

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

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July 11, 1983

## DRAFT AGENDA

55th Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

July 27-28, 1983  
Homer, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene on Wednesday, July 27, 1983, at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Land's End on Homer Spit, Homer, Alaska. The main topics of discussion will include the proposed halibut moratorium and further action on the halibut fishery, the Southeast Alaska troll salmon fishery and in-season management measures, final review of the herring fishery management plan, and two amendments to the Tanner crab plan. The Council will review a resource assessment document for Bering Sea groundfish and consider proposed amendments for the Gulf and Bering Sea groundfish plans. They will review previous Council action on a Fisheries Development Zone in the Bering Sea north of Unimak Pass, and discuss proposed marine sanctuaries legislation. The Council will meet until about 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 1983, or until Council business is completed.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene on Monday, July 25, 1983, at 2:00 p.m., and will adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, at the Land's End. The Advisory Panel will convene its meeting on Tuesday, July 26 at approximately 9:30 a.m., and will adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m., at the Elk's Hall in Homer. The meetings may be lengthened or shortened depending upon progress on the agenda items.

Plan Team meetings may be held on short notice during the Council meeting week. These meetings will be posted at the Council meeting site. All meetings are open to the public.

DRAFT AGENDA

55th Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
July 27-28, 1983  
Homer, Alaska

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

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by Alaska Department of Fish and Game

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by National Marine Fisheries Service

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

B-6 Report on 1983 Halibut Fishery by International Pacific Halibut Commission Staff

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Halibut Fisheries Management

Report on status of moratorium. Consideration of resubmission of moratorium. Preliminary discussion of limited entry approaches and alternative management measures, and schedules for development.

C-2 Marine Sanctuaries Legislation

Review current legislative proposals and prepare comments for the Congressional delegation.

C-3 Statement of Operating Practices and Procedures (SOPPs)

Review of Council meeting procedures.

*Postpone 'Til next Sept mtg.*

C-4 Other Business

(a) Possible Taiwanese joint venture permit application - ST. GEORGE and HIGHLY 301.

(b) Conflict of Interest--is it a problem on AP or Council?

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

Report on status of Southeast troll salmon fishery and U.S.-Canada treaty. Consideration of in-season management measures in the FCZ for remainder of 1983 season.

D-2 Herring FMP

Final Council review of revised herring plan, draft regulations, and ancillary documents for submission to Washington, DC. Status report on fisheries.

D-3 King Crab FMP

No action required.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Final Council review of Amendment 9 which establishes a framework for adjusting fishing seasons and updates ABCs. Further Council consideration of Amendment 10 which will address recent State changes in exclusive registration areas and pot limits.

D-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Progress report by Prohibited Species Workgroup. Reconsideration of change in pollock OY in the Central Gulf of Alaska. Initial consideration of Amendment 13 frameworking the setting of OY. Review of Eastern Gulf sablefish fishery and management.

D-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Initial Council consideration of Amendment 9 establishing field order authority for conservation closures. Initial review of Resource Assessment Document to set OY levels for 1984. Review economic analysis and previous Council action on Fishery Development Zone Amendment 6.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts

E-2 Update on Budget and Programmatic Requests

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MEETING SUMMARY, CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

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## DRAFT AGENDA

### SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

July 14, 1983

The SSC will convene at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 1983 and will adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, at the Land's End.

#### Monday: 2-5 pm

1. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP (D-6)
  - (a) Consider Amendment 9 establishing field order authority for conservation closures.
  - (b) Initial review of the Resource Assessment Document. It should be available from NWAFC by meeting time.
  - (c) Review the economic analysis on Fishery Development Zone Amendment 6. (Enclosed in this mailing.)
2. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP (D-5)
  - (a) The Prohibited Species Workgroup will report their progress to date.
  - (b) Status report on pollock and reconsider OY in Central Gulf. New analyses have been done by NWAFC.
  - (c) The sablefish fishery and its management will be reviewed.

#### Tuesday: 8:30-10 am

3. Herring FMP (D-2)
  - (a) Final review of revised FMP and supporting documents.
  - (b) Status report on the fisheries.

#### Tuesday: 10:15-11 am

4. Salmon FMP (D-1)
  - (a) Update on the fisheries.
  - (b) Recommendations on in-season management.

Tuesday: 11 am-Noon

5. Tanner Crab FMP (D-4)

- (a) Final review of Amendment 9 establishing a framework for adjusting fishing seasons and updating ABCs.
- (b) Review revised Amendment 10 which addresses recent State changes in exclusive registration areas and pot limits. (Text of amendment is enclosed.)

Tuesday: Afternoon

6. SOPPs (C-3)

- (a) Review sections of SOPPs pertinent to SSC.

7. Contracts (E-1)

- (a) Contract 82-3 - Salmon Economic Profile: Approve final report.
- (b) Contract 82-4 - Halibut Limited Entry Study: Approve final report and economic analysis.
- (c) Contract 83-1 - Social and Cultural Aspects of the Pacific Halibut Fishery: Final report submitted. Available for review soon with approval scheduled for September.
- (d) Lowell Wakefield Symposium: Approve co-sponsorship.
- (e) Contract 81-5 - Incidental Salmon Catch Study: Approve quarterly report and discuss research suggestions for possible FY/84 funding.
- (f) FY/84 Proposed Projects: Approve revised proposals for the Golden King Crab Study and approve sablefish research priorities.
- (g) Limited Entry Conference: Discuss co-sponsorship and contents of conference.

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## MINUTES

54th Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
May 25-26, 1983  
Old Federal Building  
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 54th plenary session on Wednesday, May 25, 1983 at 9:15 a.m. in Courtroom #2 of the Old Federal Building, Anchorage, Alaska, and adjourned at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, May 26.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in the Courtroom in the Old Federal Building on Monday and Tuesday, May 24 and 25, 1983.

The Advisory Panel met in the Commodore Room of the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, May 24 and continued in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Old Federal Building on Wednesday, May 25.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee members, Advisory Panel members and general public in attendance are listed below.

### Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman  
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman  
Robert McVey  
Rudy Petersen  
Jon Nelson for Keith Shreiner  
Keith Specking  
Gene Didonato for  
Bill Wilkerson  
Joe Demmert, Jr.

RADM Richard Knapp  
Robert U. Mace for  
John Donaldson  
James O. Campbell  
Don Collinsworth  
Jeffrey R. Stephan  
Ed Wolfe for the  
State Department

### Scientific and Statistical Committee

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman  
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman  
William Aron  
John Clark  
Robert Burgner

Al Millikan  
Larry Hreha  
Jack Lechner  
John Burns  
Don Bevan

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Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman  
Bud Boddy, Vice Chairman  
Barry Fisher  
Joe Kurtz  
Ray Lewis  
James O'Connell  
Don Rawlinson  
Walt Smith  
Tony Vaska

Greg Baker  
Larry Cotter  
Dick Goldsmith  
Rick Lauber  
Kristy Long  
Dan O'Hara  
Harvey Samuelson  
Tom Stewart  
Ed Wojcek

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director  
Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Director  
Steve Davis  
Jim Glock  
Doug Larson

Ron Miller  
Jeff Povolny  
Judy Willoughby  
Helen Allen  
Peggy Hough

Support Staff

Pat Travers, NOAA/GC  
Thorn Smith, NOAA/GC  
James Brooks, NMFS  
Phil Chitwood, NMFS  
Paul Blayney, USCG  
Guy Thornburgh, ADF&G

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G  
Russ Nelson, NW&AFC  
Gary Stauffer, NW&AFC  
Kirk Beiningen, ODF&W  
Choate Budd, USCG  
Craig Hammond, NMFS

General Public

H. Talagis  
Dave G. Barraw  
Rick Derise  
John Schmiedtke  
Ken Kobayashi  
David Pierce  
Jim Sameth  
Nancy Gross  
Hong Kyuong An  
Akihiko Hashimoto  
Mike Broili  
Bruce Thomley  
Kaorie Kaiuamoto

Ruth J. Desrosier  
Stephen B. Johnson  
Don Martens  
Tadashi Nemoto  
Richard Goldsmith  
David Harville  
R.F. Moraw  
Han Mo Kim  
Hisashi Matshui  
Minoru Morimoto  
T. Fukui  
George Matsuo

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

Chairman Tillion called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 1983. The agenda was approved as submitted.

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In the minutes of the March meeting, Dr. Harville suggested that on Page 5, a line be inserted to explain the concept of the "dual" moratorium option. This addition was acceptable to the Council.

Jim Branson advised the Council of an insertion in the March minutes: under Section C-1, Halibut Moratorium, the following paragraph has been inserted on Page 8, immediately following the third paragraph on the page.

There was lengthy discussion regarding whether eligibility determination hearings and appeal procedures to consider hardship cases should be provided in the moratorium regulation. Patrick Travers described how someone could call the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office or the Council office to get a determination of their eligibility to fish during the moratorium. Mr. Travers also detailed the appeal process that currently exists in the civil penalty proceedings that would be utilized during the moratorium. Mr. Travers then explained that the eligibility criteria in the proposed rule was drafted in a manner that limited agency discretion in determining who could fish during the moratorium. After it was pointed out that this restriction on agency discretion was intended to remove the need for a full-fledged administrative hearing process similar to that used by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, the Council did not further discuss the need for a hardship appeal procedure.

*Jim Campbell moved that the December 1982 and March 1983 minutes be approved as submitted subject to future amendments if necessary. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking and, there being no objections, carried.*

Gene Didonato introduced Russ Cahill, the new Deputy Director of the Washington Department of Fisheries. Mr. Didonato and Mr. Cahill will be sharing the responsibility of attendance at Council meetings in the absence of Mr. Wilkerson.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Chairmen's Meeting

Jim Branson advised the Council that the proposed Chairmen's Meeting has been rescheduled. The meeting is now tentatively scheduled for November 2-4, 1983 in Biloxi,



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Mississippi. A tentative agenda was included in Council notebooks and Mr. Branson requested input from Council members on additional agenda items for the Chairmen's meeting.

"Fish and Chips"

Mr. Branson also advised the Council of Ambassador Kronmiller's response to the Council's letter of April 8 explaining the use of the "fish and chips" policy. Mr. Kronmiller also asked the Council to consider funding travel to Council meetings for the State Department representative on a case-by-case basis. The recent amendments to the Magnuson Act would allow the Council to do so if they wish.

After some discussion, *the consensus of the Council was to continue their current policy of not funding State Department travel.*

Mr. Branson also advised the Council that he had been requested by Congressmen Forsythe and Breaux to submit a statement for the record to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation regarding OMB review of plans and amendments. A copy of the statement was included in the Council notebooks as Agenda Item B-1(d).

July Council Meeting

Mr. Branson announced that the July meeting will be held in Homer. The facilities at the Land's End and the Best Western's Bidarka have been reserved for the Council's use. However, all reservations will need to be made through Judy, Becky, or Helen at the Council office in order that we do not overbook. These reservations have to be in by July 1. After that date any unreserved rooms will be released to the public.

Council Reference Books

Summaries of the Council's fishery management plans and a general Council reference book has been completed by Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Director. The reference books were handed out to Council members at this meeting and will be distributed to the remaining members of the Council family in July. The books will be updated as necessary.

Request from AP Member

Mr. Branson advised the Council that Advisory Panel member Kristy Long will be taking a one-year sabbatical and has asked that the Council designate an alternate for her during that period of time. Ms. Long suggested Pat Barker of Bethel as the alternate. Bob Alverson reported that the Advisory Panel would agree to the request. Keith Specking, Chairman of the AP Nominating

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Committee, said he felt that the Council should adhere to their policy of not having a panel member designate an alternate or to hold a place open for a member.

*It was the concensus of the Council that Mrs. Pat Barker, a home economist from Bethel, be appointed in full standing to the Advisory Panel to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Long's departure on sabbatical. When Ms. Long returns, she may be reappointed to the Advisory Panel if a vacancy exists.*

Jim Campbell complimented Executive Director Jim Branson on the quality of letters and memos he has drafted for the Council.

