

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Date: 1/14/91

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES September 23-26, 1990 Anchorage, Alaska

The Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met on September 23-26, 1990 at the Anchorage Sheraton. Members in attendance were:

George Anderson
Al Burch
Phil Chitwood
Paul Clampitt
Lamar Cotten
Dave Fraser
Ed Fuglvog

Vic Horgan, Jr.
Pete Isleib
Kevin Kaldestad
David Little
Pete Maloney
Nancy Munro, Chair
Dan O'Hara

Jay Skordahl
Harold Sparck
Dave Woodruff
John Woodruff, Vice Chair
Robert Wurm
Lyle Yeck

Minutes of the June 25-27, 1990 meeting were approved.

C-1 Observer Program

The AP heard a staff report on the observer program and status of several regulatory amendments. No action was taken.

C-2 Inshore-Offshore

The AP recommends that the Council not delete Pacific cod from the inshore-offshore analysis. *The motion passed 12 to 2.*

The AP recognizes that no allocation problem currently exists with Pacific cod but believes this situation could change in the near future given the probability of a short winter season for pollock.

C-5 Halibut Management

The AP recommends that the Council accept the Halibut RAAG's recommended list of proposal priorities with one exception; to delete allocation proposal #12 as high priority. *The motion to delete #12 passed 9 to 6. The overall motion passed 13 to 1.*

The AP's rationale was that compared to other halibut proposals and other Council high priority projects, #12 did not warrant the status high priority.

A motion to elevate bycatch proposal #10 to high priority status failed on a split vote for the same reason as the above action. The majority believes that proposal #10 is intertwined with other issues and should be considered after inshore-offshore and limited access has been resolved.

Minority report. Halibut bycatch is now the constraining factor in almost all groundfish fisheries. The retention of halibut as bycatch in the longline fisheries needs to be looked at as a possible solution. The addition of proposal #10 should be made a high priority in the halibut regulatory proposals along with the retention of some percentage of halibut in the Pacific cod and sablefish fisheries.

Signed by: Paul Clampitt, Phil Chitwood, Dave Fraser, Nancy Munro, George Anderson, Lyle Yeck, and Kevin Kaldestad.

D-1 Salmon Overfishing Definition

The AP recommends the Council adopt Alternative 3. The AP feels this alternative will:

- Allow for a consistent management regime inside and outside three miles.
- Provide for conservation of the stocks.
- Be consistent with the current management regime of the State of Alaska and the Pacific Salmon Commission.

The AP notes that Alternative 2 is vague.

The AP assumes the overfishing definition accounts for all removals. *The motion passed unanimously.*

D-2(a) Crab Overfishing Definition

The AP accepted the SSC recommendation and recommends the Council adopt Alternative 3.

This alternative was chosen since it appears to give the Council greater flexibility in managing a resource known for its fluctuating stock conditions.

D-2(b) Crab Observer Program

The AP recommends that the Council maintain the status quo by requesting NMFS to continue focusing the federal observer program on groundfish for 1991. *The motion passed 8 to 6.*

The majority of the AP recognize that both the federal and state observer programs are in their infancy and that both governments are committed to make the programs successful. Implicit in this motion is Council endorsement of Plan Team and ADF&G recommendations for improvements to the State's crab observer program.

Minority report. We recognize that large changes in the existing observer programs may not be possible for 1991. We cannot, however, in good conscience vote for a motion which implicitly approves the status quo.

We believe that industry and the agencies must plan now for a future which will be made possible by reauthorization of the Magnuson Act. Key to that future should be an observer program which will provide credible information with which to manage the fisheries of the North Pacific.

Characteristics of this observer program should include:

- Pooled funding.
- Standardized training for observers.
- A clear focus on data collection and not enforcement.
- Cooperative data collection and sharing between NMFS and ADF&G.
- Representative sampling of all elements of the fleet.

Signed by: Phil Chitwood, Dave Fraser, Nancy Munro, Pete Maloney, and George Anderson.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

D-3(b) Initial TACs and Apportionments

The AP recommends that the Council send out for public review preliminary 1991 TACs as attached. These numbers reflect the 1990 TACs with the exception of Pacific cod which reflects the Plan Teams' 1989 recommendation of 60,500 mt.

