

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Date: 9.27.88

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES Anchorage, Alaska June 20-22, 1988

The Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in the Sheraton Hotel on June 20-22, 1988. The following members were present:

Nancy Munro, Chair	Pete Granger
Robert Alverson, Vice Chair	Pete Isleib
Arne Aadland	Richard Lauber
Terry Baker	Jon Rowley
Alvin Burch	Richard White
Lamar Cotten	John Woodruff
Mark Earnest	Fred Zharoff

The minutes of the April 11-12, 1988 Advisory Panel meeting were approved as read.

C-5 Domestic Observer Program

The AP recommends that the Council direct the Sea Grant observer program to focus on scientific objectives. The motion carried unanimously.

C-8 Future of Groundfish Committee

The AP recommends that the Council not approve a cut-off date. The motion carried 9 to 3.

The AP also recommends that the Council not pursue FOG's recommendations for further study, and that future limited access proposals be considered on a case-by-case basis when brought forward by industry. The motion carried 7 to 5.

C-9 Sablefish Management

The AP recommends that all five alternatives go out for public comment after further analysis. This vote does not mean the AP supports a limited access system.

Specific issues for further analysis include:

- (a) Under the IQ plan, examine the economic impacts when only 50% of the total IQ's go to vessel owners.
- (b) Specify in Alternative 5 that a fisherman chooses between the 75% directed fishery on halibut or sablefish or the 25% bycatch fishery.
- (c) Consider the market impacts of each alternative. The AP recommends that the staff solicit background information from retailers and wholesalers and apply as appropriate.

The motion carried 9 to 4.

C-10 Directed Fishing Definition

The AP recommends that the Council adopt the Bycatch Committee's "band-aid" recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

D-2 King and Tanner Crab FMP

The AP recommends that the Council send out the draft King and Tanner Crab FMP for public review. The motion carried unanimously.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish (Amendment 17)

1. Delay sablefish longline season opening.

The AP recommends that the Council delay action on the longline sablefish season opening date until the September meeting. The September action would focus on two alternatives to be implemented by plan amendment:

- (a) Maintain the status quo, a single season beginning on April 1.
- (b) A split season, with openings on April 1 and September 1, and with 50% of the directed sablefish TAC apportioned to each season.

As part of the AP's recommendation, we request that the framework procedure described in Alternative 5 be strengthened to answer NMFS' criticisms and that it be resubmitted under the 1989 amendment cycle. The framework analysis should explore alternative methods of implementing changes (i.e., regulatory amendments, etc.). The motion carried unanimously.

2. Federal permit requirements.

The AP recommends that the Council require all vessels receiving groundfish in the U.S. EEZ to have Federal permits. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Reports

The AP heard a report from Dave Harville of Kodiak Westward Trawlers about the joint venture for sole in the Gulf of Alaska. Dave explained that he had discontinued the venture due to high bycatches of halibut.

The AP commends Dave's decision to stop fishing and recommends that other ventures take the same action on a voluntary basis. The motion carried unanimously.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish (Amendment 12)

1. Bycatch management.

The AP recommends that the Council accept the Bycatch Committee's recommendation of Alternative 3(a), explicitly including the pollock bottom trawl fishery. The AP assumes the closed area of 160°-162° will remain closed. The motion recommending Alternative 3(a) passed 10 to 3 and the motion to include the pollock fishery passed unanimously.

Minority report. We appreciate the work of the Bycatch Committee and we agree with the idea of each fishery being accountable for bycatch. We think, however, that the elaborate matrix of 27 target fisheries creates an illusion of micro management based on, at best, minimal data. What is the sense of this administrative nightmare of preseason and inseason calculations to determine the bycatch of each fishery if you have such little data to put in the matrix cells? For this plan to work we need observers on DAP operations and the Committee and the Council should be explicit about that so people know what they are voting for. To vote for this without observers is to vote for a complex, expensive "house of cards" based on virtually nothing.

In addition, we believe the current plan presents several conservation problems:

- (a) There is no incentive to minimize bycatch.
- (b) It allows a large increase in bycatch of crab.
- (c) The halibut bycatch mortality cap is 1,200 mt higher than the past five-year average.

We would recommend that the Council address these concerns before the system is put in place. Signed by: John Woodruff, Nancy Munro, and Jon Rowley.

2. Federal permit requirements.

The AP recommends that the Council require all vessels receiving groundfish in the U.S. EEZ to have Federal permits. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Non-retainable groundfish catch limits outside the groundfish OY.

Based on the evaluations of the SSC, the AP recommends that the Council maintain the status quo since a non-retainable catch limit may be unnecessary. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Resource Assessment Document deadline.

The AP recommends that the Council remove the July 1 RAD deadline. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Joint venture targeting on roe-bearing rock sole.

The AP recommends that the Council:

- (a) Prohibit joint venture targeting on roe-bearing rock sole until April 1. This assumes the current definition of directed fishing (i.e., 20% retention).
- (b) Establish a separate TAC for rock sole.

The motion carried 6 to 5.

Minority report. While we support conservation of the roe-bearing rock sole resource and support a separate TAC if needed for conservation reasons, we feel the cut-off of joint venture roe-bearing rock sole fishing on purely economic grounds is neither justified by the public testimony and staff analysis, or can be used as the exclusive reason for eliminating one group of U.S. fishermen from a fishery. Signed by: Pete Granger, Al Burch, Nancy Munro, Arne Aadland, and Mark Earnest.

6. OY range.

The AP recommends that the Council allow the upper limit of the OY range to increase by a maximum of 5% per year up to 2.205 million metric tons. The motion carried 7 to 3.