish landed per trip, requiring vessel clearance and hold inspections, and exemption from the 72-hour fishing restriction prior to halibut openings. The Council will also consider, as alternatives, doing nothing and instituting a vessel size limit of 30 feet in Area 4C and 4E.

Sablefish Management (C-5)

In September the Council adopted a Statement of Commitment to consider limited entry for the longline sablefish fishery, intending to have a system in place by 1989. Two alternative approaches are being considered: a permit/license system and individual share quotas. The Council will hear a progress report on the development of both systems and provide further direction.

Future of Groundfish Management (C-6)

The Council's Statement of Commitment, adopted in September, also calls for a full examination of alternatives for future management of the vast groundfish resources off Alaska, with the intent of implementing a new system by 1990. An industry workgroup has been established to develop alternatives and will report on progress made at their first meeting held in November. The Council will reconsider the December 31, 1987, cut-off date that is now in the Statement of Commitment along with December 31, 1988, and the date of final Council action. These dates establish the time beyond which participation in the groundfish fisheries may not get full credit should a form of limited access be implemented.

Groundfish Harvest Levels and Apportionments for 1988: (C-9/10, D-2/3)

The Council will determine the acceptable biological catches for 1988 for each of the groundfish species and species groups in the management areas of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutians and set preliminary total allowable catches (TAC) based on biological and socioeconomic considerations. The Council will take public testimony on domestic processor (DAP) and joint venture (JVP) needs for 1988 and set initial apportionments to start the new fishing year, January 1 for most species. The Council will again reconsider the upper limit of the optimum yield range for the Bering Sea and Aleutian groundfish complex to determine if it should be raised above 2,000,000 mt.

Groundfish Management Adjustments for 1988: (D-2(f) & (g))

The Council will discuss delaying the sablefish longline opening in the Gulf of Alaska, which now opens April 1, to coincide with the first halibut opening. They may comment on Council intent concerning the use of pot gear for fishing species of groundfish other than sablefish. The Council may also recommend an emergency regulation to implement the reporting requirements for at-sea transfers as adopted in Gulf of Alaska groundfish Amendment 16 and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Amendment 11a.

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WISHING TO TESTIFY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Those wishing to testify at Council meetings on a specific agenda item must fill out and deposit a registration card in the box on the registration table before public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional cards generally are not accepted after testimony has begun. A general comment period (Agenda Item F) is scheduled toward the end of each meeting for comment on matters not on the current agenda.

EXPERT TESTIMONY

The Council encourages technical experts testifying on the status of groundfish stocks to initially present their testimony before the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

DRAFT AGENDA79th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management CouncilDecember 8-11, 1987
Anchorage, Alaska

- A. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
- B. SPECIAL REPORTS
 - B-1 Executive Director's Report
 - B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G
 - B-3 NMFS Management Report
 - B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard
 - B-5 Special Reports
 - (a) PMFC Annual Meeting
 - (b) Secretary's Draft Uniform Standards
 - (c) S-K Crab Bycatch Experiment in Bering Sea
 - (d) Marine Debris Conference
- C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS
 - C-1 AP Appointments
 - Council approval of membership
 - C-2 Legislative Update
 - C-3 Pilot Domestic Observer Program
 - C-4 Halibut Management
 - Final decision on allocative measures
 - C-5 Sablefish Management.
 - (a) Progress report on development of alternatives
 - (b) Further Council direction
 - C-6 Future of Groundfish Management
 - (a) Report on Workgroup meeting
 - (b) Reconsideration of December 31, 1987 cut-off date
 - C-7 Bycatch Management
 - Committee report and recommendations

C-8 Reporting Requirements for At-Sea Transfers

- (a) Regulations adopted in September for changing reporting requirements.
- (b) Consider need for emergency rule for 1988 until plan amendments take effect.

C-9 Review DAP for 1988

Determine total DAP needs by species and area

C-10 Review JVP for 1988

- (a) Report on joint ventures in 1987
- (b) Country joint venture requests and permit conditions (including possible restrictions on transports and oilers)
- (c) Determine total JVP needs by species and area

C-11 Review Foreign Fisheries for 1988

- (a) Allocations
- (b) Vessel permits

C-12 Other Business

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS*

D-1 Crab Management

Progress report on draft plan

D-2 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

- (a) Overview of rockfish management
- (b) Review status of stocks and set ABCs
- (c) Set Halibut PSCs.
- (d) Set TAC, DAP, JVP, and TALFF and PSC for 1988
- (e) Interim Action Committee report on changing sablefish season
- (f) Use of pots for groundfish other than sablefish

D-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

- (a) NWAFC report on stocks in international waters and implications for management
- (b) Review status of stocks and set ABCs
- (c) Interim Action Committee report on increasing OY
- (d) Set TAC, DAP, JVP, and TALFF for 1988