John Harville mentioned to the Council that he was very impressed with Mr. Branson's presentation for the World Trade Conference in Spokane in March. He urged Mr. Branson to pursue publication of the article.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G, reported that the total harvest to date for the herring fishery in the Togiak area of the Bering Sea is approximately 26,800 short tons (gillnet 19%; purse seine 81%). The harvest began on May 3 and the catch was composed of predominately 5-and 6-year-old fish and few 4-year-olds. The average roe percentage in the catch was approximately 9%. The overall effort included approximately 250 gillnet boats, 160 purse seine boats, and 21 companies. The roe-on-kelp fishery harvested approximately 271,000 pounds. The harvest to date for other areas was 306 tons for Norton Sound, 362 tons for Cape Romanzof, 958 tons for Security Cove, and 373 tons for Goodnews Bay.

The troll salmon summer fishery opened on May 15. Early reports indicate that fishing is somewhat slow. The winter troll fishery harvested approximately 28,600 chinooks between October 1 and April 14.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

NMFS reported that by April 23 foreign fleets working the Gulf of Alaska had caught 11,549 mt of groundfish or about 10% of the current foreign allocation for the Gulf. About 86% of the catch was Pacific cod and 10% was pollock.

In the Bering Sea and Aleutians area, foreign fisheries had caught 171,092 mt by April 23. This catch was 75% pollock, 17% flatfish, and 5% Pacific cod, and represents about 21% of the currently allocated TALFF in the area.

There were 118 foreign vessels off Alaska on May 19, including 88 from Japan, 20 from South Korea, 9 from the USSR and one from

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West Germany. In the past three years, there usually have been over 220 vessels off Alaska in May.

B-3 Enforcement and Surveillance Report

USCG reported that they issued six reports of violation (civil penalty procedures) and ten citations (written warnings) since the March Council meeting. In addition, three foreign fishing vessels were seized for severe MFCMA infractions, including gross logging violations, failure to submit the required activity message twenty-four hours prior to beginning or ceasing fishing activity in the FCZ, failure to maintain the accuracy of the Daily Cumulative Catch Log, failure to begin fishing activity at the time and in the position indicated in the submitted activity message, and fishing within the U.S. FCZ without a valid permit.

On March 28, the USCGC STORIS seized the Japanese cargo ship HIYO MARU in the central Bering Sea for gross logging violations. On May 11, the USCGC RUSH seized the Japanese stern trawler YURYO MARU No. 31 in the central Bering Sea for grossly underlogging its catch of Pacific cod. Also on May 11, the USCGC CAPE HATTERAS seized the Canadian fishing vessel CASSIAR No. 67 in the vicinity of Dixon Entrance for fishing within the U.S. FCZ without a valid permit.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

A staff report by NPFMC advised the Council that joint venture fisheries for pollock in Shelikof Strait have wound down after achieving an all-time high catch by U.S. fishermen of about 131,000 mt. Seven companies using over 30 U.S. trawlers delivering to 19 foreign processors operated in this fishery mainly during February and March.

Joint venture operations have now moved to the Bering Sea where three companies are fishing for yellowfin sole, cod, Atka mackerel and pollock. These operations, employing over 20 U.S. trawlers delivering to 9 processors, had taken 16,000 mt pollock, 7,400 mt flounders, and 5,300 mt of other species by May 7. Four more companies will commence operations in June.

Public Testimony

Jay Hastings, on behalf of the Japan Fisheries Association, requested Council support in seeking release of the Japanese allocation withheld under the "fish and chips" policy. This allocation was scheduled to be released on April 1, but was withheld for reasons unrelated to fisheries.

Chairman Tillion agreed that Mr. Hastings' point was reasonable and felt the Council would be sympathetic to his request.

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Dr. Harville urged the Council to state again its preferences, forcefully. The Council has negotiated in good faith and is being put in an embarrassing situation.

*Keith Specking moved that the Council direct the Executive Director to draft such a letter. Bob Mace seconded the motion which passed with no objections.*

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Halibut Fisheries Management

Ron Miller, NPFMC staff advisor, briefly reported on NPFMC's public contacts in regard to the moratorium. Between April 4 and May 20, 260 calls were received. Most of those calls were requests for a determination of eligibility to fish during the moratorium. A few requested an official determination of their particular circumstances. Mr. Miller requested that the requests be put in writing. Upon receipt of the written requests, Mr. Miller answered with his determination of eligibility.

Mr. Miller also reported that the Halibut Workgroup, consisting of Jim Campbell, Joe Demmert, Jr., Richard Marasco, Keith Specking, Tom Stewart, and Clem Tillion, met in Anchorage on May 24 to review the staff synopsis of the Stokes Report, discuss the public presentations to be given by Professor Stokes on the share-system approach to limited entry into the halibut fishery, and to review the Council objectives for halibut limited entry.

The workgroup recommended that the staff synopsis of the Stokes report be released for public review after the addition of language in the synopsis preface stating that the Council has not endorsed any particular form of access limitation for the halibut fishery. The wording of the preface would be as follows:

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council contracted with Northwest Resource Analysis of Seattle, Washington, to perform a study of limited entry in the Pacific halibut fishery. Because there was substantial information already available about other forms of fishery access limitation, the Council directed that the study should determine whether the individual quota or share system would be feasible under current conditions in the fishery. This report has been completed and is available for public review. Since the report and its attachments are nearly 200 pages in length, the Council decided a synopsis should be prepared for public distribution. Included with this synopsis is the complete "Summary and Conclusions" portion of the study. The full report will be mailed by the Council upon request. The release of this report for public

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distribution should not be interpreted as Council endorsement of any statements contained herein or adoption of a particular form of limited entry for the halibut fishery.

