

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES Anchorage, Alaska March 22, 1982

The Advisory Panel met on Monday, March 22, 1982, in the Alaska Room of the Anchorage Westward Hilton from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The following members were present: Greg Baker, Bud Boddy, Al Burch, Larry Cotter, Dick Goldsmith, Eric Jordan, Ray Lewis, Kristy Long, James O'Connell, Ken Olsen, Don Rawlinson, Jeff Stephan, Tony Vaska, Ed Wojeck, and Chairman Robert Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson. The agenda was approved by all AP members. Minutes of the January 4, 1982 Advisory Panel meeting were approved as read.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. The Executive Director's Report was presented by Jim Branson. He briefly reviewed the Policy and Planning Workgroup meeting, the King Crab Walk-through, and the Spanish request for an allocation off Alaska.

The Advisory Panel would like the Council to express its appreciation to Jim Richardson for his help and participation on the Council staff.

The AP also recommends to the Council that they take similar action on the Spanish request for a directed allocation off Alaska as the Council took on the Norway request for allocations in January. The AP recommends that Spain not be granted a direct allocation.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G. No report was presented.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS. Ron Naab and Ron Berg presented material on foreign fisheries activities.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Coast Guard report was presented by Doug Smith from the Coast Guard.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations. There were no reports presented under this agenda item.

The AP took up the Joint Venture Council Policy issue under this agenda item recommending that due to the time restraints this issue be taken up at the May meeting.

B-6 Report on Observer Program. This report was not available.

B-7 Pacific Cod Status Report by NWAFC. This report was not available.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Policy for Appointment of SSC Alternates. No AP action taken.

C-2 Advisory Panel Appointments. No AP action taken.

C-3 Election of New Advisory Panel and SSC Officers. The AP reappointed Bud Boddy as Vice Chairman and Robert Alverson as AP Chairman.

C-4 Halibut Limited Entry and Moratorium for 1982. The AP approved the RFP with the amendment to include under Section 2.2, "Proposals to be Evaluated," #3 to read forms of limited entry other than 1 and 2 above.

The AP also recommended approval of the draft NOAA moratorium for halibut on a vote of 6 to 4 with 3 abstentions.

C-5 Review of Permit Applications. The AP voted against approval of the three joint ventures or to conditionally approve the KUNA MARU application for joint venture participation.

The principal reason for no support was due to the idea of foreign companies orchestrating joint ventures with vessels owned by domestic U.S. corporations which are in turn controlled by the same foreign company solely for the purpose of obtaining political concessions for more TALFF.

C-6 Remaining 1982 Allocation Releases. The AP requests that this be done at the May meeting.

C-7 Other Business. No new business was requested under this agenda item.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP. After a presentation by members of the PMT and Jim Glock on salmon FMP issues the AP took the following action.

(a) OY - The AP recommends on a vote of 10 to 4 its January decision for a harvest between 243,000 to 272,000 chinooks targeting on the upper limit.

(b) Line Limits - The AP reconfirms its position that line limits should not be imposed.

- (c) Treble Hooks - The AP was split on a vote of 6 to 6 on whether or not to repeal the ban on treble hooks.
- (d) Retention of Tagged Undersized Salmon - The AP recommends that tagged undersized salmon be allowed to be retained as amended by the Board of Fisheries at the January meeting.
- (e) Seasons - The AP reconfirmed its January recommendation for a chinook season from May 15 - September 20 and a coho season from June 15 to September 20.

D-2 Herring FMP. As this was only a status report, no action was taken.

D-3 King Crab FMP. The AP went through Agenda Item D-3(b) and made the following recommendations to the Board of Fisheries.

Board Proposals 59, 65, 66 and 70 - season openings in the Dutch Harbor, Bristol Bay, and Pribilof areas. The AP recommended the status quo for opening dates or no later than an October 1 opening if data from the processors were presented supporting the conclusion that a later opening would add weight to the existing crabs. If opening dates are changed they should be changed by the same number of days in each of these areas.

