

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Approved by _____
Date 12/10/92

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES SEPTEMBER 21-24, 1992 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

The Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met on September 21-24, 1992, at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel. Members in attendance were:

John Bruce
Alvin Burch
Gary Cadd
Phil Chitwood
Dan Falvey
Dave Fraser, Vice Chair
Spike Jones

Kevin Kaldestad
David Little
Pete Maloney
Dean Paddock
Penny Pagels
Perfenia Pletnikoff

John Roos
John Sevier
Harold Sparck
Beth Stewart
John Woodruff, Chair
Robert Wurm

Approval of minutes for the August 1992 meeting has been delayed.

C-1 OBSERVER PROGRAM

The AP heard a staff report on the Draft EA/RIR and **unanimously** recommends that the Council send it out for public comment with the inclusion of a longline pilot program in alternative 4.

The AP also received an update on the status of the Research Plan especially related to its phase in.

C-2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The AP **unanimously** recommends the Council schedule teleconferences on CDQ proposals in concert with the governor's time frame and review. The AP also thinks summaries of CDQs should be submitted to the Council so that it would have the opportunity to make recommendations to the Secretary.

C-4 MARINE MAMMALS

The AP heard extensive presentations and reports from NMFS Scientists and others on the status of Steller sea lions and harbor seals.

In terms of new measures for 1993 relative to sea lions, the AP recommends the Council adopt alternative 1 of the Draft EA/RIR for Amendments 20/25. Further, the AP recommends the Council direct the Plan Team to develop a more comprehensive way to dealing with seasons, TACs, etc., with regard to marine mammals along the maritime mammal corridor. In making these recommendations, some AP members

feel frustration in that we are asked to make recommendations such as this with very little time to review and digest the data and potential options.

(This motion passes 12-6)

Those voting in favor of this motion cite these reasons;

- the proposed closure around Ugamak Island isn't an area where pollock are caught,
- the area around Ugamak has actually seen a double digit increase in animals in the last year,
- and the key harvest in the 10-20 mile proposed closure is Pacific cod; this fish is harvested on the bottom where sea lion pups do not feed and the bycatch of pollock is large fish anyway. To push this cod harvest into another area would exacerbate bycatch, CPUE, ground preemption, etc., problems elsewhere, without providing any benefit to the area vacated.

MINORITY REPORT

C-4 Marine Mammals

We, the undersigned members of the AP, support the more protective measures that aim to reverse the declining trend of the "threatened" Steller sea lion. We recognize that rookery and haulout sites provide critical habitat for this marine mammal and that these areas should be protected with proactive measures.

In our view, alternative 2 of the proposed EA/RIR/IRFA should be approved. This recommendation is consistent with the protective measures that were instituted in January of 1992. However, we also believe that those areas in the central Aleutians also warrant more protective measures. The central Aleutians index area denotes further decline of Steller sea lions, yet there has not been an effort to further consider protective measures for this species habitat.

We recommend more habitat considerations that reflect increased fishery activity that may occur during the Atka mackerel fishery and that may in turn effect Steller sea lion populations in this area.

Signed: John Bruce

Dan Falvey
Dean Paddock
Penny Pagels

C-5 HABITAT

The AP **unanimously** recommends the Council support having EPA, the Coast Guard, and other appropriate agencies work closely with ADEC to develop minimum oil spill preparedness requirements and consider requiring fishing vessels over a certain size to obtain standby contracts for oil spill response.

In making this recommendation, the AP believes this is an area the Council doesn't belong in as the lead agency since it requires expertise well outside the business of fishing.

C-6 SABLEFISH AND HALIBUT IFQs

The AP received a staff report on the preliminary analysis of proposed amendments to the IFQ plan. The AP recommends the Council send out both the "Hegge" and "Sitka" block proposals and 1000 lbs. floor proposal for public review. (This motion passes 10-1)

The AP reviewed a request to initiate analysis of a proposal submitted by the Kodiak Borough for interim management of sablefish and halibut.

The AP endorses this request. (This motion passes 9-2)

D-3 (A,B) INITIAL GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS FOR 1993

The AP **unanimously** recommends the Council send the GOA SAFE document out for the public review period with appropriate editorial changes. The AP further recommends there be some discussion in the SAFE document of "other species" and that they be broken down by district.