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

*Abbreviations used:

- ABC - Acceptable Biological Catch is an annual harvest level for each species based only on biological considerations.
- DAP - Domestic Annual Processed catch by U.S. vessels delivering to U.S. processors and by U.S. catcher/processors.
- JVP - Joint Venture Processed catch by U.S. fishing vessels delivering to foreign processing vessels.
- OY - A range within which summed TACs must fall.
- PSC - Prohibited Species Catch is a harvest limit usually placed on halibut, salmon and crabs or other species which must be discarded in the groundfish fisheries (except for halibut by U.S. hook and line vessels during halibut openings).
- TAC - Total Allowable Catches are annual harvest levels based on biological, economic and social factors.
- TALFF - Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

December 1987

	Monday 7	Tuesday 8	Wednesday 9	Thursday 10	Friday 11
AM	8:00 SSC D-2 GOA Grfsh	9:00 Council - Aleutian Rm A Approve Agenda B-1 ED report B-2 ADF&G Report B-3 NMFS Report B-4 USCG Report B-5 Special Rpts C-2 Legislative D-3 BSA Grfsh (a) NWAFC Rpt on Donut (b) Status of of Stocks, ABC	9:00 Council C-9 DAP Review C-10 JVP Review D-3 BSA Grfsh (c) OY Ceiling (d) Prelim. TAC and apportion.	9:00 Council C-3 Dom Obsvr C-4 Halibut Mgmt C-5 Sblfsh Mgmt C-6 Future of Groundfish Mgmt C-7 Bycatch Mgmt C-8 Rptg Reqmts	9:00 Council Continue as necessary
	10:00 AP - Katmai Rm D-3 BSA Grfsh	9:00 AP Grfsh, cont'd C-4 Halibut Mgmt C-5 Sblfsh Mgmt			
PM	12:00 Lunch	12:00 Lunch	12:00 Council Exec. Session	12:00 Lunch	Continue as necessary
2:00 SSC - Iliamna Rm D-3 BSA Grfsh	1:30 AP D-3 BSA Grfsh D-2 GOA Grfsh	1:30 Council D-1 Crab Mgmt D-2 GOA Grfsh (a) Rockfish (b) Stock Status/ABC	2:00 Council Reconvenes D-2 GOA Grfsh (c) Halibut PSC (d) Prelim. TAC & Apportion.	1:30 Council D-2/3(d) GOA/ BSA Final TACs, PSCs, DAP, JVP, TALFF C-11 Fgn Alloc. C-1 AP Appts. E Finances	
2:30 Permit Review Katmai Room JV, Bycatch Plans, Fgn Allocations	1:30 SSC D-2/3 Grfsh, continued C-4 Hal. Mgmt	1:30 AP C-6 Future of Groundfish C-7 Bycatch Mgmt C-8 Rptg Req. C-3 Dom. Obs.			
7:00 Dom. Observer Committee	5:30 Women's Fish. Network - Membership Mtg Alaska Room 7:30 WFN Dinner/ Program Alaska Room	6:00 Alaska Factory Trawlers Reception Denali Room	7:00 Sea Grant Tax Seminar Capt. Cook Hotel - Aft Deck		

NOTE: Other meetings to be announced include the Advisory Panel Nominating Committee (Executive Session--not open to the public) and the Bycatch Management Committee.

TABLE 2

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH: Preliminary recommendations for 1988 ABC; Council recommendations for 1988 TAC, DAP, JVP, and TALFF apportionments; and Catch-to-date (all in metric tons).

Species	Area	1987		1988 ABC Recommendations		Current 1987 and Proposed 1988 Apportionments				Catch to early 9/87	
		ABC	TAC 1/	(PT)	(SSC) 2/	TAC 3/	DAP	JVP	TALFF	DAP	JVP
Pollock	BS	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,410,000	2,820,000	1,200,000	185,987	1,009,013	5,000	106,715	967,416
	AI	100,000	88,000	160,000	320,000	88,000	7,210	80,790	0	126	26,479
Pacific cod		400,000	280,000	326,000	700,000	280,000	91,767	94,938	73,295	33,160	53,697
Yellowfin sole		187,000	187,000	216,000	349,000	187,000	100	181,900	5,000	0	182,775
Greenland turbot		20,000	20,000	19,000	19,000	20,000	15,213	67	1,750	5,821	56
Arrowtooth flounder		30,900	9,795	109,500	109,500	9,795	830	3,363	5,602	21	806
Other flatfish		193,300	148,300	440,700	440,700	148,300	17,043	71,972	37,080	13,374	33,803
Sablefish	BS	3,700	3,700	3,900	6,800	3,700	3,310	350	40	2,728	1
	AI	4,000	4,000	6,700	11,600	4,000	3,317	83	0	2,958	44
Pacific ocean perch	BS	3,800	2,850	6,000	6,000	2,850	2,429	120	17	403	43
	AI	10,900	8,175	16,600	16,600	8,175	6,786	563	0	312	490
Other rockfish	BS	450	450	400	400	450	382	59	9	352	5
	AI	1,430	1,430	1,100	1,100	1,430	1,001	304	0	92	226
Alaska mackerel		30,800	30,800	21,000	21,000	30,800	250	30,540	10	104	25,014
Squid		10,000	500	10,000	10,000	500	4	48	393	0	35
Other species		49,500	15,000	59,000	59,000	15,000	500	10,000	4,500	204	5,750
BS/AI TOTAL		2,245,780	2,000,000	2,805,900	4,890,700	2,000,000	336,123	1,484,110	132,696	166,370	1,296,640

NOTES:

1. These TACs were immediately reduced by 15% for apportionment to non-specific reserves.
2. The Council endorsed recommendations from the SSC, which were generally ranges from PT recommendations upwards to the values listed.
3. Current reserves equal 47,071 mt; actual 1988 apportionments will initially set reserves equal to 15% of the sum of TACs.

Sept. 30, 1987

TABLE 1

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - PRELIMINARY 1988 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ABC, TAC, DAP, JVP, TALFF, and HALIBUT PSC, and 1987 CATCH-TO-DATE (all in mt).

Species	Area	1987		COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1988 1/						CATCH-TO-DATE, 1987	
		ABC	TAC	ABC	TAC	RESERVE 2/	DAP	JVP	TALFF	DAP 3/	JVP 4/
Pollock (1/15-4/10)	W/C	95,000	84,000	200,000	84,000	0	67,200	16,800	0	10,750	23
	Out.Shel.		4,000	N/A	20,000	0	0	20,000	0		
	E	17,000	20,000	N/A	4,000	0	4,000	0	0	110	0
	Total	112,000	108,000	200,000	108,000	0	71,200	36,800	0	10,860	23
Pacific Cod	W	38,000	15,000	29,700-55,860	15,000	0	14,700	300	0	1,041	0
	C	77,000	33,000	61,600-115,865	33,000	0	31,900	1,100	0	14,713	61
	E	10,000	2,000	18,700-35,175	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	18	0
	Total	125,000	50,000	110,000-206,900	50,000	0	48,600	1,400	0	15,772	61
Flounders	W	101,000	3,000	101,000	3,000	0	2,550	450	0	113	0
	C	346,000	5,500	346,000	10,000	0	4,000	6,000	0	996	702
	E	90,000	500	90,000	500	0	500	0	0	40	0
	Total	537,000	9,000	537,000	13,500	0	7,050	6,450	0	1,149	702
Sablefish	W	3,750	3,000	3,750	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	3,420	0
	C	11,000	8,800	11,000	8,800	0	8,800	0	0	10,595	7
	W. Yakutat	5,000	4,000	5,000	4,000	0	4,000	0	0	3,198	0
	E. Yak./ S.E.Out.	5,250	4,200	5,250	4,200	0	4,200	0	0	3,264	0
	Total	25,000	20,000	25,000	20,000		20,000	0	0	20,477	7
Rockfish(P.O.P.) 5/	W	2,800	1,500	2,520	2,160	0	2,160	0	0	1,322	0
	C	3,300	1,500	3,465	2,970	0	2,970	0	0	1,314	1
	E	4,400	2,000	4,515	3,870	0	3,870	0	0	377	0
Rockfish(other) 5/	GW	N/A	4,000							4,264	2
	Total	10,500	9,000	10,500	9,000	0	9,000	0	0	7,277	3
Shelf Demersal Rockfish	SE Out.	1,250	1,250	625	625	0	625	0	0	700	0
Thornyhead	GW	3,750	3,750	3,750	3,750	0	3,700	50	0	1,811	0
Other Species	GW	N/A	10,050	N/A	10,244	0	9,054	1,190	0	12	14
GULF OF ALASKA TOTAL		814,500	211,050	887,875-983,775	215,110	0	169,229	45,880	0	58,058	811
HALIBUT PSC										DAP 3,000	JVP 200

NOTES:

- As established by the Council on September 23, 1987. All numbers are preliminary and were chosen to represent current 1987 TQs, and DAP and JVP apportionments.
- Reserves for pollock, Pacific cod, and flounders are calculated as 20% of TAC. For 1987 all reserves have been apportioned to DAP or JVP.
- Catch-to-date as of September 12, 1987. NMFS-AKR.
- Catch-to-date as of September 9, 1987. PacFIN.
- For 1988 these two rockfish groups--the P.O.P. complex and the "other rockfish" group--are combined into a single rockfish category.