The AP makes this recommendation considering that the SAFE document is preliminary and will be revised prior to the December meeting.

The AP recognizes that implementation of the Council's overfishing definition may cause problems in 1991 and should be considered in setting the final TACs at the December meeting. For stocks where ABC is based on F_{msy} or lower exploitation rates, it appears that the TACs should be set with a buffer between the TAC and ABC to avoid closures.

The AP requests that the updated SAFE document include discussion of the ramifications of the overfishing definition, and that it be distributed in November for review prior to the December meeting.

D-3(c) Initial PSC Limits for Halibut

The AP recommends that the Council send out for public review halibut bycatch limits as shown on the attached sheet.

The AP considered:

- Recommending a range of alternatives for halibut bycatch, but decided that one number would better achieve the purpose of eliciting public comment.
- Allocating the longline halibut quota between sablefish and Pacific cod, but decided it lacked concrete information on which to do that.

The AP heard industry testimony about:

- Setting the halibut bycatch limit for the pot fishery at 75 mt due to reports of increased effort in the pot fishery.
- Allocating the longline bycatch quota quarterly: 20/30/20/30 to ensure a 4th quarter fishery.

The AP will consider these issues at the December meeting.

D-3(d) Regulatory Amendments

The AP heard a NMFS report on the status of four regulatory amendments.

Sablefish Seasons

The AP recommends that in the analysis of Alternative 1 NMFS consider:

- Gulfwide opening dates of April 1, May 1, June 1.
- W/C Gulf reopening dates of June 1, July 1, August 1, September 1, and October 1.

The vote was unanimous.

Prohibit Longlining Groundfish Pots (see D-4(e), page 8)

D-3(e) Extension of Emergency Rule

Exemption of pot gear and certain hook and line gear in the Southeast Alaska demersal shelf rockfish fishery from the halibut PSC closure.

The AP recommends that the Council request NMFS to extend this emergency rule through the end of 1990. *The vote was unanimous.*

Revised Definition of Pelagic Trawl

The AP discussed the controversy over various definitions of "pelagic" trawl. The AP recommends that the Council extend and clarify the emergency rule as published. The AP believes the intent of the definition would have prohibited directed fishing for Pacific cod with bottom gear and subsequent catches of crab and halibut contrary to the caps. To clarify that intent, the AP recommends the Regional Director publish a news release explaining that collars on nets are not permissible under the definition. The AP's intent is that under no circumstance should this or any other gear modification be used to bypass the caps. *The motion passed 16 to 2.*

The AP recommends changes in the definition of "pelagic" or demersal trawl in Amendment 16/21:

"a trawl which has stretched mesh size openings of at least ~~64 inches~~ **1-meter**, or parallel lines with spaces of at least ~~64 inches~~ **one-meter**, starting at ~~any point on the fishing line, head rope, and breast line~~ and extending aft for a distance of at least 10 meshes and going around the entire circumference of the trawl, and which is tied to the fishing line with no less than ~~20 inches~~ **0.3-meter (12 inches)** between knots around the circumference of the net, and which does not have plastic discs, bobbins, rollers, or other chafe-protection gear attached to the foot rope."

D-3/4(f) Groundfish Amendments for 1991

The AP agreed with the PAAG's recommended priority amendments with one exception:

Delete #12 and 13. (*The motion passed 14-3*)

The AP believes proposal #39 is a high priority but understands it is already in preparation.

Minority report. We believe that proposal #22 should be a high priority for consideration. Some form of individual bycatch accounts offer promise as a means of achieving a long-term solution to the bycatch issue and should be developed and analyzed.

Signed by: Dave Fraser, Lyle Yeck, George Anderson, Ed Fuglvog, Paul Clampitt, and Nancy Munro.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

D-4(a) Amendment 16a

The AP received a report on the status of Amendment 16/21. NMFS informed the AP that the Secretary intended to disapprove the "penalty box" amendment given the agency's inability to fully implement the bycatch measure due to budget and observer problem limitations. NMFS recommended that the Council family accept the Secretarial decision and move immediately toward preparing a substitute amendment.