Board Proposal 61 - elimination of water storage of pots in the Dutch Harbor area. The AP recommends that the Board of Fisheries get the different user groups together to work out a compromise solution.

Board Proposal 62 - season change in Adak. The AP voted 2 to 9 against a motion to have a season change from February 15 to May 31.

The argument in favor of the motion would allow vessels to fish Tanner crab and king crab and lower their cost of operations.

Those opposed felt that the resource in this area was in a fragile condition and due to the molting of the crab at this time of the year it would not be advisable to change the season date.

Board Proposal 67 - guideline harvest in the Bristol Bay area. The AP passed a motion to table action that would require the Board to reevaluate the harvest range to conform with the framework plan. It was tabled 7 to 2.

Board Proposal 68 - change pot storage in Bristol Bay. The AP recommends option 1 of proposal 68 unanimously.

Board Proposal 71 - season change in Northern district of Bering Sea. On a motion to change the opening date from July 15 to May 1, the AP recommended against this on a vote of 9 to 1 with 1 abstention.

The argument in favor of this was to allow an earlier fishery to take both red and blue crabs at the same time.

The opposing view was that this date would be too close to the molting time period.

Board Proposal 72 and 73 - closure of Norton Sound. The AP tabled action on a motion to oppose closure of commercial fishing in the Norton Sound regions.

Board Proposal 87 - prohibit water storage of pots near Pribilofs. The AP unanimously recommends the following year-round storage in the Pribilof area [see Figure 1, Agenda Item D-4(b)]. It is a compromise worked out by the Pribilof halibut interest, the Seattle halibut interest, North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association, and Japanese and joint venture interest. It would close pot storage around the Pribilofs from May 1 to September 30 and provide year-round storage in the above area.

Board Proposal 99 - statewide gear storage on land only. This was unanimously disapproved by the AP.

Board Proposal 100. The AP endorses Board Proposal 100.

The AP used Agenda Item D-3(b) which is enclosed.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP.

Board Proposal 18 - prohibit the use of side-loading pots. The AP passed a motion to allow side-loading pots in the Yakutat area with one opposed and one abstained.

Board Proposal 82 and 87. The AP unanimously supports the area inside the existing pot sanctuary area and also the proposed area in the Pribilofs [see Figure 1, Agenda Item D-4(b)] with no storage inside 25 fathoms after May 1 to September 30.

Board Proposal 85 - opilio size limit. The AP requests additional scientific information.

Board Proposal 81 - close Tanner fishing in Norton Sound. The AP requests additional information.

The AP used Agenda Items D-4(a) and (b) which is enclosed.

D-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. The AP heard extensive reports from Jeff Povolny, Dr. Dayton Alverson and Dr. Crutchfield from Natural Resources Consultants, and Paul McGregor from the North Pacific Japanese Longline Association and Steve Johnson from the Japanese Trawlers Association.

The AP took the following actions concerning Amendment #11.

- (a) The AP endorsed the PMT management objective to "Manage the Sablefish Resource to Provide for the Development of the Domestic Sablefish Fishery Gulf-wide."
- (b) OY - The AP endorsed a 6,100 mt OY to be distributed as suggested on page 15 of the PMT report. This passed 11 to 4.

Rationale.