The workgroup also recommended that the three public presentations (to be held in Kodiak, Petersburg and Seattle) required in Professor Stokes' contract with the Council be scheduled after the proposed moratorium regulation has either been enacted or formally disapproved, but not before October 1983. The workgroup felt that to hold the presentations earlier in the year would lead to confusion of their subject matter with the moratorium.

The workgroup also reviewed the Council's objectives for halibut limited entry as stated in Council RFP 82-1 and Contract 82-4 and recommended that they be reaffirmed with minor editorial changes and the addition of a preamble that the objectives are to be achieved by any halibut limited entry system, regardless of the particular form adopted by the Council. The workgroup wanted the changes made to the stated objectives in order that it be understood that the Council has not yet adopted a particular form of limited entry for the halibut fishery but was still considering the full range of management options available to it.

#### Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg reported that the SSC received the supplemental appendix to the draft report on the share-quota option for limited entry. However, due to other business, the SSC postponed final review of the report until the next meeting.

#### Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel heard a review of the current status of the moratorium from Thorn Smith. No action was taken.

#### COUNCIL ACTION

*Jim Campbell moved that the Council approve the staff synopsis of the Stokes report for distribution to the public. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth. There being no objection, the motion carried.*

#### C-2 Foreign Permit Applications

Jim Branson advised the Council that they must reconsider the permit application No. JA-83-0620 for the Japanese vessel RYUSHO MARU NO. 18 for a joint venture in the Gulf of Alaska for sablefish. It had not appeared in the Federal Register by the time it was approved by the Council at the March meeting and under the stipulated settlement of the 1980 case, N.E.F.C.O. vs. Krepps, Doc. #79-1196 (D.C. D.C. 1980), was required to do so before the Council could act on it.

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### Advisory Panel Report

Bob Alverson reported that the Advisory Panel reaffirmed their March decision to recommend denial of the application. They recommend that the Council and NMFS devise a set of procedures for joint venture operations in the future to avoid this situation.

### Public Testimony

John Peterson, President, Ocean Beauty Seafoods and Bob Brophy of Icicle Seafoods. Mr. Peterson advised the Council that his processors are capable of buying and processing sablefish and have a strong intent to do so. If the Council approves this joint venture, it would reduce the amount of sablefish available to U.S. processors and would set a dangerous precedent.

Mr. Brophy said he would concur with Mr. Peterson's comments. Icicle Seafoods is prepared to buy and process sablefish out of the W. Yakutat area and would urge the Council to deny this application.

Greg Baker, Alaska longliner. Mr. Baker said that he and the other longliners involved in this joint venture have spent a great deal of time and money in arranging the details of the venture. After the application was approved at the March meeting they met with the Japanese industry to iron out the details. However, with the uncertainty of approval at this point, they feel that it is not possible to continue to pursue the joint venture. As an alternative, they will try to work closely with U.S. processors to get a significant amount of the OY harvested. He said that perhaps the Council could try to avoid this type of procedural problem in the future.

Jim Branson, Executive Director of NPFMC, and Ed Wolfe, representing the State Dept., assured the Council that they are working on a way to avoid this problem in the future.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline Gillnet Assn.

Mr. MacGregor advised the Council that his organization also feels that the timing is critical on this venture and it is not feasible to continue. They are therefore withdrawing the permit application.

Because the permit application was withdrawn from consideration, no Council action was required.

C-3 Appeals Procedure for the Moratorium

The Council was requested by NOAA and NMFS to consider an addendum to the moratorium approved at the March 1983 Council meeting. The addendum would provide for a hearing or appeal procedure for hardship cases.

Pat Travers briefly recapped the moratorium language as adopted by the Council in March. There was considerable Council discussion about the necessity of such a provision. Pat Travers affirmed the Council's feeling that the original moratorium language was sufficient to obtain the Council's original goal for the moratorium--to limit new entry into the fishery while a system of limited entry is studied. It was the general consensus that this "appeals" provision would create unnecessary and expensive administrative procedures. It was noted also that under any appeal procedure fishermen who had availed themselves of the procedure would be allowed to fish in the halibut fishery pending a final determination of their eligibility.

John Harville said that perhaps a clarification of the current language to point out that there is a civil procedure mechanism in place would be helpful.

Bob McVey advised the Council that he felt including a specific procedure for appeals in the moratorium would speed the review and possible approval of the moratorium by the Secretary.

Chairman Tillion told the Council that he had difficulty with the fact that the administrators in DC are taking the liberty to change the moratorium after the Council had spent considerable time and study to come up with the best possible document to achieve their objective.

Public Testimony

Eric Sutcliffe, Unalaska. Mr. Sutcliffe said he had hoped that the proposed appeals procedure would address the situation of Alaskan villages such as Unalaska and Akutan which have not had the opportunity to get established in the halibut fishery but would hope that the situation would change in the future to afford them such an opportunity. He urged the Council to consider this type of situation if a limited entry system was imposed in the future.

End of public testimony.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson reported that the AP debated the issue of an appeals procedure as outlined by NMFS and heard from Thorn Smith that

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basically this proposal was probably unconstitutional on several points. The AP voted 7 to 7 on a motion to recommend that the Council not adopt the proposed appeals procedure.

#### COUNCIL ACTION

*Bob McVey moved that the Council adopt the May 25, 1983 draft by NMFS for an appeals procedure. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan. The motion failed by a vote of 8 to 2 with one abstention. Voting for the motion were McVey and Jeff Stephan. Voting against the motion were Campbell, Collinsworth, Demmert, Mace, Lokken, Specking, Tillion, and Didonato. Rudy Petersen abstained.*

Executive Director Jim Branson was requested to write a letter to Bill Gordon advising him of the Council's decision and the reasons for that decision.

Jim Campbell suggested that perhaps a Council member should go to Washington to facilitate review and action on the proposed moratorium. *It was the concensus of the Council that Chairman Tillion and Ron Miller should go to Washington as soon as possible to meet with NOAA officials.*

Don Collinsworth expressed concern for the time frame involved because of the nearing opening date for the halibut fishery. Bob McVey said there isn't really anything that can be done at this point, but that NMFS would get the moratorium into effect as expeditiously as possible if it is implemented by the Secretary of Commerce.