In order to implement at least a minimal penalty box program as suggested by NMFS, the AP recommends that the Council immediately establish an ad hoc committee to develop a substitute amendment (Amendment 16b). The AP recommends that the ad hoc committee include General Counsel, NMFS management, enforcement, and observer program representatives, industry representatives, and Council staff. The AP requests that the Council schedule an emergency meeting to adopt the ad hoc committee's program with the goal of having it in place as early as possible in 1991. The AP believes this is a critical issue that warrants immediate attention by the Council.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Specific questions which the AP believes the ad hoc committee needs to resolve include:

1. At what point is a boat measured against the established bycatch rate?
 - Start-up period
 - Amount of groundfish
 - Amount of halibut
2. In what terms are violations measured?
 - Tows
 - Days
 - Weeks
 - Accumulative or non-accumulative
3. What would constitute a violation?
 - X amount less than NMFS rate
 - NMFS rate
 - X amount over NMFS rate
 - Ratio of PSC to groundfish

4. Would the NMFS established rates vary by time and area?
5. How would the amount of fines be determined?
 - Amount of groundfish
 - Amount of halibut
 - Amount NMFS rate is exceeded
 - Number of violations

Amendment 16a consists of two generic sections: crab and halibut bycatch alternatives, and herring bycatch alternatives.

With reference to crab and halibut bycatch measures, the AP recommends that the Council approve for Secretarial review:

1. Provide the Regional Director the authority to temporarily close limited areas inseason due to high bycatch rates. (*The motion passed unanimously.*)
2. Permit the Regional Director to set a limit on the amount of pollock TAC that can be taken in other than mid-water pollock fisheries.

A majority of the AP supports this measure with the understanding that it is a pre-season specification which occurs as part of the annual TAC setting process. A majority of the AP also recommends that the Regional Director be provided with inseason authority to adjust this specification should it be mis-specified.

3. The maintenance of the current bycatch caps (e.g. 100% of Amendment 12 limits for all bycatch species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area). The AP makes their recommendation based on the assumption that a "penalty box" system will be in place as early as possible in 1991. (*The motion passed 13 to 4.*)

A majority of the AP believes that the current caps (100%) represent reasonable bycatch limits:

- The exploitable halibut biomass has been, and continues, to decline.
- Red king crab populations show large variations in annual biomass estimates yet overall they remain low.
- Increasing the cap at this time (with less than one year of observer data) leaves the industry with no motivation to reduce bycatch.

A minority of the AP supports increasing the PSC caps:

- Red king crab and bairdi populations have increased since the caps were originally set in 1988.
- Although the exploitable biomass of halibut has decreased since 1988 the key question should be the level of juvenile halibut. We don't know if they have increased or declined.
- The economic trade-off of constraining the trawl fleet cannot be ignored. The net benefit to the nation clearly increases with increased caps.

With reference to instituting herring bycatch measures, the AP recommends the Council adopt a PSC cap of 1% of the herring biomass. Attainment of the cap would trigger temporary closures of two

areas north of the Alaska Peninsula and a small winter savings area northwest of the Pribilof Islands (Area B). The areas are identified on Figure 4.11 of the Amendment 16a EA/RIR/IRFA document. This recommendation embodies the provisions of Run #9 in the amendment analysis.

The AP feels this cap and closed areas provide substantial protection to the herring resource while avoiding excessive constraints on the groundfish fishery. *(The motion passed 13 to 2.)*

D-4(c) Initial TACs and Apportionments

The AP recommends that the Council send out for public review preliminary 1991 TACs, DAPs, and JVPs as attached. These numbers reflect the 1990 TACs.

The AP flags the pollock TAC as a number with which they have particular concern and would seek public comment prior to the December meeting.

The AP recommends that the Council send out for public review a split between seasons:

Roe season: 25%
Non-Roe season: 75%

D-4(d) PSC Apportionments

The AP recommends that the Council send out for public review a preliminary apportionment of PSC caps for halibut, red king crab, C. bairdi Tanner crab, and herring:

	DAP Midwater Pollock	DAP Other	DAP Deepwater Turbot/ Sablefish	DAP Rocksole	DAP Flatfish	JVP Flatfish
Halibut	--	2,982	430	665	67	1,064
<u>C. bairdi</u> , Zone 1	--	289,182	0	544,412	54,280	89,390
<u>C. bairdi</u> , Zone 2	--	1,318,341	156,871	201,416	254,967	164,487
Red King Crab, Zone 1	--	5,832	3	146,810	20,480	21,862
Herring	542	75	0	0	32	129

The AP notes that these apportionments are those generated by the bycatch simulation model run #9, which corresponds to the bycatch management provision recommended for Amendment 16a.

The AP understands that the simulation model made an apportionment of the crab and halibut PSC caps to the mid-water pollock fishery. Since the mid-water pollock fishery is not to receive an

apportionment under Amendment 16, and is not impacted by closures triggered by attaining bycatch apportionments, the AP understands that the preliminary apportionments will be adjusted upward to account for this, so that the sum of apportionments among target fisheries will equal each PSC cap.

The AP recommends publishing no preliminary seasonal allocations of PSC apportionments and allowing public comment to guide the Council in deciding seasonal allocation of PSC apportionments for the final groundfish specifications.

The AP made no recommendations concerning the division of halibut PSC apportionments into primary (Zones 1 and 2H) and secondary (BSAI-wide) caps.

The motion passed unanimously.

**D-4(e) Regulatory Amendment to Prohibit Longlining Groundfish Pots
[also applies to agenda item D-3(d)]**

The AP recommends that a regulatory amendment be prepared that examines prohibiting the longlining of Pacific cod pots in both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. The AP understands that NMFS is currently preparing an analysis of several alternatives and requests that this amendment package be brought back to the Council for review prior to submission to the Secretary.

The AP discussed the appropriateness of restricting a new gear type when it shows promise as an effective method of harvesting Pacific cod with minimum bycatch. Members were concerned about the potential for gear conflict between longlined pots and traditional gear in the Gulf as well as in some areas of the Bering Sea. These issues, among others should be evaluated in the analysis.

The motion passed unanimously.

D-4(g) Donut Hole Policy

The AP heard a report on the Donut Hole Policy and recommends a revised version of Policy Option 1.

"The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's policy is to strictly prohibit all U.S. commercial fishing activity in the Central Bering Sea outside the U.S. EEZ with the exception of vessels sanctioned by the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries for conducting scientific and exploratory research, and for enforcement purposes. Such a prohibition supports the efforts of the Council and the United States in seeking a ban on unregulated foreign fisheries that may be adversely affecting pollock stocks within the U.S. EEZ. The Council intends to develop regulations governing the Central Bering Sea fishery and may revise its policy after this regulatory process is completed. The Council further suggests that U.S. nationals be prohibited by regulation from commercial fishing in this zone, and that the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Governments extend jurisdiction and management authority over this body of water."

The motion passed 9 to 5.

AP Statement on Priorities

With the decisions before the Council becoming increasingly difficult, contentious, and numerous, the AP believes strongly that the Council should set clear priorities for staff work and its own actions in the coming year. We feel, and are hearing, a growing frustration over the ability of our Council process to bite the bullet and make the hard choices.

Part of the problem appears to be an increasingly diffuse agenda where issues continue to appear and reappear without a sense of resolution. Part of the solution to that may be to set a clear agenda of what we want to accomplish.

Given the inevitable trade-offs of limited time and resources, the AP recommends that the Council rank the issues before it in the following order of priority:

1. The Amendment Package (as prioritized by the AP)

Bycatch is now controlling the management and prosecution of our fisheries. The development of a bycatch management regime including a vessel incentive program is the AP's number one priority.

Other vital issues in the amendment package are proposals for a donut hole policy and a fee recovery system for the observer program.

2-3. Inshore-Offshore

Allocation issues increasingly dominate the Council's agenda, and we anticipate that will become even more true over the next few years. Resolution of the inshore-offshore debate may provide a cornerstone policy with which to resolve those issues and provide a future for the industry with at least one variable removed.

Although the AP is not in agreement on the inshore-offshore issue, we do agree that resolution of it will be a long, drawn-out process which may very well end in arenas beyond the Council.