- (1) Harvest levels have been substantially below OY and EY levels without any substantial evidence of rebuilding since 1976.
 - (2) Reduced size of female spawning population.
 - (3) INPFC data show drastic reductions in CPUE and abundance in the Shumagin, Kodiak and Yakutat areas since 1974 with no apparent turn-around in the resource.
 - (4) Since 1977 the Council has been reducing EY levels from 22,000 mt to 17,000 mt and 19,000 mt to now a proposed 10,900 mt with no apparent turn-around in the resource. It has been the contention of the AP as pointed out by Sig Jaeger in 1978 that the state of the art of electronics in fishing industry artificially held up CPUEs in the Japanese fleet in the early and mid 1970's. The CPUE levels at that time did not truly indicate the health of the resource and resulted in inflated MSY and OY levels that carried over into Council process in 1977.
- (c) Determination of DAH. The AP endorsed the PMT proposal for determining DAH.
- (d) The AP recommends against opening Davidson Bank for foreign fishing activity.
- (e) The AP recommends that between Cape Addinton and 140°W longitude, pot fishing not be allowed due to gear conflict problems and based on historical deployment of pot gear in the Southeast Alaska region.
- The AP recommends that pot fishing be allowed in the area from Dixon Entrance north to Cape Addinton based on historical pot fishing activity in this area. This was passed 8 to 4 with 3 abstentions.
- (f) Winter Closures - The AP recommends against this closure at this time.

D-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.

Amendment #1. The AP recommends the change as presented by Dr. Loh-Lee Low for the multi-species ecosystem OY management regime.

Longline restrictions. The AP recommends that the domestic longline retention on page 13 of Agenda Item D-6(a) be eliminated. This was passed 9 to 3.

The AP recommends that Development Zone B be developed into an amendment for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish plan and sent out for public comment.

The AP endorsed its past actions for removing the species venture portion from this comment package and to resubmit the pelagic trawl restriction options as proposed for the Council in January. Both these issues pertain to the Pot Sanctuary area.

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES KING CRAB PROPOSALS

<u>Proposal No.</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Author</u>
59	season change - Dutch Harbor	public
60	guideline harvest change - Dutch Harbor	public
61	eliminate water storage of pots - Dutch Harbor	public
62	season change - Adak	public
63	make Bristol Bay non-exclusive	public
65	season change - Bristol Bay	public
66	season change - Bristol Bay	public
67	guideline harvest change - Bristol Bay	staff
68	change pot storage in Bristol Bay	ours/public
69	re-describe Norton Sound district	staff
70	season change - Pribilof	public
71	season change - Northern district of Bering Sea	public
72	close Norton Sound section	public
73	close summer season in Norton Sound section	public
74	change guideline harvest Bering Sea (blue KC)	staff
75	change guideline harvest - Northern district	staff
76	Bering Sea size limits (2)	staff
87	prohibit water storage of pots near Pribilofs	public
88	regulations to prevent harvest and processing of sublegals by catcher-processors	public
96	statewide- - 12 noon opening	staff
97	change in registration requirements	staff
98	removal of 72 hour pot storage after season	staff
99	statewide - gear storage on land only	public
100	time to apply for permit for crabs when vessel sinks	staff
101	provide for the use of other numbers on KC pot buoys other than vessel number	public

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES TANNER CRAB PROPOSALS

<u>Proposal No.</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>FMP Response</u>
15	season change - Yakutat	public	FO
18	prohibit the use of side-loading pots - Yakutat	public	A
34	season change - PWS	public	FO
40	season change - CI	public	FO
41	allow Tanner crab gear on grounds 72 hours prior to season - CI	public	NC
42	district registration - CI	public	NC
77	description of district - Kodiak	staff	A
78	statistical areas established - Chignik	public	NC
79	season change - Chignik/S. Pensinsula	public	FO
80	season change - Aleutians	staff	FO
81	season change - close Tanner crab fishery in Norton Sound	staff	FO
82	change pot storage in S.E. Bering Sea	ours/public	A
83	prohibit storage of gear east of 172°W. longitude	public	A
84	remove guideline harvest ranges in Westward area	staff	NC
85	size limit for <u>C. opilio</u>	staff	A
86	remove district registration requirement in the Westward area	staff	NC
87	prohibit water storage of pots around the Pribilofs	public	A
88	prohibit catcher-processors from catching sublegal crabs	public	--
102	registration - when a vessel can no longer request a change in registration	staff	A
103	gear for Tanner crab	public	--
104	provide for the use of other numbers on pot buoys other than vessel number	public	A