#### C-4 Other Business

Jim Branson advised the Council of a request from United Fishermen of Alaska for funding in the amount of \$5,000 for an Alaskan Fisheries Directory. The directory would be a compilation of all the statutes, regulations and issues relating to fisheries in the State of Alaska and would be periodically updated.

Jim Campbell advised that the Finance Committee feels that this is a very ambitious project for the amount of money requested and would like to have further details of the project before making a recommendation. *It was the concensus of the Council that the Executive Director should obtain further information on the project and report back to the Council at the July meeting.*



D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

The NPFMC staff estimates the winter troll catch from October 1-April 14, 1983 may exceed 30,000 kings. This large catch means the summer season will be shortened so that the total catch does not exceed 255,500 kings. The projected season is as follows:

May 15-June 8	open, all species but coho
June 9-June 30	CLOSED
July 1-Aug. 14	open, all species
August 15-24	CLOSED
Aug. 25-Sept. 20	open, all species

If the catch rates remains high, additional closures of either the entire fishery or specific areas are anticipated.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson said the AP requested the Council to ask INPFC attempt to negotiate a time-area closure on the Japanese high seas squid fishery.

Public Testimony

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn (BSFA). Mr. Mitchell said his organization is still concerned about several problems, one of which is the mothership operation. Over the past four or five years BSFA has been concerned about large chinook catches. However there was a volunteer agreement by the Japanese industry to reduce their chinook catches in the central Bering Sea. At the last INPFC meeting, the U.S. delegation asked if the Japanese would consider withdrawing to the west of 180°. It is his understanding that the State Dept. has again officially asked the Japanese to move west and Mr. Mitchell would like the Council to use any means at their disposal to ask the Japanese industry to inform their government that this would be a good idea for this season. There are serious problems in western Alaska with fish prices and a decrease in the number of fish returning. In addition, BSFA also feels that there is a continuing problem with the monitoring of the Japanese squid and albacore/pomfret fisheries. Mr. Mitchell feels that the incidence of net marks on fish in Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay and Southeast is very much related to that fishery in addition to the illegal fishing activities by the land-based salmon gillnet fleet. He would like to know if the Council is going to be involved in trying to set up some sort of monitoring system on these various fishing fleets. Results of Council involvement in the squid observer program conducted last fall are still not available. Many fishing groups feel the Council should play a leading role in getting to the core of these interception fishery problems.

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Mr. Branson said that the only interaction that the United States has had with Japan on the high-sea squid fishery has been on an industry-to-industry basis which was partially financed by the Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. and other fishing groups in Alaska concerned with the interception and net mark problems. Mr. Branson stressed his support for Mr. Mitchell's request that the Council continue to follow up on this problem. Mr. Branson expressed uncertainty about how the Council should approach this or whether the Council should take the lead role. It is an area they should be active in and support as much as they can.

Don Collinsworth asked Bob McVey if NMFS is planning to conduct any studies on the squid fishery and net-mark problem. Mr. McVey said that the fishery occurs beyond the 200-mile limit and the logistics of it are so difficult that they haven't been able to put anything together.

Don Collinsworth said that since the Council is asked to deal with this situation consistently by constituents, he feels the Council should prepare some proposal or devise a combination of agencies to develop a plan to obtain data.

Chairman Tillion suggested a group be appointed to study this situation and perhaps coordinate with U.S., State, NMFS, Council and industry representatives to try to work out a solution.

Chairman Tillion appointed Don Collinsworth, Bob McVey, and John Harville to look into this matter. Dr. Harville will act as chairman of the group.

D-2 Herring FMP

Staff Report

By an action memorandum included in the Council notebooks, the Council was provided with a recap of the actions taken on herring at the March 1983 meeting. The PDT was asked to incorporate the decisions made at that meeting into the FMP and present the revised document to the Council for review and approval at this meeting. The draft FMP was mailed to the Council prior to this meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg reported that the SSC reviewed the May 1983 draft FMP in detail and continues to have major problems with the plan and the management regime which is established. However, the SSC felt that it is important that the FMP accurately reflect the Council's intent. The SSC reviewed the FMP in detail and recommended that certain changes be made to clarify the Council's objectives. The SSC provided a section-by-section revision of the

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FMP which they feel is a more accurate interpretation of what the Council wants the FMP to accomplish. The SSC's detailed review is included in these minutes as Appendix I.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson reported that the AP reiterates their disapproval of the draft FMP as stated at the December and March meetings. The AP further recommended that, with regard to foreign regulations in the Herring FMP, herring be made a prohibited species. One member of the AP was opposed to this recommendation stating that the prohibited species stipulation should not include foreign processors involved in joint ventures.

Public Testimony

Richard Goldsmith, Coalition for Open Ocean Fisheries.

Mr. Goldsmith applauded the SSC for their efforts on the Herring FMP. Mr. Goldsmith does not think herring needs to be a prohibited species for successful management and would oppose prohibiting herring for domestic fishermen and processors, or foreign processors receiving from domestic fishermen. The Coalition would also oppose regulations which would close an area of the FCZ to U.S. trawlers because AIC levels had been reached. The Coalition thinks that the U.S. industry deserves the freedom to conduct its groundfish fishery to its conclusion in that year. Then, if analyses indicate a problem, the Council could consider modification to the domestic AIC levels, or consider other management measures for the following year. Finally, Mr. Goldsmith reminded the Council that there has been no proposal to make herring a prohibited species for domestic fishermen. If the Council decides to make herring a prohibited species for foreign fishermen, then he feels that the plan should clearly state that herring will not be a prohibited species, either now or in the future, for domestic trawlers.

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. BSFA is still very concerned that neither the State nor the Federal government has initiated appropriate research on herring in the Bering Sea. For good management, these data are badly needed. Mr. Mitchell asked whether his suggestion that a coded-wire tagging study be initiated had been pursued. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the inshore fishery alone is worth \$15-\$30 million. Proper management of the inshore and offshore fisheries requires substantial additional information on migration, distribution and abundance of herring stocks. Spending a couple of million dollars over the next two or three years, he thinks, is an appropriate action.

