

CERTIFIED:

  
Robert Alverson, Chairman

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES  
July 23, 1980

The Advisory Panel convened Wednesday, July 23, 1980, at the Kenai/Aleutian Room of the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel at 9:10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The following Panel members were present: Sharon Macklin, Weaver Ivanoff, Anthony Vaska, Sigfred Jaeger, Raymond Lewis, Joseph Kurtz, Alvin Birch, Richard Lauber, Bud Boddy and Chairman Robert Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on July 23, 1980, at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman Robert Alverson.

B. APPROVAL OF ADVISORY PANEL AGENDA

The agenda was approved by all Advisory Panel Members.

C. APPROVAL OF MAY AP MINUTES

The minutes from the May meeting were approved by all Advisory Panel members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jim Branson presented the Directors's Report, reviewed with the Advisory Panel the status of the Fishery Management Plans, and introduced Weaver Ivanoff, the new AP representative from Nome.

SPECIAL REPORTS

D.1 Fred Gaffney reviewed the domestic fisheries operations in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska and noted that catch of Opilio Tanner Crab is near 40 million pounds with 10 vessels still participating. He also reviewed Troll Salmon catches in South Eastern Alaska and Bristol Bay.

D.2 Phil Chitwood gave a presentation from the National Marine Fishery Service on foreign fishing off Alaska.

D.3 Ron Naab gave a brief report on enforcement and surveillance.

D.4 Fred Gaffney discussed the spring herring fishery in Bristol Bay. (See E3 for additional comments).

D.5 The report on Walrus/Surf Clam study was not available.

## OLD BUSINESS

E.1 The Advisory Panel discussed operations and policy for developing and maintaining management plans. The AP considers it important to be able to comment during Plan Development Team meetings whenever fishery regulations affect the cost of harvesting the resource. Whenever there is a deviation from ABC for economic, or social reasons it is important that the AP representative be present.

E.2 The Advisory Panel requests the Council to continue stressing the need for adequate observer coverage regarding both proposed House and Senate amendments to the FCMA.

E.3 Fred Gaffney gave a presentation on preliminary 1980 biomass estimates for herring in Bristol Bay. Estimated biomass is between 69,300 M.T. and 146,000 M.T. The pre-season estimate was 196,000 M.T. to 450,000 M.T. Final reports on biomass estimates will not be available until September. The new estimates indicate that no additional harvest should be made during 1980. Pending the final biomass and harvest guidelines, the Advisory Panel recommends that the Council not endorse the MARINE RESOURCES request for endorsement of a high seas herring fishery at this time.

## NEW BUSINESS

F.1 Review permit applications.

The Advisory Panel was concerned that the arrangement with West Germany to harvest bottomfish off Alaska included no definitive agreement on purchasing of bottomfish from U.S. processors or fishermen. The Advisory Panel requests that the German fishing vessel FRIEDERICH BUSSE have an observer on board during its first months of operation.

The Advisory Panel voted 5 to 4 to turn down 13 applications from the Soviet Union for JV support operations. Those in favor felt that U.S. policy regarding transactions with the Soviet Union during the military subjugation of Afghanistan needs to be unified in a total national commitment. Those opposing the applications felt a moral obligation to protest the continued joint-venture activity with the Soviets at a time when U.S. athletes and other businesses have not been allowed to conduct their affairs in or with the Soviet Union. They felt that the fishing industry should be granted the same privilege as the athletes and farmers.

The 4 voting in favor of the applications indicated that the U.S. industry was the benefactor with the Soviet J.V. and to deprive U.S. vessels markets was wrong. Similar comments were received by Ted Evans, representing MARINE RESOURCES.

F.2 The Advisory Panel endorses increasing the percentage fee to recover costs associated with U.S. management created by foreign fishing operations and further endorses 100% observer coverage on foreign vessels.

F.3 No new business.

FISHERY MANGEMENT PLANS

G.1 King Crab FMP

Advisory Panel would like added as an option to pot storage problems, the proposal to allow random pot storage east of 165 degrees in the Bering Sea.

The Advisory Panel heard comments from Fred Gaffney, Mike Stanley and Dr. Bevan regarding the King Crab FMP. The Advisory Panel unanimously favored submitting the King Crab FMP to public comment and recommended that hearings held to be held in Seattle, Nome, and Kodiak in late November and December or whatever is best for the Council Staff to organize. The Advisory Panel requests that the draft FMP be made available to the fleet prior to September 10, 1980, if possible because the King Crab season will begin on September 15, 1980.

G.2 The Advisory Panel recommends releasing the Bering Sea FMP amendments for public hearings.

G.3 Surf Clam FMP

The Advisory Panel feels that until the PSP studies have been completed by the State of Alaska and market conditions are more favorable, this plan should be set aside.

G.4 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The TAC on prohibited species, with or without an economic disincentive has been removed for further study by the PDT and therefore no action by the AP and Council are required at this time.

The AP unanimously approved the trawl closure around Kodiak Island to protect U.S. crab grounds. The coordinates of this closed area are those recommended by the PDT.

Rick Lauber and Don Rawlinson were nominated to serve on a Council committee to establish critieria that would justify joint-venture processing closures.

G.5 Salmon FMP

The Advisory Panel recommends that the option to limit the entry system of both hand and power trollers in the FCZ be considered in the Salmon FMP.

G.6 Tanner Crab FMP

There were no decisions required at this meeting regarding the Tanner Crab FMP, however the AP advised those members of the crab industry present, that economic data supporting the allocation or non-allocation of Opilio Tanner Crab to the Japanese will be required at the September Council meeting in Sikta!