The AP recommends the attached table of TACs go with the SAFE document for public comment. (This motion passed 16-3)

In adopting the TACs listed, the AP follows the Plan Team's recommendations in all species except:

Pollock The AP is aware of new information the Plan Team did not have when making their recommendation; we support the SSC recommendation.

Arrowtooth The AP realizes that halibut bycatch will significantly restrain this fishery and since "other species" amounts are 5% of total TACs, we think this lower TAC notices the industry more correctly on the amount of "other species" that might be available.

POP/Shortraker/Rougheye

Many of the AP think these rockfish quotas should have a buffer between ABC and TAC and that exploitation of these rockfish should be conservative. Many question the veracity of the survey number since these species don't survey well. There were problems with these species in 1992 and the AP wants to assure the ABCs are not exceeded in 1993. Further, we think that, unlike many shorter lived species, uncaught rockfish will be available in future fishing years and therefore urge conservative TACs.

Demersal Shelf Rockfish

The AP is concerned about the differences between Plan Team and SSC on the definition of overfishing. If the overfishing level is in fact 800 mt, the TAC should be well under that number.

The AP further recommends that for this public comment period, the halibut PSC releases for 1993 be the same as the accrual releases in 1992 both in amount and over time. The AP is aware that there is new information on bycatch mortality coming in November and the industry should be on notice of this.

(This motion passed unanimously)

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH
1993 Plan Team, SSC, and AP recommendations and apportionments (metric tons)

22-Sep-92

Species	Area	1992			Plan Team	SSC	Advisory Panel	
		ABC	TAC	Catch**	ABC - 1993	ABC - 1993	TAC	DAP
Pollock	W/C	96,000	84,000	65,528	64,000	111,000	111,000	
	Shefikof *	0	0	n/a	0	0	0	
	E	3,400	3,400	62	3,400	3,400	3,400	
	Total	99,400	87,400	65,590	67,400	114,400	114,400	
Pacific Cod	W	23,500	23,500	34,007	18,700	18,700	18,700	
	C	39,000	39,000	34,753	35,200	35,200	35,200	
	E	1,000	1,000	418	2,800	2,800	2,800	
	Total	63,500	63,500	69,178	56,700	56,700	56,700	
Flatfish, Deep	W	1,740	1,740	120	2,020	2,020	2,020	
	C	33,550	15,000	7,022	35,580	35,580	35,580	
	E	3,990	3,000	66	7,930	7,930	7,930	
	Total	39,280	19,740	7,208	45,530	45,530	45,530	
Flathead sole	W	12,580	2,000	295	12,580	12,580	12,580	
	C	31,990	5,000	1,308	31,830	31,830	31,830	
	E	3,710	3,000	0	5,040	5,040	5,040	
	Total	48,280	10,000	1,603	49,450	49,450	49,450	
Flatfish, Shallow	W	27,480	3,000	1,630	27,480	27,480	27,480	
	C	21,260	7,000	3,068	21,260	21,260	21,260	
	E	1,740	1,740	1	1,740	1,740	1,740	
	Total	50,480	11,740	4,699	50,480	50,480	50,480	
Arrowtooth	W	38,880	5,000	940	38,880	38,880	5,000	
	C	253,320	15,000	10,429	253,330	253,330	15,000	
	E	11,680	5,000	911	29,080	29,080	5,000	
	Total	303,880	25,000	12,280	321,290	321,290	25,000	
Sablefish	W	2,500	2,500	1,884	2,500	2,500	2,500	
	C	9,570	9,570	8,674	9,570	9,570	9,570	
	W. Yakutat	3,740	3,740	4,072	3,740	3,740	3,740	
	E. Yak/S.E. Out.	4,990	4,990	4,578	4,990	4,990	4,990	
	Total	20,800	20,800	19,208	20,800	20,800	20,800	
Pacific Ocean Perch	W	1,620	1,470	1,248	800	1,620	720	
	C	1,720	1,561	2,325	1,230	1,720	1,107	
	E	2,390	2,169	2,255	2,690	2,390	2,421	
	Total	5,730	5,200	5,828	4,720	5,730	4,248	
Shortraker/Rougheye	W	100	100	88	100	100	90	
	C	1,290	1,290	1,260	1,290	1,290	1,161	
	E	570	570	640	570	570	513	
	Total	1,960	1,960	1,988	1,960	1,960	1,764	
Other Slope	W	1,390	1,390	1,166	1,390	1,390	1,390	
	C	6,510	6,510	3,539	6,510	6,510	6,510	
	E	6,160	6,160	487	6,160	6,160	6,160	
	Total	14,060	14,060	5,192	14,060	14,060	14,060	
Rockfish (Pelagic Shelf)	W	1,212	1,212	73	1,210	1,210	1,210	
	C	4,393	4,393	1,604	4,400	4,400	4,400	
	E	1,281	1,281	617	1,280	1,280	1,280	
	Total	6,886	6,886	2,294	6,890	6,890	6,890	
Rockfish (Demersal Shelf)	S.E. Out.	550	550	459	800	800	720	
Thomyhead	G W	1,798	1,798	1,527	1,500	1,834	1,500	
Other Species	G W	0	20,432	15,742	0	0	19,577	
GULF OF ALASKA TOTAL		656,604	289,066	212,796	641,580	689,924	411,119	