End of public testimony.

Don Collinsworth advised that a study is underway using scale pattern analysis to determine stock distribution and migration.

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Funding status is still in doubt; old projects are being cut and funds for new projects are not available. He agrees that there is a need to develop this information and feels that there is promise in the coded-wire tag method; however they simply do not have the resources to fund it at this point.

Mr. McVey also concurred that the information is badly needed. However, it is very costly information to obtain. The question is whether they are prepared to drop some ongoing projects at the Center (NW&AFC) in order to fund this.

Staff Report

Jim Glock advised that although there was insufficient notice for a PMT meeting to review the SSC's recommendations, several of the Team members attended the SSC's meeting and Mr. Glock had spoken with other Team members by phone for their views. As a result, Mr. Glock presented the Council with a staff analysis of the SSC's recommendations. That analysis is included in these minutes as Appendix II.

There was lengthy Council discussion on the SSC's recommendations. Because the Council had not had time to review the SSC's report in depth, it was felt that they could not make any final decisions without further consideration.

COUNCIL ACTION

*Harold Lokken moved that the PDT redraft the FMP to incorporate the SSC's recommendations and that the implementing regulations be drafted by NMFS for review and final consideration at the July 1983 Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Campbell and passed with a vote of 6 to 5, with Gene Didonato, Don Collinsworth, Jeff Stephan, Rudy Petersen, and Joe Demmert in opposition. John Harville commended the Council staff and the SSC for their efforts.*

*Bob McVey moved that the AIC in the Herring FMP be treated as a PSC for foreign fisheries, but that this change would not apply to U.S. fishermen or foreign processors participating in joint ventures. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking. It was the consensus that the FMP should be drafted with and without this provision and separate sets of implementing regulations prepared so the Council could consider whether or not it should be included in the plan when it is considered at the July meeting.*

Harold Lokken suggested that the FMP presented to the Council in July should be prepared in such a way that the changes are highlighted for easy reference by the Council.

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D-3 King Crab FMP

Staff Report

Steve Davis advised the Council that the regulatory actions taken by the Board of Fisheries concerning the 1983 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands king crab fishery have been reviewed by the staff and were found to comply with the Joint Statement of Principles adopted by the Board and Council in October 1981.

Mr. Davis also advised that the Secretarial review period for the BS/AI King Crab FMP has been extended pending receipt of minor editorial and technical changes to the FMP, the final Environmental Impact Statement, and revised set of implementing regulations. These documents are nearing completion and it is anticipated that the Secretary will act on the King Crab FMP in the near future.

There was Council discussion on the Council's participation in the review of proposed regulatory changes prior to implementation by the Board. It was felt that the Council does not take active participation. Don Collinsworth said that it is not the role of the Council to comment on specific proposals unless they are likely to fall outside the management agreement between the Council and the State. Several Council members, however, felt the need for better preparation on the proposed regulations prior to joint Board/Council meetings.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Mr. Alverson advised that the AP was generally satisfied with the king crab regulations made by the Board of Fisheries. The only comment made was a suggestion that the regulations' rationale should have referenced the framework plan between the Council and Board.

The AP adopted a motion stating that the Council should be present when the Board of Fisheries makes decisions so the review procedure can be expedited by having the Council vote its desires with the Board. It was felt that this might speed things up by about two months.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC received a brief report from Council staff on the Board of Fisheries' actions regarding the management of the king crab resource. The SSC did not review those actions, and therefore provided no comment.

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### Public Testimony

Richard Goldsmith, North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. Mr. Goldsmith advised he would provide written comments on the procedures used to draft regulations at a later date. He feels that persons or organizations submitting proposals should be required to submit a justification for the proposals. Mr. Goldsmith was also concerned with the two-month time lag between the time the Board implements regulations and the Council reviews them. Mr. Goldsmith complimented NMFS and ADF&G on their research on brown king crab.

End of public testimony.

### D-4 Tanner Crab FMP

### Staff Report

Steve Davis reviewed the Tanner crab regulatory decisions made by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in March and summarized the resulting inconsistencies between State regulations and the Tanner crab FMP. The PMT met on April 21, 1983 to discuss these inconsistencies and began preparation of amendments to remove them from the plan.

Mr. Davis advised the Council that Amendment 9, which was prepared in response to continuing difficulties in coordinating federal season dates with those established by the State of Alaska, will have to have the numerical MSY, ABC and OY values updated due to the close interrelationship that exists between setting a fishing season and the resulting attainment of the OY. This update has been requested by the Central office of NMFS. The expanded Amendment 9 was included in the Council notebooks.

To eliminate remaining inconsistencies in the plan, the PMT presented Amendment 10, as a discussion document, which responds to the "exclusive" designation given to the Southeast and Alaska Peninsula registration areas, and the reduction of the Kodiak pot limit from 250 to 200 Tanner crab pots. The PMT requested that the Council consider approving these amendments for public review.

The Council was advised that Amendment 8 to the Tanner Crab FMP began Secretarial review on May 16, 1983. This amendment is one of the first plan amendments to be reviewed under the recent MFCMA amendments and should be reviewed using the new "fast track" method.

Amendment 7, which established new C. bairdi OYs and set C. opilio OY equal to DAH (i.e., TALFF = 0) terminating the foreign fishery on this species, was implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on April 8, 1983. It had been submitted by the Council for Dept. of Commerce review on December 24, 1980.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed a presentation by Council staff on the regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the proposed amendments which have been developed to cover inconsistencies between the two management regimes. Amendment 9 covers items which have long been outstanding and have previously been reviewed by the SSC. The SSC recommends that this amendment go out for public review.

With regard to Amendment 10, the SSC identified some concerns. Changes in regulations for exclusive registration areas and pot limits requires some reason other than economic if they are to conform to the FCMA. The conservation benefits asserted in this amendment are not supportable by any scientific information that has been presented to the SSC. We recommend the amendment not go to public review until a conservation-based rationale can be developed.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended that Amendment 9 go out for public review.

The AP also recommended, on a vote of 8 to 7, rejecting the pot limits or exclusive/super-exclusive areas proposed in Amendment 10. The AP felt that the Council and Board should develop similar definitions for exclusive and super-exclusive areas for the king and Tanner crab plans as they currently have different meanings in each set of proposed regulations. If there are socioeconomic issues (and it was felt there are), these should also be incorporated into the decision-making process and not ignored.

Public Testimony

Richard Goldsmith, NPFVOA. He urged the Council not to send Amendment 10 out for public review because he doesn't feel that exclusive or super-exclusive areas conform to the National Standards. Mr. Goldsmith said he had no problems with Amendment 9.

Another problem brought to the Council's attention was the apparent confusion among fishermen as to which body proposals should be made for the Tanner crab fisheries in the FCZ. He mentioned that in recent years all of the Tanner crab proposals have been submitted to the Board. He has requested legal opinions from both Mr. Gissberg and Mr. Travers and when both responses have been received he will make a presentation to the Council. The other item Mr. Goldsmith wished to bring before the Council is the pot storage area established by Federal Regulation between 57° and 58° and 164° and 166°. The Council voted to

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abolish that storage area in favor of another Bristol Bay storage area which had been accepted by the Board of Fisheries. Right now, there could be an abolition of that area while pots are stored in it. He asked that if that area is abolished, it not be done until after the Pribilof king crab fishery which takes place roughly October 1. Otherwise, changing in the middle of the summer would require fishermen now storing their pots there to move them to another storage area.

End of public testimony.

Phil Chitwood, NMFS, explained that the elimination of the pot storage area is being handled separately from the rest of Amendment 8, has not yet been published as a proposed rule, and is at least three or four months away from implementation.

COUNCIL ACTION

*Don Collinsworth moved that the Council send to public review proposed Amendments 9 and 10. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and approved with Keith Specking and Rudy Peterson voting no.*

Gene Didonato expressed concern with sending Amendment 10 out for public review because of comments from the SSC and AP regarding justification language, and he would hope that this could be cleared up before sending this amendment out for public review. His other concern was the issue of whether the Chignik exclusive registration zone and the pot limit in Kodiak meet the National Standards. He feels that the Council shouldn't be sending out proposals that do not meet National Standards if, in fact, the legal advisors indicate that they do not meet the Standards. If the proposal in the end is not a viable proposal, then the Council is generating public comment and possible controversy for no reason.

*It was the concensus of the Council that the PMT should add further justification language to the Amendment 10 before sending it out for public review.*

D-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Staff Report

Jeff Povolny briefed the Council on a request by the Japanese trawl industry to raise the OY for pollock in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska.

Dr. Gary Stauffer, NW&AFC, gave an analysis of the request for the PMT. He said the current stock assessment for pollock in that area is based on the estimated stock condition in 1981, noting the latest data for this assessment is now two years old.



Current conditions are greatly dependent on the strength of the 1977, 1978, and 1979 year classes. Confirmation of those year class strengths depends on the final 1982 and preliminary 1983 catch-at-age data and the 1983 survey results. An increase of 144,000 mt as suggested in the Central and Western Gulf would amount to a 107% increase in possible harvest over 1982. An additional catch of 144,000 mt could be expected to increase the incidental catch of halibut by 1,300 to 1,700 mt. Council members were provided with the complete PMT report and Dr. Stauffer's review of the Alton and Deriso report on Alaska pollock in the Gulf of Alaska.

Doug Larson, NPFMC staff economist, reviewed staff comments which described four possible outcomes of changing the OY for pollock in the Gulf of Alaska.

#### Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg reported that the SSC received and reviewed several reports on the subject of OY for the pollock stock in the Central and Western management areas of the Gulf of Alaska. The SSC presented three options available to the Council with respect to the pollock OY issue:

1. Leave OY set equal to 200,000 mt for the Western and Central Gulf management areas for the remainder of 1983. The OY for 1984 would be set after results of the analysis of 1983 fisheries and survey data are known.
2. Set the total OY for the Western and Central areas at 240,035 mt. This alternative recognized that modification of the current OY is necessary to allow foreign catches during 1983 to remain at 1982 levels and was considered a viable option.
3. Increase OY to 344,000 mt as proposed by the Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. As previously indicated, the basis for this proposal was the results of a cohort analysis performed by Alton and Deriso (1982) which indicated an annual surplus production (ASP) range for the Western and Central areas of from 180,000 mt to 508,000 mt, with 344,000 mt as the mid-point.

Because other status of stocks information is still preliminary, the SSC preferred the first option. Further, in light of these data, the SSC could not support a modification to the mid-point of the ASP range. Relative to future OY modification for the pollock fishery in the Gulf of Alaska, the SSC recommended that the Council adopt a schedule that will be followed in arriving at any such decision.

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### Report of the Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson reported that the AP recommended, on a vote of 13 to 2, that the current OY of 200,000 mt in the Gulf of Alaska not be increased. The AP felt that the Council should stay at the current level until data from recent years can be evaluated.

### Public Testimony

Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. Mr. Johnson said that the request for the increase in the pollock OY was submitted by his firm on behalf of the Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. The request was based on information generated by the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. He said that the request for 344,000 mt could be revised down, but his main concern is that the Japanese trawlers be able to operate at the same level as in the past and that Japanese participation in joint ventures be rewarded with continued allocations for directed pollock fishing.

Greg Baker, ALFA. Mr. Baker said he favors maintaining the OY level at the current 200,000 mt. To increase foreign fishing time would result in an increase of the catch of incidental species, therefore he would oppose any increase in the pollock OY.

Henry Mitchell, BSFA. Mr. Mitchell said he is concerned about any possible increase in the incidental catch of halibut.

End of public testimony.

### COUNCIL ACTION

*Jim Campbell moved that the Council follow the recommendation of the SSC and leave the pollock OY set equal to 200,000 mt for the Western and Central management areas for 1983 and set 1984 OY after analysis of 1983 survey data is complete. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken. The motion passed with Rudy Petersen, Keith Specking, Clem Tillion, and Gene Didonato voting no.*

### D-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

#### Staff Report

Jeff Povolny reported that the Council needed to approve Amendment 8, the Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits for salmon for the foreign trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea: 38,441 fish in 1984 and 27,957 fish in 1985. Amendment 8 was sent out for public review on April 7; no comments were received. The salmon PSC numbers proposed for 1984 and 1985 were agreed to by Western Alaska Residents who depend on the salmon resource and the Japanese trawl industry, principal harvesters of groundfish in

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the Bering Sea. It has been determined that a formal amendment is not required to incorporate these figures into the plan as this action can be implemented through a rule-related notice.

Mr. Povolny also brought the Council up to date on the current status of Amendments 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Because Amendment 3 will be implemented in 1983, Amendment 5 is no longer required and should be formally withdrawn from Secretarial review.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended approval of Amendment 8 for Secretarial review and formal withdrawal of Amendment 5.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel unanimously recommended approval of Amendment 8 for Secretarial review and also recommended formal withdrawal of Amendment 5.

The AP also requested the Council have the PMT review the significant reduction in salmon incidental catches in the Japanese fleet to determine whether the reduction is a result of gear modification, fleet fishing in different areas and times, and/or low abundance of salmon. The AP further requested the Council to advise NMFS to expedite implementation of Amendment 1.

Public Testimony

Jay Hastings, Japan Fish Assn. Mr. Hastings wished to clarify to the Council that although his name appeared on a document as being in favor of the halibut moratorium, he was not involved in the cited meeting and, in fact, has taken no position on the moratorium.

Mr. Hastings advised the Council that when Amendment 1 was originally proposed he was in support of it. However, since that time he feels there have been several significant changes and that it does not reflect the Council's original intentions. Mr. Hastings advised the he would submit a letter to the Council specifying the changes in implementing regulations that he is concerned with.

End of public testimony.

Chairman Tillion said he would like to review Mr. Hastings letter before considering action.

COUNCIL ACTION

*Harold Lokken moved that the Council approve the PSC limits for salmon for foreign trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea at 38,441*

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fish in 1984 and 27,957 fish in 1985. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with no objection.

Bob Mace moved that the Council formally withdraw Amendment 5 from Secretarial review. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried with no objection.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts

The Council was provided with a written report on the status of current Council contracts. The Council was requested to approve the extension of Contract 82-3, Salmon Economic Profile, to July 31, 1983. There was no objection to this extension.

E-2 FY 1983-84 Budget Review

Jim Campbell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 26 to review FY/84 Administrative and Programmatic funding. The Committee approved the total budget of \$1,037,452 which is a 5.4% increase over the FY/83 funding level of \$982,000. The Committee recommended immediate programmatic funding for the Steller Sea Lion Pup Counts Adjacent to Shelikof Strait in the amount of \$16,548 and the Additional Analysis of Salmon Troll Data in the amount of \$22,600. For FY/84, the Committee recommended funding be requested for six proposals, totalling \$500,000. The proposals were outlined to the Council in the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended 1983 funding of the Steller Sea Lion Pup Counts in Shelikof Strait project and the Additional Analysis of Salmon Troll Data project.

COUNCIL ACTION

*Keith Specking moved that the Council approve the Administrative budget in the amount of \$1,037,452, as recommended by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by RADM Knapp and carried with no objection.*

*Bob Mace moved that the Council approve immediate funding for the Steller Sea Lion Pup Count proposal and the proposal for Additional Analysis of Salmon Troll Data. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking and carried with no objection.*

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E-3 Review of Programmatic Funds for FY/84

Recommendations of the Finance Committee are found under agenda item E-1.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

In reviewing the proposals for FY/84 funding, the SSC advised the following: The SSC does not recommend funding for the proposal, Handling Induced Mortality in Pre-recruit and Female Red King Crab.

The SSC recommended that the study on the Growth and Size at Maturity of Golden (Brown) King Crab be reviewed by the PMT, and that the study area be changed to the Bering Sea, and that the proposers respond to agency comments. The SSC would like to review the final proposal in July before recommending final approval. The SSC did not support the proposal for Stock Assessment Methodology for Sablefish. They recognized this to be a high priority for research and recommended that the Council identify funds at the \$200,000 level for sablefish research. Research priorities will be determined at a meeting to be hosted by the NWAFC in June. After that meeting, the SSC will review research needs and recommend a course of action by the Council.

The SSC did not recommend funding for the proposed studies on the Effects of Various System-wide Limited Entry Options . . . , and on the Economic Impacts of Fishing Activities on the Central and Western Regions of Alaska. They did, however, recommend that \$100,000 be set aside for research on limited entry and regional economics.

The SSC also noted that in addition to the above-mentioned projects, funds should be requested for ADF&G plan development and maintenance, and for the second year of the herring stock separation studies.

*Don Collinsworth moved that the Council approve the request for FY84 programmatic funding for the six proposals outlined in the Finance Committee's report. The motion was seconded by Keith Specking and carried with no objection.*

The Finance Committee also recommended that a workgroup be appointed to review Council procedures prior to the July meeting. Chairman Tillion said he would appoint a group and notify them.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hank Ostrosky, Naknek. Mr. Ostrosky advised the Council that in view of the EEZ changes, responsibility for the Council would

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change from the Secretary of Commerce to the Secretary of Interior. Therefore, he feels the Council should not conduct business until it is resolved.

Richard Goldsmith, NPFVOA. Mr. Goldsmith told the Council that he is very pleased with the results of the combined efforts of the Coast Guard, NMFS, U.S., Japanese, Korean, and West Germany industry representatives to deal with gear conflicts in the Bering Sea. He hopes that it will be possible to get information out to foreign trawlers in the Bering Sea on a weekly basis through the Coast Guard and ADF&G. He also feels it would be beneficial to sit down and work out a gear conflict code.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tillion adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 1983.