

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

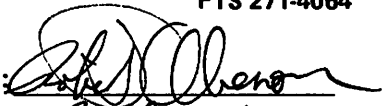
Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
Post Office Mall Building



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 271-4064

Certified by: 

Date: March 25th, 1981

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES Westward Hilton Hotel Anchorage, Alaska February 25, 1981

The Advisory Panel convened Wednesday, February 25, 1981, at the Anchorage Westward Hilton at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:15 pm. The following panel members were present: Bud Boddy, Alvin Burch, Larry Cotter, Paula Easley, Truman Emberg, Jesse Foster, Richard Goldsmith, Weaver Ivanoff, Eric Jordan, Joseph Kurtz, Richard Lauber, Raymond Lewis, Ken Olsen, Alan Otness, Jack Phillips, Don Rawlinson, Lewis Schnaper, Jeff Stephan, Konrad Uri, Tony Vaska, Charles Parsons, Keith Specking and Chairman Bob Alverson.

A. CALL TO ORDER, and APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson. The agenda was approved by all Advisory Panel members. Except that item B-5 was eliminated because the State Department representative was unavailable. The minutes from the January meeting were approved by all Advisory Panel members.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. Mr. Jim Branson presented the Director's Report. The Director briefly informed the AP about the Halibut Limited Entry workgroup and implementing legislation for the Halibut convention, and gave a brief report on the status of FMP's.

B-2 ADF&G Report on Domestic Fisheries. Ron Naab reported on domestic and foreign fisheries.

B-3 NMFS Report on Foreign Fisheries. See B-2.

B-4 U.S. Coast Guard Report on Enforcement and Surveillance. Pete Busick gave the U.S. Coast Guard Report. The AP expressed concern over potential budget cuts in the federal government that could adversely effect enforcement and surveillance duties of the U.S. Coast Guard. The AP requests that the Council indicate this concern to the Secretary of Commerce and request him to give high priority to the U.S. Coast Guard surveillance programs.

- B-6 U.S./Canada Salmon Negotiations. No report was available.
- B-7 Report on Expanded Observer Program. No report was available.
- B-8 SSC and AP Reports on Non-agenda Items. No reports were made.

C. OLD BUSINESS

- C-1 Joint Venture Data Workgroup Report. Barry Fisher reported on the Seattle meeting designing a trawl logbook for recording catch data. Konrad Uri and Al Burch also attended the meeting. Following their recommendations, the AP took the following action: The AP suggests that a one year experimental voluntary logbook program be developed for the domestic trawl industry for 1981 that would require reporting by 1° longitude and 1° latitude of amounts harvested; the AP requests that the agencies responsible for collecting logbook information be the respective states involved in the NPFMC. The AP also requested that before logbook information is given to other governmental agencies, individual vessel identifiers be deleted. One suggestion was that vessel performances be presented in vessel classes ranging from one to four depending on the size of the vessel. There was concern expressed that before any logbook was required that the definition of confidentiality of information be given to the fishing industry concerning their logbooks. It was also stressed that any logbook program should include an interview with the skipper.
- C-2 Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup Report. See E-3.

D. NEW BUSINESS

- D-1 Incidental Take of Dall Porpoise/Chinook Salmon Harvest. Jim Branson presented a brief report.
- D-2 Other New Business as Appropriate. The AP Chairman requested all members of the AP to indicate the management plan that they would prefer to be associated with. The AP requests of the Council the following:

From each subgroup of the AP that is associated with a particular management plan that the members of that subgroup be allowed to designate one or two members that would be able to sit in on plan development team meetings that are currently closed. The AP feels that this relationship with the PDT is essential in order for the AP to be effective in responding to the Council on management decisions.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- E-1 Salmon FMP. Jim Branson gave a status report on the Salmon FMP. The AP recommended to the Council that it engage in a study for alternative limited entry programs for the FCZ regarding hand trolling and power

trolling in the troll salmon fishery. Under agenda item E-1(b) regarding the comprehensive salmon teams, the AP requests that Lewis Schnaper from the AP be a member of that team.

E-2 Herring FMP. This was for informational purposes only and no action was required.

E-3 King Crab FMP. The final report from the Council concerning the meeting between Dr. Bevan and Don Collinsworth was unavailable and the AP was unable to comment. Dick Goldsmith presented the report of the Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup and the proposed new post storage area coordinates. The AP will act on this proposal in March.

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP. No action was required.