2-3. Limited Access Systems

The Council, in its August actions, appears to have put the development of IFQs and other alternative management systems on the back burner. Six AP members believe that consideration of limited access systems should be the Council's number one priority.

4. The Moratorium

To some AP members the moratorium is an important first step in planning for the future. To most, however, it is an idea whose usefulness has long passed. We recommend that the Council not include the moratorium in its set of priorities.

<p style="text-align: center;">ADVISORY PANEL PRIORITIES FOR STAFF WORK ON CURRENT FISHERY MANAGEMENT ISSUES</p>				
	Inshore- Offshore	Moratorium	Amendments/ Bycatch	Limited Access Systems
Horgan, Vic	2		1	X
Chitwood, Phil	X	2	1	3
Skordahl, Jay		2		1
Clampitt, Paul	X		2	1
Anderson, George	X		2	1
Fuglvog, Ed		X	2	1
Yeck, Lyle	3	X	1	2
Isleib, Pete	3		1	2
Sparck, Harold	2	X	1	3
Little, Dave	X	X	1	2
Kaldestad, Kevin	X	X	1	X
Woodruff, Dave	2	3	1	X
Maloney, Pete	1	3	2	
O'Hara, Dan	2	3	1	
Wurm, Robert	2	X	1	X
Fraser, Dave	X		2	1
Munro, Nancy	2	X	1	
Woodruff, John	2	3	1	
Cotten, Lamar	2	X	1	

X = Rejected

TABLE 2
GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH
Preliminary 1991 SSC recommended ABC, AP recommended TAC and apportionments (metric tons)

19-Sep-90

Species	Area	1990		SSC	Advisory Panel		
		TAC	Catch *	ABC	TAC	DAP	JVP
Pollock	W/C	52,500 **	45,057	63,750	63,750	63,750	0
	Shelikof		n/a	6,250	6,250	6,250	0
	E	3,400	277	3,400	3,400	3,400	0
	Total	55,900	45,334	73,400	73,400	73,400	0
Pacific Cod	W	29,500	29,528	29,500	19,831	19,831	0
	C	59,500	31,379	59,500	39,997	39,997	0
	E	1,000	309	1,000	672	672	0
	Total	90,000	61,216	90,000	60,500	60,500	0
Flatfish, Deep	W	3,650	278	16,300	3,650	3,650	0
	C	15,300	6,028	77,700	15,300	15,300	0
	E	3,050	497	14,400	3,050	3,050	0
	Total	22,000	6,803	108,400	22,000	22,000	0
Flatfish, Shallow	W	3,570	391	30,200	3,570	3,570	0
	C	6,180	2,893	52,200	6,180	6,180	0
	E	250	174	2,100	250	250	0
	Total	10,000	3,458	84,500	10,000	10,000	0
Arrowtooth	W	4,450	735	27,000	4,450	4,450	0
	C	23,170	12,715	141,000	23,170	23,170	0
	E	4,380	1,547	26,600	4,380	4,380	0
	Total	32,000	14,997	194,600	32,000	32,000	0
Sablefish	W	3,770	1,826	3,800	3,770	3,770	0
	C	11,700	12,016	11,800	11,700	11,700	0
	W. Yakutat	4,550	5,177	4,600	4,550	4,550	0
	E. Yak./S.E. Out.	5,980	5,666	6,000	5,980	5,980	0
	Total	26,000	24,685	26,200	26,000	26,000	0
Rockfish (Slope)	W	4,300	3,730	4,300	4,300	4,300	0
	C	7,700	9,505	7,700	7,700	7,700	0
	E	5,700	6,130	5,700	5,700	5,700	0
	Total	17,700	19,365	17,700	17,700	17,700	0
Rockfish (Pelagic Shelf)	W	1,400	132	1,400	1,400	1,400	0
	C	5,800	1,002	5,800	5,800	5,800	0
	E	1,000	524	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
	Total	8,200	1,658	8,200	8,200	8,200	0
Rockfish (Demersal Shelf)	S.E. Out.	470	256	unknown	470	470	0
Thornyhead	G W	3,800	1,517	3,800	3,800	3,800	0
Other Species	G W	14,179	4,916	30,340	14,179	14,179	0
GULF OF ALASKA TOTAL		280,249	184,205	637,140	268,249	268,249	0

* Catch through September 8, 1990.

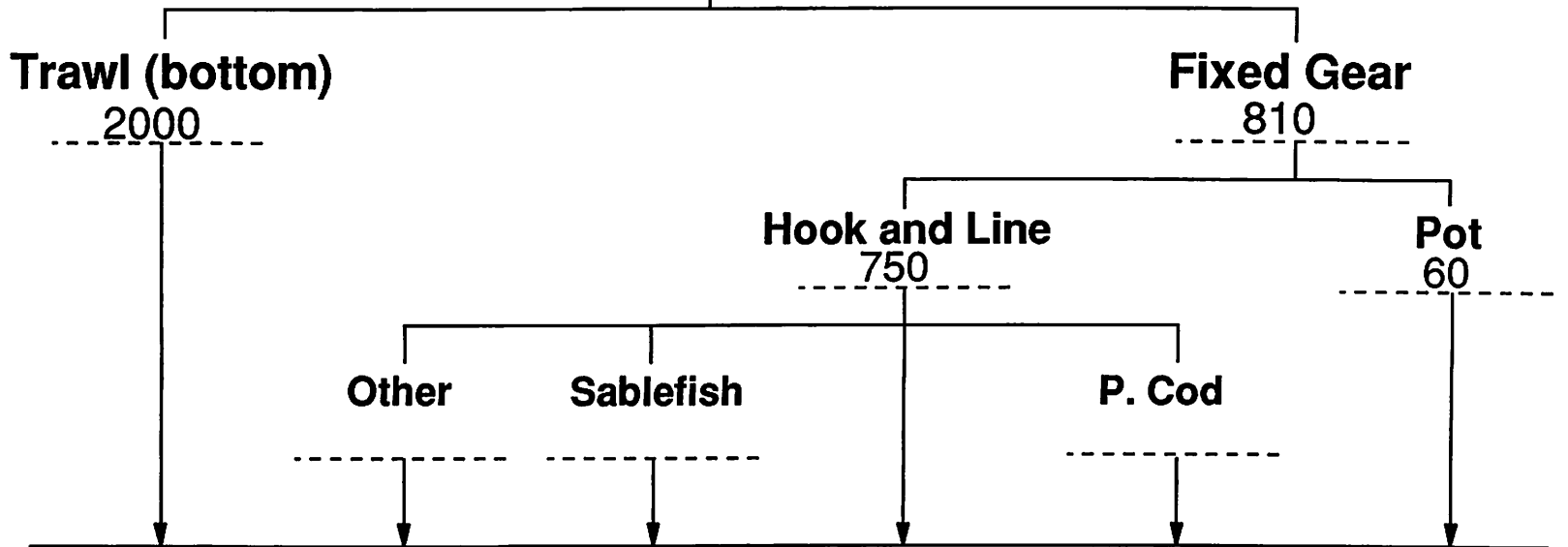
** Western/Central TAC and catch numbers include Shelikof. The 4th quarter allowance of 17,500 mt will be released October 1, 1990.

AP Recommendation

Gulf of Alaska Halibut Bycatch Worksheet

Total Mortality Limit

2810



	Trawl		Other		Sablefish		Hook & Line		P. Cod		Pot	
	mt	%	mt	%	mt	%	mt	%	mt	%	mt	%
1st Qrt.	600	30	-----	-----	-----	-----	150	20	-----	-----	30	50
2nd Qrt.	600	30	-----	-----	-----	-----	450	60	-----	-----	↓	↓
3rd Qrt.	800	40	-----	-----	-----	-----	150	20	-----	-----	30	50
4th Qrt.	↓	↓	-----	-----	-----	-----	↓	↓	-----	-----	↓	↓

TABLE 2
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH

Preliminary 1991 SSC recommended ABC, AP recommended TAC and apportionments (metric tons)