* Eliminated beginning in 1992

** Catch through August 23, 1992

The AP recommends that NMFS initially designate GOA Pacific ocean perch and shortraker/rougheye as bycatch species. Should NMFS subsequently determine the TAC of these species in any area is sufficient to provide for bycatch needs in all fisheries plus a directed fishery, the designation in the appropriate area should be changed to directed fishing. The AP recommends that any directed fishery for these species be held to an amount that when added to bycatch does not exceed the TAC. To the extent possible, directed fishing for these species should occur during the third quarter when halibut bycatch would be at a minimum.

As a further comment to the Council, the AP sees black rockfish as a specie that is at risk of over exploitation. The AP heard of developing fisheries/markets for this specie and thinks the Council should direct NMFS to look at separating it from the rest of the pelagic shelf species.

D-3 (C,D,E) INITIAL GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS FOR 1993

The AP heard staff and NMFS reports on the BSAI SAFE document. The AP unanimously recommends the BSAI SAFE document go out for public review. It further recommends that the document be amended to include 1992 salmon bycatch rates broken down by specie as much as the data allows.

The AP unanimously recommends the attached table of TACs for the public comment period with the following caveats:

1. Rockfish and Atka mackerel harvests should be split in terms of geographical area.
2. The split line for Atka mackerel should be 178° W.
3. If there is no geographical division of catches, the TAC for Atka mackerel should be 32,000 mt.

Pollock Seasons

The AP recommends the Council for purposes of public comment apportion 30% of the ITAC to the pollock "A" season.

(This motion passed 11-7)

Those voting in favor of this motion cite that:

1. this may allow for some sea lion protection,
2. this proposed apportionment will generate plenty of public comment,
3. and salmon bycatch in the "A" season is higher than in the "B" season.

PSC Apportionments

The AP unanimously recommends the Council adopt the attached table of PSC apportionments for the public comment period. It notes that:

1. halibut bycatch mortality numbers may be changed in November 1992 and that we will go to a mortality based count if Amendment 21 is approved,
2. and the herring number is based on 1% of the EBS herring biomass estimate and, therefore, will very likely change in 1993.

VIP Rates

The AP recommends these rates be developed at the December meeting, similar to last year and that after this meeting the Regional Director use his authority to adjust these rates prior to the start of the 1993 trawl season.

(This motion passed 14-1)

Additional Recommendations

The AP suggests the Council request that NMFS expand its dedication of manpower and funding to increase its investigation of interspecific relationships between marine species and environmental conditions that influence productivity and recruitment in the Bering Sea fisheries.

The AP further recommends that the fisheries science section of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center undergo independent peer review of its field science modeling program as does the marine mammal lab.

The AP is very concerned that the apparent health of individual fish species may not reflect the health of the Bering Sea ecosystem as a whole, noting increased problems with populations of marine mammals and piscivorous seabirds for unknown reasons.

The AP requests the Council set up a meeting in November in Anchorage to have ADF&G, NMFS, and any other appropriate agencies conduct a public workshop on salmon bycatch data for the BSAI area, and whether a regulatory or plan amendment will be pursued in 1993 to limit salmon bycatch.

Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

1993 Plan Team, SSC, AP and Council Recommendations and Approtionments (mt)

Species	Area / Seasons	Council	Plan Team	SSC	Advisory Pannel		Council	
		ABC 1992	ABC 1993	ABC 1993	TAC 1993	ITAC 1993	TAC 1993	ITAC 1993
Pollock	EBS	1,490,000	1,690,000	1,690,000	1,300,000	1,105,000		
	Roe (1/20-4/15)				30%	331,500		
	Non-Roe (6/1-12/31)				70%	773,500		
	AL	51,600	67,000	67,000	51,600	43,860		
	518	25,000	142,000	33,000	1,000	850		
Pacific Cod		182,000	178,000	178,000	178,000	151,300		
Yellowfin sole		372,000	372,000	372,000	200,000	170,000		
Greenland turbot		7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	5,950		
Arrowtooth flounder		82,300	68,000	68,000	10,000	8,500		
Rock sole		260,800	311,000	311,000	75,000	63,750		
Other flatfish		199,600	226,000	226,000	79,000	67,150		
Sablefish	EBS	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,190		
	AL	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,550		
POP complex								
True POP	EBS	3,540	2,100	3,540	2,100	1,785		
Other POP Complex	EBS	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,190		
True POP	AL	11,700	14,800	11,700	11,700	9,945		
Sharp/Northern	AL	5,670	5,670	5,670	5,670	4,820		
Short/Rougheye	AL	1,220	1,220	1,220	1,220	1,037		
Other rockfish	EBS	400	400	400	400	340		
	AL	925	925	925	925	786		
Atka mackerel	BS/AI	43,000	351,000	32,100	32,000	27,200		
Notes: 1) If there is a plan amendment to separate the AI into E.AI and W.AI then SSC recommends the ABC=117,100 with 70% (85,000) in the W..AI. 2) If the AI is split then the AP recommends the total TAC=43,000.								
Squid		3,600	3,400	3,400	2,000	1,700		
Other Species		27,200	26,600	26,600	20,000	17,000		
BS/AI TOTAL		2,773,355	3,472,915	3,043,355	1,983,415	1,685,903		

AP recommended 1993 Preliminary PSC Bycatch Allowances for the BSAI Trawl Fisheries

Fishery Group	Halibut, Primary	Halibut, Secondary	Herring	Red King Crab	C. bairdi	C. bairdi
	(mt)	(mt)	(mt)	Zone1	Zone1	Zone2
Yellowfin sole May 1 - Aug. 2 Aug. 3 - Dec. 31	743	849 424 425	391	75,000	100,000	1,225,000
Rocksole/other flatfish Jan. 1 - Mar. 29 Mar. 30 - June 28 June 29 - Sept. 27 Sept. 28 - Dec. 31	660	755 566 95 94 remainder	0	85,000	700,000	300,000
Turbot/arrowtooth/sablefish Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	0	0 0	0	0	0	0
Rockfish Jan. 1 - Mar. 29 Mar. 30 - June 28 June 29 - Sept. 27 Sept. 28 - Dec. 31	175	200 20 60 120 remainder	10	0	0	50,000
Pacific cod Jan. 1 - June 28 June 29 - Sept 27 Sept. 28 - Dec. 31	1,343	1,537 1,301 236 remainder	29	10,000	75,000	712,500
Pollock/mackerel/"o. species" Jan. 1 - April 15 April 16 - May 31 June 1 - Dec. 31	1,479	1,692 1,221 0 471	210	30,000	125,000	712,500
7 MW Pollock (Herring)	n/a	n/a	1,668	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	4,400	5,033	2,308	200,000	1,000,000	3,000,000

Sept. 24, 1992

D-4 GROUND FISH PLAN AMENDMENTS - FINAL REVIEW

The AP heard a staff report, received Rockfish Committee minutes and took public testimony on this agenda item. After much discussion and debate, the AP recommends the Council adopt the suggested compromise action as follows:

1. ABCs AND TAC. Continued conservative management of Southeast rockfish stocks and fishing quotas. For the next 5 years annual TACs should be set at 10% below the ABC for all Southeast rockfish species.
2. Recommendations for current Eastern Gulf of Alaska rockfish quota management:
 - a) Shortraker/rougheye will be designated bycatch only in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska for 1993.
 - b) POP and other slope rockfish will be managed as a target fishery in the Eastern Gulf. Other slope rockfish in the Eastern Gulf will close when/if bycatch of Demersal shelf rockfish reaches 25 metric tons.
 - c) 1% bycatch retention limit for Demersal Shelf Rockfish will continue to apply for trawl gear.
3. Improved Survey Techniques. Design and implementation of improved rockfish survey techniques to limit the apparent overestimation and underestimation which present surveys produce. Rockfish fishing is a specialized activity and industry input into rockfish survey systems should be considered.
4. Effort Limitation Program/Initial Industry Development. Implementation of an industry committee incorporating staff support to design and recommend within one year, an effort limitation program for all rockfish gear groups currently harvesting rockfish in Southeast Alaska. The Council is encouraged to designate and announce a December, 1992 date for cut-off for all gear groups of new entrants into Southeast Alaska rockfish fisheries.
5. Habitat Definition. Request NMFS to implement a program which will accomplish the following by 19__:
 - a) Conduct a comprehensive survey to record all coral habitat in the Gulf of Alaska. (Availability of new was noted).
 - b) Task a scientific team to identify and designate coral and other benthic habitat critical for continuing recruitment of rockfish stocks and maintenance of a generally healthy ecosystem within Southeast Alaska. This team should define isolated areas suitable for future fishing gear impact studies for all gear types harvesting rockfish.
6. Improve Rockfish Fishery and Coral Impact Data. Expand the current rockfish fishery data collection system to provide accurate and timely data of all rockfish harvest, bycatch, and discard activity. The expanded data system should cover all gear groups harvesting rockfish in the Southeast. Vessel participation in expanded at-sea observer coverage data collection, check-in/check-out procedures, and logbooks requirements specifically designed to record coral removals should be required as a precondition to rockfish fishing within Southeast Alaska.

7. Establish a Rockfish Gear Conflict Committee. A gear conflict committee should be constituted by two representatives from all gear groups harvesting rockfish in Southeast Alaska. The purpose of a Rockfish Industry Gear Conflict Committee is implementation of an efficient communication and cooperation system on the fishing grounds between gear groups. The system should be capable of receiving and arbitrating complaints of gear conflicts. The Committee objective is to minimize actual gear conflicts between gear groups and keep gear dispute resolution within the industry.

Those voting in favor of this motion cite the follow rationale:

1. The gear conflict issue is moot due mostly to the July 1st rockfish opening for trawlers.
2. The main species the trawl fleet is targeting, Pacific ocean perch, is not taken by the longline fleet.
3. Closing East of 140° would simply put all of the East Gulf effort into the 140-147° area and exacerbate the problems there. It would lead to higher bycatches, lower CPUEs and potentially more damage to the habitat (if you think it occurs).
4. Marine mammals do not feed on POP and other rockfish.
5. All fishermen (all gear types) avoid coral; it destroys gear.
6. The current trawl fleet working East of 140° is 100% observed.

The AP further endorses and encourages the continuation of the Rockfish Scientific Committee to explore many of the items above and especially stock assessment and habitat.

(This motion passed 9-4).

MINORITY REPORT

D-4 Groundfish Plan Amendments

We, the undersigned members of the AP, do not support the AP recommendation on Amendment 26 to the FMP for the Gulf of Alaska.

This recommendation does not, in any effective way, address the present concerns about habitat degradation and depleted rockfish stocks in the area of the Eastern Gulf.

We propose putting all slope rockfish species on "bycatch only" status to all gear groups to promote stock rebuilding, and closing the Southeast outside area to trawling to protect habitat.

The information in the supplemental information supports the need for these measures. From the New Zealand study on trawl impacts: "The heavier the gear in contact with the seabed, the greater the damage. The effects vary depending on amount of gear in contact with the bottom, together with the depth and nature of seabed." The study also notes that, "where macrobenthos is substantially removed and if recovery is not permitted, the change is permanent."

From the Van Dolan study in Amendment I to the snapper grouper plan: "A live bottom area may be trawled through over and over, and habitat damage would be expected to be much greater than described in the study."

Additionally, because rockfish species are associated with coral habitat, destruction to coral may have an adverse effect on these species' recovery. Coral exhibit extremely slow growth rates of approximately 1 cm/yr.

Although there is some evidence that longline gear can also impact habitat, the magnitude of these impacts is not comparable to bottom trawl gear.

Protective management measures are required to aid in the recovery of Pacific ocean perch. This population has not yet rebounded from the effects of overfishing. Because approximately 12% of the POP population is older than 15 years of age, we recommend rebuilding strategies that address both habitat protection and limited directed fisheries on this largely juvenile population.

We are also concerned about adequate data collection on the impacts of habitat destruction and information that includes the status of these rockfish stocks. We strongly endorse further study, but further study alone does not address all of our concerns.

Signed: Penny Pagels
Dan Falvey
Robert Wurm

D-5 (A)**PRIBILOF ISLAND TRAWL CLOSURE**

The AP recommends the Draft EA/RIR be sent out for public comment once the following information is added to it:

1. Expansion of the red-legged kittiwake habitat issues.
2. Some development of where the displaced fleet might go (especially with regards to the pollock fillet fleet).
3. Groundfish catch from the last few years from the proposed closed areas (including average length frequency data on rock sole and pollock).
4. Crab distribution in the proposed closed areas and assurance that the king crab bycatch rates in the document are blue crab only.
(This motion passed 17-2).

The AP believes there are currently some serious deficiencies that should and can be corrected prior to public review. It also believes this Amendment should stay on track.

D-5 (B)**POLLOCK "B" SEASON DELAY/EXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION AREAS**

The AP unanimously recommends the Council send the Draft EA/RIR for the Pollock "B" Season and Exclusive Registration out for public comment after these pieces of the document have been amplified:

1. The document should focus some on the impacts on fishermen in fisheries the delayed pollock fishermen might go into (i.e., yellowfin sole: What are the impacts on these guys?).
2. The "estimated net benefits of exclusive registration" table needs more explanation so it can be more easily understood.
3. Recovery rates/yields should be supplemented with any available observer data, especially as it relates to when rates increase.
4. Herring bycatch should be developed considering enactment of a CVOA.
5. The impact on the existing salmon industry and new entrants into processing should be more clearly defined (realizing that in indepth examination of this is not possible).

D-5 (C)**PREFERENTIAL ALLOCATION OF PACIFIC COD**

The AP recommends the Council wait to send this document out for public comment until the expected changes in the document occur and can be massaged into the draft.

In making this recommendation, the AP realizes this delay sets back any allocation plan. However, this plan would not be in effect until mid-1993 in any case.

D-6 (A)**FIXED GEAR HALIBUT PSC IN BSAI FOR 1993**

The AP recommends the Council adopt 900 mt as the fixed gear halibut PSC cap for BSAI fisheries. (This motion passed 11-2). The AP further recommends that pot gear be exempted from this cap and that the Council encourage IPHC and NMFS to pursue implementation of any careful release techniques that reduce bycatch mortality.

As part of this motion, the AP realizes that a three-month summer closure of Pacific cod longline fishing could significantly reduce the total halibut bycatch mortality.

The AP recommends a seasonal percent split of longline halibut PSC as follows:

Jan. 1 - May 14	65%
May 15 - Aug. 31	10%
Sept. 1 - END	25%

D-6 (B) PERFORMANCE-BASED PELAGIC TRAWL DEFINITION

The AP recommends the Council adopt alternative 3, option #2, with a performance standard of 1 crab per haul.

The AP also recommends the Council request NMFS to bring enforcement standards back to the Council in December, working with industry and scientists to determine enforcement guidelines to ensure that regurgitated crab are not counted as a violation and determine how many crabs would trigger and enforcement action.

(This motion passed 15-1).

D-6 (C) HOOK AND LINE LONGLINE FAIR START

The AP unanimously recommends the Council adopt the 72 hour fair start provision.

D-6 (D) GANGION-CUTTING PROVISIONS

The AP unanimously recommends the Council to proceed post haste with mandatory requirements for careful release of halibut.

D-7 (A) PSC ALLOWANCES FOR INSHORE-OFFSHORE & CDQ POLLOCK FISHERIES

The AP unanimously recommends the Council send the EA/RIR out for public comment when the document is complete. Further, the AP recommends king salmon and other salmon bycatch data be updated for 1992, with a breakout of other salmon by species.

D-7 (B) LEGAL GEAR DEFINITION

The AP unanimously recommends that NMFS proceed with this regulatory amendment.

D-7 (C) TOTAL CATCH MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE

The AP received a report on the status of development of regulations requiring weighing of groundfish at sea, and adopted the following motion:

The AP is dissatisfied with the progress of NMFS in implementing regulations to require the weighing of groundfish. Whereas volumetric estimates are a step in the right direction, this is no different than what is already implemented when NMFS observers make catch estimates. The regulation to require marking bin heights to make volumetric estimates does not fulfill the regulation to require actual weighing of groundfish. Accuracy is more important than cost and NMFS should not consider cost in developing such regulation, as industry should accept it as a cost of doing business.

(This motion passed 7-0 with 3 abstentions).

Those in favor of the motion believe this is critical to sound fisheries management. Those abstaining agree that it is important to implement regulations to get accurate determination of groundfish weights but felt that volumetrics were a valid method for making such determinations, and that cost should be weighed against the degree of precision desired.

D-7 (E) GOA 2ND QUARTER POLLOCK OPENING

The AP adopted a motion to move forward with analysis of delaying the 2nd quarter pollock opening until June 1, and to do it by whatever method is necessary to get it in place for 1993.
(This motion passed 9-2).

D-8 (B) BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

The AP requests that future presentations of salmon bycatch data include a breakdown of the "other salmon" category by individual species. This request was endorsed with no objection.

D-8 (B)(3)

The AP reviewed a request by AGDB concerning the overage policy on retainable bycatch trip limits. While the AP was not prepared to endorse this particular proposed solution it felt that this problem should be addressed, perhaps by a policy of mandatory forfeiture of such overages, and requests that the Council encourage NMFS to review this problem.

D-8 (E)

The AP **unanimously** endorsed the petition by the city of St. Paul to authorize independent research on the EBS pollock stocks.

D-8 (F) PERMIT REQUEST FOR EXPERIMENTAL FISHING

The AP recommends the Council review and endorse the Terra Marine proposal with the inclusion of:

1. Scientific data on salmon bycatch by accumulated (salmon origin, condition, etc.).
2. Halibut may be kept for processing only if classified as dead by the observer.
3. A comparable amount of normally discarded fish should be retained and processed.

(This motion passed 8-4).

D-9 STAFF TASKING

The AP **unanimously** recommends that the Council proceed with the analysis of seasonal allocations of Pacific cod in the BSAI.

The AP received a report on the status of the pollock roe retention regulation, and adopted the following motion:

The AP recommends that NMFS use 6% for pollock roe retention as measured against round weight equivalents of pollock.

(This motion passed 7-2 with 1 abstention).

Those in favor of this motion noted that during peak weeks of the roe season even shoreside roe recovery rates exceeded the 5% being proposed by NMFS. Those opposed to the motion felt 6% would allow "roe stripping" during periods of lesser recovery.

The AP requests the Council to review its policy on the plan amendment cycle, noting that several proposals to initiate plan amendments were presented even though no request for submission of proposals had been made. Many people in industry and the public at large refrained from submitting proposal which may have had equal or greater validity than those which were before us, based on their understanding that new proposals were not being accepted this cycle. The AP would prefer that the plan team and PAAG review and prioritize new proposal for plan amendments. The current apparent lack of a clear policy invites a situation in which the Council will be flooded with plan amendment proposals at every meeting.