E-5 GOA Groundfish FMP Amendment #10. A motion was presented to adopt option #2 to do the following:

- (a) Foreign trawling will be prohibited in the Eastern Regulatory Area.
- (b) POP TALFF = 0
- (c) POP DAH = 500 mt
- (d) Salblefish OY will not be increased over the current OY.

There was only one dissenting vote. The opposing position requested the following:

- (a) POP TALFF = 375 mt
- (b) POP DAH = 500 mt
- (c) Sablefish OY remain the same.
- (d) Require pelagic trawls to be used by domestic and foreign fishermen in the Eastern Regulatory Area.

The AP heard testimony from Greg Baker, President of ALFA, and Jay Hastings, representing the Japanese Trawlers.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.

- A. Derivation of OY. The AP adopted the PDT's proposal to use option #1 for derivation of OY and to use the procedures under option #2 for the release of reserves which would be 40% in April, 40% in June, and 20% in August. Barry Fisher testified that due to the interest in yellowfin sole, the reserve should be increased by 5000 mt.
- B. Management Objectives. The AP adopted the proposed amendment for the change in the management objectives providing that the following wording preceded those objectives: The order of the objectives does not indicate priority.
- C. Fishing Gear. The AP adopted the proposed amendment concerning a change to a calendar year for the Bering Sea FMP.

D. Domestic Fishery Area Restrictions.

Area B - With respect to domestic trawl activity, the AP suggests that experimental fishing be allowed to continue for the 1981 season before considering domestic trawl regulations in this area. This was adopted with one opposing vote.

Area A - The AP adopted the following: Those vessels engaged in the fishing for crabs in Area A may use trawl gear for the purpose of obtaining bait, otherwise there shall be no directed trawling in Area A. This was adopted on a vote of 12 for, 9 against. Of the 9 voting against this proposal, 2 members wished it be known that their opposition was to dragging and that the issue whether or not crab fishermen should be allowed to drag for bait should have been presented and discussed as a separate motion.

Others in opposition to this proposal felt that such an area restriction was premature for the domestic trawl industry and would eliminate domestic trawl expansion in the Bering Sea. Additional comments will be presented by the minority position.

St. Paul fishermen representatives, two longline halibut boat owners and a representatives from the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific, testified against trawling in Area A for halibut conservation purposes. The AP received two telegrams from king crab fishermen from Seattle indicating that they wished to have Area A closed to domestic trawling.

The AP also heard from Barry Fisher and Roy Jackson from the high-liners who expressed that an Area A closure would inhibit expansion of the domestic trawlers.

Arguments on behalf of this motion were:

1. Area A has a significant portion of the king crab and bairdi Tanner crab resources. Bottom trawl activity would significantly impact the crab resources in Area A.
2. The Eastern Bering Sea has a significant juvenile halibut abundance important to the rebuilding of the halibut resource.
3. Trawl activities can be satisfied outside Area A. Since the establishment of Area A, 1.2 - 1.7 million mt of groundfish have been harvested annually outside Area A.
4. The AP examined NMFS survey reports for 1979 and 1980 regarding king crab and Tanner crab and their distribution in Area A.
5. Length frequency information on cod and pollock that Area A has high juvenile abundance of these species.
6. NMFS surveys for yellowfin sole indicated substantial amounts of the resource outside Area A.

E. Domestic Fishery In-season Adjustment of Time and Areas.

The AP unanimously adopted this amendment.

F. Foreign Fishery Area Restrictions.

The AP voted 11 to 9 to adopt this proposed amendment. This amendment would allow foreign longliners to operate within 3 miles in Area F in the Aleutians. Those opposed felt that because of the expanding domestic cod fishery, this area would have domestic participation and adopting the motion may result in resource and gear conflicts between the Japanese and domestic fishermen.

G. Foreign Fishery In-season Adjustment of Time and Areas.

The AP unanimously adopted this proposed amendment.

H. Closure of INPFC Areas I and II to All Trawling from October 1 to March 31.

The AP voted 8 to 8 with respect to this amendment. Upon reconsideration the AP voted 12 to 4 to amend the proposed management amendment such that INPFC areas I and II would be closed to foreign trawling only from October 1 to March 31.

The AP heard from the Highliners from Seattle and Barry Fisher who indicated that such a restriction on domestic trawl activity would eliminate any trawl investment by U.S. fishermen. Representatives from Western Alaska indicated concern over high catches of king salmon. Representatives of the German vessel FRIEDERICH BUSSE indicated that such a restriction may result in their decision to terminate their fishing activity.