19-Sep-90

Species	Area	1990		Seasons	Area	SSC	Advisory Panel		
		TAC *	Catch **			ABC	TAC***	DAP	JVP****
Pollock	EBS	1,310,751	1,090,513	Roe (Jan 1 - Apr 15)	EBS	1,450,000	272,000	272,000	
	AI	85,000	7,430		AI	153,600	21,250	21,250	0
				Non-Roe (Jun 1 - Dec 31)	EBS		816,000	816,000	22,451
					AI		63,750	63,750	0
Pacific cod		199,975	147,356			417,000	192,950	192,950	7,025
Yellowfin sole		176,502	76,513			278,900	176,503	12,750	163,753
Greenland turbot		7,000	8,390			7,000	5,950	5,950	1
Arrowtooth flounder		8,533	7,944			106,500	8,500	8,500	33
Rock sole		67,359	31,679			216,300	51,000	51,000	16,359
Other flatfish		51,128	31,159			188,000	51,128	10,200	40,927
Sablefish	EBS	2,294	2,303			2,700	2,295	2,295	1
	AI	3,826	1,717			4,500	3,825	3,825	0
Pacific ocean perch	EBS	6,300	4,757			6,300	5,355	5,355	1
	AI	12,610	8,929			16,600	5,610	5,610	0
Other rockfish	EBS	500	349			500	425	425	1
	AI	935	543			1,100	935	935	0
Atka mackerel		21,000	23,011			24,000	17,850	17,850	0
Squid		425	432			10,000	425	425	0
Other species		8,584	20,852			55,500	4,250	4,250	1,834
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS TOTAL		1,962,722	1,463,877			2,938,500	1,700,001	1,495,320	204,681

* TAC reflects inseason adjustments.
** DAP catch data through September 8, 1990.

***Recommended TAC less 15% reserve
****Directed JVP fishing for YFS, OFF only;
other allocations from reserve as retainable bycatch

Minority report C-5

Halibut bycatch is now the constraining factor in almost all Ground Fish Fisheries. The retention of Halibut as bycatch in the longline fisheries needs to be looked at as a possible solution. The addition of 10 should be made a high priority in the Halibut regulatory proposals along with the retention of some percentage of Halibut in the P. cod and sablefish fisheries.

Paul Chappell

~~Paul Chappell~~
Paul Chappell

Nancy Muro

H. Hausen

Jim Goh

Kevin Valstad

We recognize that large changes in the existing observer programs may not be possible for 1991. We cannot, however, in good conscience vote for a motion which implicitly approves the status quo.

We believe that the industry and the agencies must plan now for a future which will be made possible by reauthorization of the Magnuson Act. Key to that future should be an observer program which will provide us with credible, ^{definitive} information with which to manage the fisheries of the North Pacific.

Characteristics of this observer program should include:

- pooled funding
- standardized training for observers
- a clear focus on data collection - not entertainment
- cooperative data collection and sharing between NMFS and ADF-G

- representative sampling of all elements of the fleet

- Fraser

Anderson

John Chittenden
Peter Maloney

D-3/4(F)

Minority Report on inclusion of proposal 22
as High Priority in Plan Amendment Package.
we feel that some form of individual
bypass accounts offer promise as a means
of achieving a long term solution to the
bypass issue and should be developed and
analyzed.

Laird Fraser
J. C. G.
W. Anderson
Ed. Ferguson
Paul Chappell
Nancy Menro

POLICY ON United States Fisheries in the Central
Bering Sea Outside the U.S. EEZ

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's policy is to strictly prohibit all U.S. commercial fishing activity in the Central Bering Sea outside the U.S. EEZ, except for vessel(s) permitted by the U.S.-USSR Intergovernmental Consultive Committee for scientific, exploratory, and enforcement purposes. Such a prohibition supports the efforts of the Council and the United States in seeking a ban on unregulated foreign fisheries that may be adversely affecting pollock stocks within the U.S. EEZ. The Council intends to develop regulations governing the Central Bering Sea fishery and may revise its policy after this regulatory process is completed. The Council further suggests that U.S. nationals be prohibited by regulation from ^{commercial} fishing in this zone, and that the U.S. and USSR Governments extend jurisdiction and management authority over this body of water.

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GEORGE E. ANDERSON

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