FO = Field Order
A = Amendment
NC = No Change

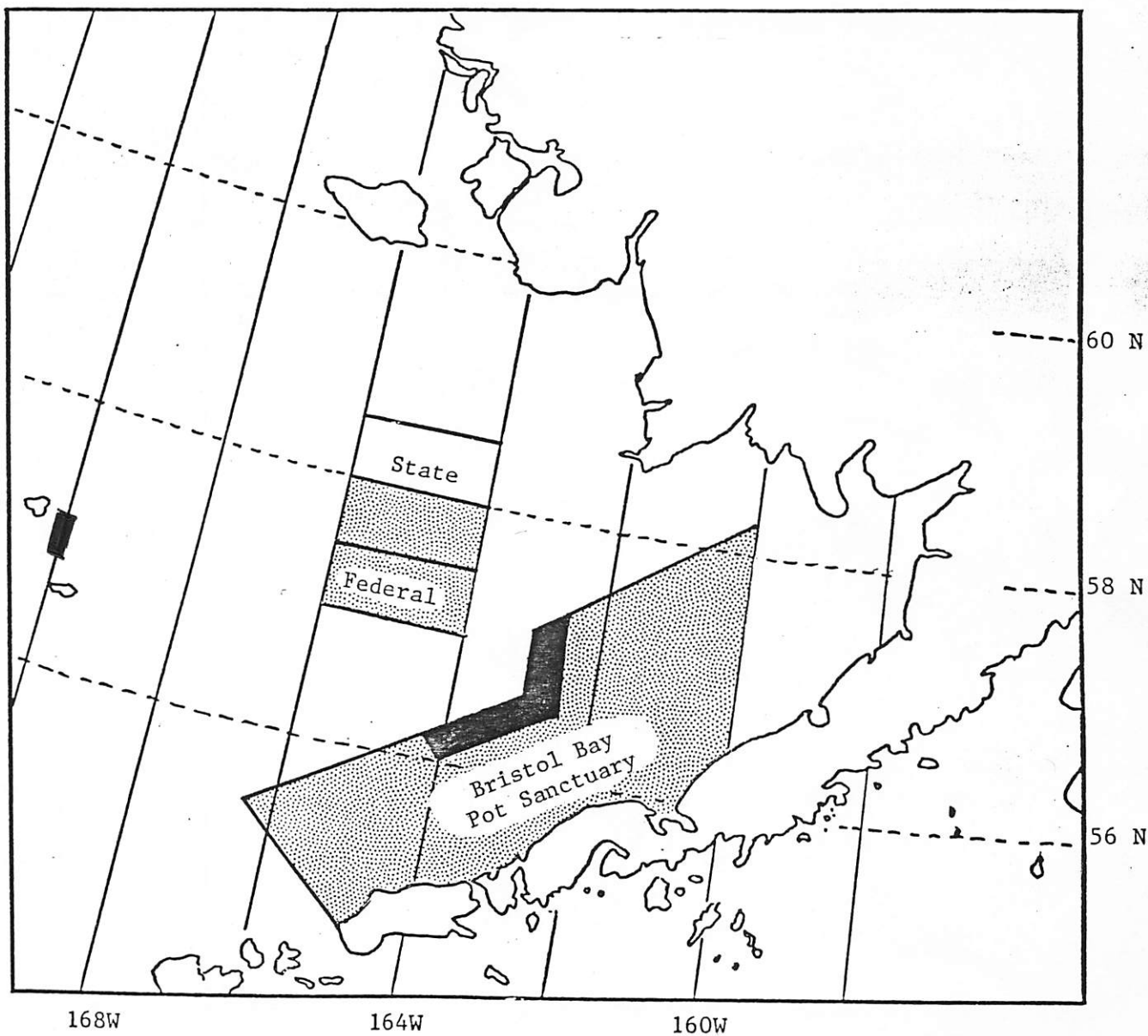


Figure 1. Bristol Bay High Seas King and Tanner Crab Pot Storage Area (State and Federal) and the Proposed Area within the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary.