

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

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

January 23, 1984

R E V I S E D A G E N D A

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The agenda sent to you on January 19, 1984 has been revised to have the North Pacific Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries meet all day (rather than half-day) on Wednesday, February 1, and then until noon on Thursday, February 2. If Board/Council business is completed by noon on Thursday, the Council will move to the Gastineau Room in the Baranof Hotel for its afternoon meeting starting at 1:30 p.m.

The public comment period for halibut management was originally scheduled for 11 a.m. on Wednesday. This has now been rescheduled for Thursday around 4 p.m., though the Council will attempt to accommodate those that cannot rearrange their stay in Juneau.

Please note that the Council's salmon team will meet at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, in the Baranof Hotel; the exact room will be announced in the lobby. The team will continue their meeting on Monday as previously announced.

For further information on this new draft agenda, please contact:

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
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January 23, 1984

DRAFT AGENDA

58th Plenary Session NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 1-3, 1984
Juneau, Alaska

The North Pacific Council will meet with the Alaska Board of Fisheries beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, and until noon on Thursday, February 2, 1984 in the Gold Room of the Baranof Hotel in Juneau to hear salmon staff reports, a technical report on the U.S.-Canada salmon interception treaty negotiations, and public testimony on salmon regulatory proposals before taking action on 1984 management proposals for chinook salmon in the FCZ off Southeastern Alaska. The Board and Council will also review joint working procedures for Tanner crab management and regulatory review.

The Council will meet alone starting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday and continue on Friday in the Gastineau Room of the Baranof to review several groundfish management items including sablefish catch restrictions on joint venture trawling, methods of reducing catches of halibut, salmon and crabs by trawlers in the Bering Sea, pelagic gear restrictions on the foreign pollock fishery in the Gulf of Alaska adopted in December, and NMFS' disapproval of Amendment 6 (establishing a Fishery Development Zone) to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Fishery Management Plan. The Council may resubmit Amendment 6 for Secretarial review.

The Council also will consider management proposals to promote a developmental halibut fishery in the Bering Sea by residents of the Pribilof and Nelson Islands, review a Request for Proposals for herring research in the Bering Sea, and review permit applications for joint ventures by a ship from Norway, and for directed fisheries by Norwegian and Japanese ships.

Other Scheduled Meetings

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene on Monday, January 30, 1984, at 1:00 p.m. in the Gastineau Room of the Baranof Hotel and continue on Tuesday, January 31. A Monday evening session may be held.

The Advisory Panel meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, in the Capitol Room of the Baranof Hotel and continue on Tuesday, January 31.

A Council workgroup on net-marked salmon will meet from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, January 30, in the Alaska NMFS Conference Room to develop a status report for the Council on research on the occurrence and origin of net marks on salmon.

The Council's Salmon PMT will meet at the Baranof Hotel on Sunday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m. to consider salmon management issues for 1984. The team will then meet with the net-marked salmon workgroup at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, and then alone; time and place will be announced.

The Council's Permit Review Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, in the Baranof Hotel to review directed fishing permit applications from Japan and Norway, and a joint venture request for a ship from Norway.

Representatives of the Council will give an orientation briefing to the Board of Fisheries at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, in the Conference Room of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

All meetings are open to the public.

V - memo rec'd for typing
X - memo signed & ready for copying
(X) - sent to copy

A G E N D A

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

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

- ✓ B-1 Executive Director's Report
- B-2 AP and SSC Reports on Non-Agenda Items

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

- C-1 Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute Report
- (X) C-2 Halibut Management
 - (a) IPHC meeting summary
 - (b) Special Provisions for local development in the Bering Sea
- (X) C-3 Foreign Vessel Permit Applications
 - (a) Joint Ventures: Norway
 - (b) Directed Fishing: Norway, Japan
- C-4 Other Business

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- D-1 Salmon FMP
 - (a) U.S.-Canada Chinook Salmon Treaty Report.
 - (b) Regional fisheries overview.
 - (c) PMT report.
 - (d) Committee reports.
 - (e) Discussion of salmon management for 1984 and need for amendment.
- ✓ D-2 Herring FMP
 - (a) Summary report on Herring Scale Analysis
 - (b) Review and approve research RFP.
- (X) D-3 Tanner and King Crab FMPs
 - (a) Review of Council/Board working procedures.
 - (b) Seattle public hearing.
 - (c) Review king crab research.
- (X) D-4 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP
 - (a) Consider revising sablefish by-catch restrictions on joint venture trawl operations from the current 1.5%.
 - (b) Reaffirm restriction on bottom trawling in foreign pollock fishery.
- (X) D-5 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP
 - (a) Consideration of NMFS's disapproval of Amendment 6 - Fishery Development Zone. The Council may resubmit it for Secretarial review.
 - (b) Reducing prohibited species catches in Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary. Report from industry workgroup.

Report of ...

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CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

- (a) Crab Observer Study - final approval.
- (b) Programmatic Funding Priorities - approval.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

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NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MEETING SCHEDULE*

February 1-3, 1984
Juneau, Alaska

Wednesday, Feb. 1 Gold Room - Baranof Hotel	Thursday, Feb. 2
<u>Council and Board</u> 9:00 a.m. (A) Approve agenda (D-1) Salmon	<u>Council and Board</u> Salmon
10:00 a.m. Salmon	Salmon
11:00 a.m. Salmon	(D-3) Tanner Crab - Working Procedures
12:00 noon Lunch	Lunch
1:30 p.m. Salmon	<u>Council only</u> Gastineau Room - Baranof Hotel (or w/Board for ASMI Report) (C-1) Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute Report (B-1) Executive Director's Rpt.
3:00 p.m. Salmon	(D-1) Salmon
4:00 p.m. Salmon	(C-3) Foreign Vessel Permit Applications (C-2) Halibut Management
5:00 p.m. Adjournment	Adjournment

*The Council will try to follow this schedule, but times may be adjusted during the meetings as the need arises.

Meeting Schedule*, Continued

Friday, Feb. 3
Gastineau Room - Baranof Hotel

Council Only

9:00 a.m. (C-2) Halibut Management (continued)

10:00 a.m. (D-3) Tanner and King Crab
(D-2) Herring

11:00 a.m. (D-5) Bering Sea/Aleutian
Groundfish

12:00 noon Lunch

1:30 p.m. (D-4) Gulf of Alaska
Groundfish

3:00 p.m. (E) Financial Matters

4:00 p.m. General Public Comments
Adjournment

*The Council will try to follow this schedule, but times may be adjusted during the meetings as the need arises.

DRAFT SPECIAL AGENDA

for

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE BOARD OF FISHERIES
AND THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 1-2, 1984
Baranof Hotel, Juneau, Alaska

February 1-2*

1. U.S.-Canada Chinook Salmon Treaty
 - (a) Status report on negotiations
 - (b) Chinook Technical Report
2. Fisheries overview
 - (a) Alaska - ADF&G staff reports
 - (b) Washington and Oregon
 - (c) Canada
3. Plan Maintenance Team Report
 - (a) Status of FMP
 - (b) Need for amendment
 - (c) Discussion of accounting year
4. Committee Reports
 - (a) Net-marked salmon workgroup
 - (b) Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee
 - (c) Council's Advisory Panel
 - (d) Board's Regional Council
5. Summary of Issues
6. Public testimony on salmon proposals for 1984.
7. Council and Board discussions of salmon management for 1984.
8. Review Council/Board working procedures for king and Tanner crab.
 - (a) Treatment of Proposals
 - (b) Public hearing in Seattle
 - (c) Decision-making

*Note: Following lunch on Thursday, February 2, if Council and Board business is complete, the Council will move to the Gastineau Room. Interested Board members are invited to the 1:30 p.m. presentation by ASMI.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 103136
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510

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DRAFT AGENDA

ADVISORY PANEL
January 30-31, 1984

The AP will convene at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 1984 in the Gold Room of the Baranof Hotel in Juneau and will continue on Tuesday, January 31, in the Capitol Room at the hotel.

Monday: 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

1. Executive Director's Report (B-1)

Monday: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

2. Foreign Vessel Permit Applications (C-3)

Monday: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

3. Halibut Management (C-2)

Monday: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

4. Tanner and King Crab FMPs (D-3)

- (a) Seattle public hearing
- (b) Council/Board procedures

Tuesday: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

5. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP (D-4)

- (a) Analysis of sablefish by-catch in trawl operations
- (b) Pelagic gear restriction in foreign pollock fishery

6. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP (D-5)

- (a) Consideration of Amendment 6 - FDZ disapproval
- (b) Reducing prohibited species catches in Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary-
Report from industry workgroup

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

7. Salmon FMP (D-1)

- (a) U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty Report
- (b) Regional fisheries overview
- (c) PMT report
- (d) Committee Reports
- (e) Discussion of salmon management for 1984 and need for amendment

Tuesday: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

8. Herring FMP (D-2)

Review and approve request for research proposals.

DRAFT AGENDA

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
January 30-31, 1984

The SSC will convene at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 1984 and will continue on Tuesday, January 31 in the Gastineau Room of the Baranof Hotel in Juneau. The SSC may continue meeting on Monday evening, January 30.

Monday: 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

1. Approve new Salmon Team member

Monday: 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

2. Salmon FMP (D-1)
 - (a) U.S.-Canada Chinook Salmon Treaty Report
 - (b) Regional fisheries overview
 - (c) PMT report
 - (d) Committee reports
 - (e) Discussion of salmon management for 1984 and need for amendment

Tuesday: 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

3. Salmon FMP (continued)
4. Herring FMP (D-2)
 - (a) Summary report on Herring Scale Analysis
 - (b) Review and approve research RFP
5. Contracts and Proposals (E-1)
 - (a) Crab Observer Study: final approval
 - (b) Social and Cultural Aspects of Halibut Limited Entry: status report on review
 - (c) Review priorities for programmatic research

Tuesday: 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

6. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP (D-5)
 - (a) Consideration of Amendment 6 - FDZ disapproval.
 - (b) Reducing prohibited species catches in Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary. Report from industry workgroup.
7. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP (D-4)
 - (a) Analysis of sablefish by-catch in trawl operations
 - (b) Pelagic gear restriction in foreign pollock fishery

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John Winther moved that the Council accept the objectives for halibut management as presented by the Halibut Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and passed, 7 to 2, with Sara Hemphill abstaining and Lokken and Petersen voting against. Mr. Lokken said he voted against the motion because the Council had not made any plans to implement the objectives.

Council members discussed the proposal for a exclusive registration area in Area 4C at length. The proposal was as follows:

Area 4C will be established as an exclusive registration area, open to small boat, day fishermen. Fishing within Area 4C will be open to all fishermen; however, fishermen who choose to fish in that area can fish only in Area 4C. Vessel size is limited to 5 net tons or less. Halibut caught in Area 4C must be landed on-shore before vessels leave the area. The fishing season for Area 4C will begin on June 1 and end on September 1 or when the quota is reached. Throughout the season, fishing will be open 4 days and closed for one day. If it is biologically healthy for the stock, the quota in Area 4C will be 800,000 pounds.

Although in favor of supporting the developing fishery, some Council members felt the proposal was too restrictive, particularly the provision to require landing of fish in the area. Bob Mace said he felt that the restrictions could work against future expansion of the fishery. Harold Lokken said he felt the IPHC could deal with the situation as they did last season with more restrictions on the larger boats. ~~However, Bob McVey~~ noted that the Commission can only initiate regulations for the health of the fishery and stocks and cannot consider social and economic factors.

Don Mace
by Pat
Travers

Pat Travers was asked whether this action would be legal. Mr. Travers said that if it could be shown that taking this action was in the public interest, it could be considered legal.

Sara Hemphill moved the proposal be adopted without the requirement that halibut caught in Area 4C be landed in that area. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey.

After Council discussion, Ms. Hemphill, at the request of representatives of St. George Island, withdrew the motion and moved to postpone discussion of the subject until the February 1984 Council meeting. McVey seconded the motion which passed, 8 to 2, with Collinsworth and Stephan voting no. Mr. Mace was out of the room during the vote.

During Council discussion it was determined that the proposing organizations wished to resubmit the proposal for the February Council meeting. There was some concern about the time needed

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for public comment and to develop regulations. Mr. Collinsworth suggested that in order to expedite the process, the staff begin to prepare the necessary paperwork in case the proposal was adopted at the February meeting. Other Council members agreed.

Mr. Campbell asked Jim Branson to reply to Senator Stevens' letter on the proposal.

C-2 Foreign Vessel Permit applications

The Council received foreign vessel permit applications from Japan, South Korea, USSR, Taiwan, Spain and West Germany for joint ventures and/or directed fisheries in 1984. Detailed worksheets giving the details of these operations were provided in Council notebooks.

Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee recommended approving all joint venture requests submitted by Japan; the applications total 86,000 mt of groundfish for 1984 but it is expected those amounts will increase since Japan has committed to purchase 330-360,000 mt in joint ventures in 1984. Applications for directed fishing permits were all recommended for approval except for 11 vessels: four were seized in 1983 and have not settled their cases; the remaining seven made deliveries to the NIKKO MARU which was seized for underlogging fish transfers. The 11 vessels are: KIYO MARU 55, TOMI MARU 83, KURYO (YURYO) MARU 31, NIKKO MARU, AKEBONO 15, AKEBONO 17, AKEBONO 18, AKEBONO 21, SHINNICHI MARU 38, SHUNYO MARU 118, and ZUIYO MARU 28.

The Committee also recommended approval of joint venture permits from South Korea for 78,700 mt, from the USSR for 96,935 mt, and from Spain for 12,000 mt. Two permit applications for directed fishing by South Korea were also reviewed and recommended for approval.

The Committee recommended approving West German permits for joint ventures of 6,000 mt per vessel. The Committee recommended approval of a 14,000 mt direct allocation for 1984 for each of two West German vessels, the MOND and FRIEDRICH BUSSE. However, because of the Nordstern's poor past performance in meeting joint venture commitments, the Committee suggested that 50% of the allocation be withheld until after June 30. The second allocation would be granted to a vessel only if it had purchased at least 3,000 mt in joint ventures by that date and committed to buy 3,000 mt more in joint ventures after June 30.

The Committee recommended approving joint venture applications for Taiwan totaling 19,000 mt. Because of the poor violations record of the Highly Enterprise Company and cases pending against it, the Committee recommended that no direct allocation be given

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FTS 271-4064

Certified: _____

Chairman

MINUTES

57th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 7-9, 1983
Old Federal Building
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 57th plenary session on Wednesday, December 7, 1983 at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Federal Building, Anchorage, Alaska and adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, December 9.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met at the Old Federal Building on Monday and Tuesday, December 6-7, 1983.

The Advisory Panel met at the Old Federal Building on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7-8, 1983.

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

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Robert W. McVey
Rudy Petersen
Jeffrey R. Stephan
Ray Arnaudo
RADM Richard Knapp
John Winther

Jon Nelson for
Dr. Robt. Putz
Don Collinsworth
Sara Hemphill
Gene Didonato for
Bill Wilkerson
Robert U. Mace for
John Donaldson

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
William Aron
Don Bevan
Bud Burgner
John Burns

Steve Langdon
Jack Lechner
Jack Robinson
Fred Gaffney for
John Clark
Larry Hreha

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Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson, Chairman
Bud Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Barker
Al Burch
Barry Collier
Barry Fisher
Weaver Ivanoff
Ron Jolin
Joe Kurtz
Rick Lauber

Ray Lewis
Jim O'Connell
Dan O'Hara
Jack Phillips
Don Rawlinson
Harvey Samuelson
Walt Smith
Tom Stewart
Tony Vaska
Ed Wojack

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Jim Glock

Doug Larson
Ron Miller
Jeff Povolny
Helen Allen

Support Staff

Pat Travers, NOAA/GC
James Brooks, NMFS
Choate Budd, USCG
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Loh-Lee Low, NWAFC
Guy Thornburgh, ADF&G
Ron Berg, NMFS

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Kirk Beiningen, ODFW
Gary Stauffer, NWAFC
Loh-Lee Low, NWAFC
Donald McCaughran, IPHC

General Public

Don Martens
William S. Gilbert
Kwang Ho Cho
Dong Hwan Bae
Sam Chul Bae
Nellie Peratrovich
Kee Jun Lee
Dale R. Lindsey
Thorne Tasker
Charles Welling
David Harville
Robert Brophy
C.Y. Huong
K. Kawanmura
Mark Chandler
Iliodor Philemenof

Ed Zyblut
J. Y. Lin
Jin Nei Han
Chi-Nam Oh
Dave Woodruff
Jackie Martin
Jay Hastings
Michael Turner
Henry Mitchell
Tadoshi Nemoto
John Schmiedtke
Peter Zachara
K.Y. Lee
Dave Pierce
John J. Durkin
Mel Monsen

Charles J. Miller
Jee H. Lim
John C. Marr
W.K. Lim
Chris Blackburn
Arne Lee
Mark S. Lundsten
Sig Mathiesen
Mike Zacharof
Kurt Schelle
Flore Lekanof
L.S. Bereznin
Alan Reichman
Edwin W. Anderson
P. Corbett
Paul Folley

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Victor Yakunin	Pete Fefelor	Terry Buholm
Konrad Uri	Peter Allan	Paul MacGregor
Christopher Pace	Vern Hall	Max Chutshall
Saeng Lee	Steve B. Carmen	Werner Muschkeit
Stephen B. Johnson	Donald W. Swisher	Greg Baker
Mick Stevens	Rod Moore	Bruce R. Jenkinson
Rod Armstrong	Kwang Yul Lee	Steve Grabich
John E. Feero	Lonnie Chesnut	Alvin Osterback
Niimi Yuiji	D. Molemkamp	Ron Kutchik
Oliver Holm	Mickey Serwald	Joe McGill
Assen Nicolov	Mike Haggren	Chuck Kekoni
Conan Huong	John Hooper	Jack Knutsen
Peter Allan	Michael B. Jones	Anthony Mercurief
J.Y. Hwang	Paul Gronholdt	Barbara Monkiewicz
Dave Osterback		

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

Jim Campbell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 7, 1983. Mr. Campbell introduced Admiral Jong Yon Hwang, Korean Deepseas Fisheries Assn., Mr. Saito, Special Counsel for the Japan Fisheries Agency, and Commissioner Bill Gilbert of the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Agenda

Agenda item D-2, Tanner Crab, was moved to Thursday afternoon. *Bob Mace moved to approve the agenda; Jeff Stephan seconded the motion which carried with no objection.*

Minutes

Harold Lokken moved to approve the minutes of the September 1983 Council meeting. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson briefly reviewed the Executive Director's report in Council notebooks. Jim Campbell, Harold Lokken and Jim Branson attended the Chairmen's meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi in November. The report of that meeting is not yet complete. The FY/85 budget for operation of the Regional Councils is \$7.3 million, down from \$7.5 million last year.

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Mr. Branson reported on the Council's participation in the Fish Expo in Seattle in October and recommended the Council participate again in 1985.

Greg Baker has resigned from the Advisory Panel following his appointment by Governor Sheffield as Director of the Office of Commercial Fisheries Development. The AP Nominations Committee, chaired by Sara Hemphill, will review current applications and make their recommendation for a replacement at the February meeting.

Mr. Branson told the Council that the review of Council procedures and policies has not been started because of other pressing business, but that it is a top priority and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

A group is being formed to explore procedures for developing king crab regulations with the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Barry Collier, Joe Kurtz, Bob Alverson, Rudy Petersen and Jesse Foster were recommended as members of the workgroup.

Mr. Branson told the Council that the conflict of interest question is still unresolved. General Counsel for the Dept. of Commerce is working on it. In the meantime, Council members are subject to the statute and may wish to continue to abstain from voting, and perhaps debating, on subjects that may be of direct financial interest to them or their immediate family.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

The statewide domestic catch of Pacific cod through October 1, 1983 was 52,168 mt. By area, 47,788 mt came from the Bering Sea, 4,002 mt came from the Central Gulf of Alaska, and 379 mt came from other areas. The U.S. catch of Pacific cod was 40,804 mt in 1982 and 19,097 mt in 1981.

The statewide domestic catch of pollock totaled 279,978 mt, including 148,515 mt from the Bering Sea, 131,095 mt from the Central Gulf, and 358 mt from the Western Gulf. The U.S. catch was 131,246 mt in 1982 and 59,557 mt in 1981.

Nearly 2,800 mt of sablefish have been caught by U.S. fishermen off Alaska. This includes 2,334 mt from the Eastern Gulf, 238 mt from the Central Gulf, 113 mt from the Western Gulf, and 112 mt from the Bering Sea. The U.S. catch of sablefish off Alaska was 2,187 mt in 1982 and 1,333 mt in 1981.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

Ron Berg, NMFS, reported that by November 19, 1983 foreign fleets in the Gulf of Alaska harvested 128,461 mt of groundfish, or about 52% of the current foreign allocation for that area. The catch included 72,424 mt pollock, 24,586 mt Pacific cod, 10,371 mt Atka mackerel, 5,328 mt Pacific Ocean perch, 8,305 mt flounders, and 3,356 mt sablefish.

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In the Bering Sea and Aleutians they harvested 1,039,738 mt, about 82% of the current foreign allocation. The catch included 849,448 mt pollock, 31,689 mt Pacific cod, 2,375 mt sablefish, 905 mt Pacific ocean perch, and 136,975 mt flatfish. There were 143 foreign vessels off Alaska on November 30, 112 from Japan, 25 from South Korea, two from Taiwan, three from the USSR, and one from West Germany.

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

The Coast Guard reported 23 infractions by foreign vessels since late September. The Japanese longliner KIYO MARU 55 was seized near Kodiak for underlogging its catch of sablefish by 11.1 mt. In mid-November the Japanese transport NIKKO MARU was seized in the central Bering Sea for gross logging violations. The Coast Guard boarding party found product transfer receipts and cargo stowage plans from 1982 and 1983 which showed the amount of product transferred exceeded the amount listed in transfer logs by more than 2,200 mt over the two-year period. Subsequently, individual reports of violations were issued to seven Japanese stern trawlers for underlogging the amount they had transferred to the NIKKO MARU.

To date, the US. Coast Guard enforcement effort for 1983 has totaled 724 cutter patrol days and 2,872 aircraft patrol hours for a combined trackline coverage of over 380,011 miles. These enforcement efforts have resulted in forty-three reports of violations, thirty-seven citations and seven seizures.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

Ron Berg reported that the total joint venture catch off Alaska through November 19 was 349,027 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, 139,078 mt of pollock and other species were harvested using 24 foreign and 45 U.S. vessels. In the Bering Sea/Aleutians, 18 foreign vessels and 45 U.S. vessels harvested 209,949 mt including 149,013 mt pollock, 34,228 mt flatfish, 14,351 mt Pacific cod, and 10,512 mt Atka mackerel. Four processors and eight U.S. trawlers are currently operating in joint ventures in the Gulf of Alaska.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Halibut Fishery Management

Report of the Halibut Workgroup

Ron Miller reviewed the actions taken by the Halibut Workgroup during their November 17 meeting. The Workgroup had been charged by the Council to consider public comments received on the draft halibut management objectives and to draft a moratorium for Council consideration.

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The Workgroup voted unanimously to amend and expand the draft objectives to read as follows:

1. Insure survival of the North Pacific halibut resource.
2. Distribute the halibut fishery in time and place to insure the harvest of the available surplus of all components of the halibut population over all areas of the North Pacific Ocean including the Bering Sea.
3. Continue to limit the harvesting of halibut to hook and line as the best means of utilizing and maintaining the resource at its highest sustained level of abundance.
4. Retain the International Pacific Halibut Commission as the primary management authority over the coast-wide range of the halibut population.
5. Provide high quality fresh, frozen or preserved halibut to the consumer throughout the year.
6. Strive to reduce incidental halibut mortality by gear that is not legal for a directed halibut fishery.

The Workgroup voted to amend the 1983 moratorium proposal as follows and present it to the Council:

1. The term of the moratorium is to be for two fishing seasons, or 24 months, as opposed to 36 months;
2. An appeals procedure should be included in the moratorium;
3. Halibut vessels sold during the moratorium are to be transferred with any rights in any future limited entry system attached to the vessel;
4. The qualifying period for the moratorium should be expanded from 1978-1982 to 1978-1983;
5. The adoption of a moratorium constitutes a commitment by the Council to implement halibut limited entry at the end of the moratorium period.

The staff recommended two alternative courses of action. If the Council wanted to address the decreasing length of the seasons, then the Council should proceed directly with some form of effort control rather than impose a moratorium. If it did not wish to address this problem, the recommendation was for the Council to withdraw from further consideration of halibut management.

Halibut Management Proposals

The Council also received two specific proposals for halibut management. Harold Lokken submitted a proposal for a two-year trial system utilizing a pre-registration and lottery-type scheme. Fishermen's organizations from St. George, St. Paul and Nelson Islands submitted a proposal requesting an exclusive registration area for Area 4C and limiting vessels in that area to 5 net tons or less. These proposals were provided in writing to Council members.

International Pacific Halibut Commission - Report on 1984 Halibut Management Alternatives

Dr. Donald McCaughran, Executive Director of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), reported that the increased use of circle hooks in 1983 increased actual effort by about 93%. The IPHC will be faced with devising management measures to decrease effort but not discriminate between the small- and large-boat fleets. Earlier openings, outlawing the circle hook, and shorter openings spread over a longer time are some of the management measures which could be considered by IPHC at their meeting in Anchorage January 24-26, 1984. The Commission also is considering increasing quotas for the 1984 season because of the apparently healthy condition of the stocks; however, they will still have to consider methods of spreading the catch over a longer time to enable them to more closely monitor the harvest and avoid overfishing.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted unanimously to recommend approval of the six objectives developed by the Halibut Workgroup. The Panel also discussed the moratorium and voted 11 to 9 against approval. They voted 15 to 3 to recommend that the Council not take up the issue of a moratorium or limited entry for the halibut fishery in the future.

The AP also recommended that the Council and IPHC consider an exclusive fishery management zone in Area 4C in the Bering Sea with a 5 net ton vessel restriction. The vote was 10 to 8 with 1 abstention.

Public testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL ACTION

In a lengthy discussion, some Council members felt that the Council should discontinue any consideration of a moratorium or limited entry, at least for the 1984 season, and concentrate on other possible management measures in the halibut fishery. Don

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Collinsworth said he felt that the Council needs to erase some of the speculative entry that might occur in 1984 and get on with consideration of other kinds of management regimes to achieve certain objectives. He said the Council needs to continue to evaluate a whole set of possibilities, including limited entry. Harold Lokken suggested that the Council should allow the IPHC to handle the management of the fishery based on recommendations of the Advisory Panel and public testimony and that the Council should make recommendations to the Commission's Conference Board if they wished.

Mr. McVey said that although the IPHC would not comment on limited entry, they feel the U.S. needs to take measures for rational management of the halibut fishery. The U.S. exceeded its catch quotas in four of eight areas off Alaska this year.

In response to Dr. McCoughran's presentation, Admiral Knapp expressed concern for the safety of small-boat operators in adverse weather conditions if the seasons were set too early.

Council members also discussed interacting with the Commission's Conference Board to develop management measures.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council cease all consideration of management alternatives for the commercial halibut fishery for 1984 and allow the IPHC to manage the fishery. The motion was seconded by Gene Didonato and failed by a vote of 7 to 3. Lokken, Didonato and Mace voted in favor of the motion.

Jeff Stephan then moved that the Council cease further consideration of a moratorium or limited entry for halibut, but continue to pursue the consideration of management alternatives other than a moratorium and limited entry for the halibut fishery, and attempt to develop a management regime for halibut through co-operation with the IPHC, but recognizing also that the NPFMC itself may wish to propose regulations to achieve its halibut objectives, if any, through authority granted it by law. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and failed with a vote of 8 to 2. Stephan and Petersen voted for the motion.

Mr. Stephan restated the motion taking out the references to limited entry. This motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and passed, 8 to 2, with Mace and Lokken voting against.

In discussion of the proposed management objectives for the halibut fishery, Don Collinsworth said he felt the objectives were not broad enough and he hope they might be modified in the future. Harold Lokken said he could not support a motion to approve the objectives because the Council was not making a commitment to implement them.

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John Winther moved that the Council accept the objectives for halibut management as presented by the Halibut Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and passed, 7 to 2, with Sara Hemphill abstaining and Lokken and Petersen voting against. Mr. Lokken said he voted against the motion because the Council had not made any plans to implement the objectives.

Council members discussed the proposal for an exclusive registration area in Area 4C at length. The proposal was as follows:

Area 4C will be established as an exclusive registration area, open to small boat, day fishermen. Fishing within Area 4C will be open to all fishermen; however, fishermen who choose to fish in that area can fish only in Area 4C. Vessel size is limited to 5 net tons or less. Halibut caught in Area 4C must be landed on-shore before vessels leave the area. The fishing season for Area 4C will begin on June 1 and end on September 1 or when the quota is reached. Throughout the season, fishing will be open 4 days and closed for one day. If it is biologically healthy for the stock, the quota in Area 4C will be 800,000 pounds.

Although in favor of supporting the developing fishery, some Council members felt the proposal was too restrictive, particularly the provision to require landing of fish in the area. Bob Mace said he felt that the restrictions could work against future expansion of the fishery. Harold Lokken said he felt the IPHC could deal with the situation as they did last season with more restrictions on the larger boats. However, Bob McVey noted that the Commission can only initiate regulations for the health of the fishery and stocks and cannot consider social and economic factors.

Pat Travers was asked whether this action would be legal. Mr. Travers said that if it could be shown that taking this action was in the public interest, it could be considered legal.

Sara Hemphill moved the proposal be adopted without the requirement that halibut caught in Area 4C be landed in that area. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey.

After Council discussion, Ms. Hemphill, at the request of representatives of St. George Island, withdrew the motion and moved to postpone discussion of the subject until the February 1984 Council meeting. McVey seconded the motion which passed, 8 to 2, with Collinsworth and Stephan voting no. Mr. Mace was out of the room during the vote.

During Council discussion it was determined that the proposing organizations wished to resubmit the proposal for the February Council meeting. There was some concern about the time needed

for public comment and to develop regulations. Mr. Collinsworth suggested that in order to expedite the process, the staff begin to prepare the necessary paperwork in case the proposal was adopted at the February meeting. Other Council members agreed.

Mr. Campbell asked Jim Branson to reply to Senator Stevens' letter on the proposal.

C-2 Foreign Vessel Permit applications

The Council received foreign vessel permit applications from Japan, South Korea, USSR, Taiwan, Spain and West Germany for joint ventures and/or directed fisheries in 1984. Detailed worksheets giving the details of these operations were provided in Council notebooks.

Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee recommended approving all joint venture requests submitted by Japan; the applications total 86,000 mt of groundfish for 1984 but it is expected those amounts will increase since Japan has committed to purchase 330-360,000 mt in joint ventures in 1984. Applications for directed fishing permits were all recommended for approval except for 11 vessels: four were seized in 1983 and have not settled their cases; the remaining seven made deliveries to the NIKKO MARU which was seized for underlogging fish transfers. The 11 vessels are: KIYO MARU 55, TOMI MARU 83, KURYO (YURYO) MARU 31, NIKKO MARU, AKEBONO 15, AKEBONO 17, AKEBONO 18, AKEBONO 21, SHINNICHI MARU 38, SHUNYO MARU 118, and ZUIYO MARU 28.

The Committee also recommended approval of joint venture permits from South Korea for 78,700 mt, from the USSR for 96,935 mt, and from Spain for 12,000 mt. Two permit applications for directed fishing by South Korea were also reviewed and recommended for approval.

The Committee recommended approving West German permits for joint ventures of 6,000 mt per vessel. The Committee recommended approval of a 14,000 mt direct allocation for 1984 for each of two West German vessels, the MOND and FRIEDRICH BUSSE. However, because of the Nordstern's poor past performance in meeting joint venture commitments, the Committee suggested that 50% of the allocation be withheld until after June 30. The second allocation would be granted to a vessel only if it had purchased at least 3,000 mt in joint ventures by that date and committed to buy 3,000 mt more in joint ventures after June 30.

The Committee recommended approving joint venture applications for Taiwan totaling 19,000 mt. Because of the poor violations record of the Highly Enterprise Company and cases pending against it, the Committee recommended that no direct allocation be given

to Taiwan in the Gulf of Alaska or the Bering Sea/Aleutians until the joint ventures in those areas were at least 80% complete. The Committee also recommended approving directed fishing permits for the GOLDEN DRAGON 1, CHIEF DRAGON 101, the CHIEF DRAGON 737, and CHIEF DRAGON 777, but not for the HIGHLY 303 or HIGHLY 707 until the cases of the HIGHLY 301 and HIGHLY 302 were settled. The Committee received information on prospective operations for vessels by Norway and Poland in 1984 but deferred consideration until February when complete permit applications are expected to be available. The Permit Review Committee report is made part of these minutes in Appendix IV.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended approval of joint venture and direct fishing permit applications for South Korea, USSR and Spain. They concurred with the Permit Review Committee's recommendations for approval of permit applications from Japan with the exception of the 11 Japanese vessels with pending cases for violations. The AP voted approval of the Taiwanese joint venture application for the Gulf of Alaska only, and took no action on the directed fishing applications pending further information.

The AP recommended approval of the permit for the FRIEDRICH BUSSE but recommended denial of the permit application for the MOND. The AP would consider approval if the MOND would participate in a 25% joint venture coupled with their directed fishing operation.

The AP recommended that for future discussions of permit applications they be provided with violations records over several years, the name of the companies of the violating vessels, and that only vessels which have had fines imposed be listed.

Public Testimony

Conan Huang, representing the Taiwan fishing industry. Mr. Huang said that it is very difficult to obtain fishing permits through the bureaucratic process in Taiwan. Last year was the first time since the Magnuson Act was enacted that U.S. officials had come to his country to explain procedures and that it has made a big difference in reducing violations this year. He said his ships are always open to inspection at any time and that prohibited species are returned to the sea promptly. The Taiwanese companies hope that the U.S. will send representatives to his country again to help avoid future violations.

Michael B. Jones, Pribilof-Highly Seaproducts. The purchase of a fishing vessel by St. George Tanaq Corporation is being held up pending receipt of federal funds. However, the St. George/Highly joint venture will go ahead despite this delay. They will contract with two fishing vessels to deliver to the CHIEF DRAGON 737.

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John Schmiedtke, Nordstern. Mr. Schmiedtke told the Council that the plans for the inclusion of the MOND in the fishing operation are not complete, pending final decisions by management in Germany. He explained that the request for the BUSSE consists of 12,000 mt in the Bering Sea and 16,000 mt in the Aleutian Islands for a directed fishery and a joint venture for 6,000 mt. The rest, 6,000 mt in the Bering Sea and 12,000 mt in the Aleutians, and 3,000 to 4,000 mt of joint venture is for the MOND. Commenting on the Permit Review Committee's recommendation to withhold 50% of their allocation, Mr. Schmiedtke said that 14,000 mt would not keep them going until they get the joint venture.

Steve Johnson, representing the Japanese trawl industry. Mr. Johnson said he does not think the Council should recommend sanctions against vessels with pending violations. He also said that the case against the TOMI MARU has been settled although Council records show it still pending.

Assen Nicolov, Oceantrawl Corporation. Mr. Nicolov submitted a written statement describing a joint venture between Broedrene Saetremyr, Norway, and Oceantrawl Corporation. The Council had not yet received the necessary applications.

End of public testimony.

Admiral Knapp, commenting on the proceedings of the Permit Review Committee, said that the Committee was unaware that the HIGHLY 303 and HIGHLY 707 were simply cargo/transport vessels. He recommended that directed fishing privileges not be granted to the stern trawlers GOLDEN DRAGON 1, CHIEF DRAGON 101, or CHIEF DRAGON 737 until the HIGHLY 301 and 303 cases were settled, rather than sanctioning the two cargo/transporters.

COUNCIL ACTION

Some Council members expressed concern that some joint venture operations were not living up to their agreements to purchase fish and cautioned that they will look very carefully at future application requests because of the declining stocks available for foreign fishing.

Harold Lokken moved to accept the recommendations of the Permit Review Committee with the recommended changes concerning the Taiwanese directed fishing permits. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and passed unanimously with Sara Hemphill abstaining.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 HERRING FMP

The final Bering Sea FMP package has not yet been submitted for Secretarial review but is expected to be mailed within the next few days.

Jim Glock reported on the workgroup meeting held to review herring research needs and to determine if the experimental/research fishery suggested by the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. could generate the desired data. The report of that meeting was provided to the Council. The group agreed that the goal of the research program was generation of information on the structural makeup of the herring population, its distribution and size in order to allow evaluation of alternative harvesting strategies. Research to obtain basic information should be separated into inshore and offshore components because of differences in the objectives and logistics of the research. The committee considered four methods of accomplishing the objectives: a program using government or chartered vessels, a research program using commercial fishing vessels, an observer program on commercial vessels, or a combination of commercial vessels and a research vessel. The committee reviewed the draft request for proposals submitted by NPFVOA and decided further work was necessary before it would be ready for Council consideration. A Request for Proposals may be ready for Council consideration at the February meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC received the report from the Council's workgroup and noted that the scientific design and operational plan are not complete at this time. The SSC will not review the proposed program at this time.

Public Testimony

Joe McGill, Bristol Bay Herring Co-op. Mr. McGill is opposed to any fishing on offshore stocks. He believes the fishery is fully utilized inshore.

Barry Collier, NPFVOA. Mr. Collier said the question is whether there should be an experimental fishery to get information needed on the stocks. With a commercial experimental fishery working with the state, expenditures to the state or a federal regulatory body would be very minimal. It is not known whether the fishery is being fully utilized and an experimental fishery could provide this information.

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Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. BSFA has suggested for two years that a tagging program be instituted to get the information needed on herring stocks, but they do not agree with a commercial experimental fishery offshore.

End of public testimony.

Although Council members acknowledged the need for valid data in the herring fishery, discussion centered on the lack of research funds for new projects. Don Collinsworth suggested a cooperative effort between trawlermen who are interested in research information and NMFS personnel who could do the analyses. Council members agreed that they could not make any decisions until a more detailed proposal is presented.

No action was required. A Request for Proposal should be available for the next Council meeting.

D-2 Tanner Crab FMP

Don Collinsworth had requested that a discussion of the use of pot limits and exclusive registration areas as management tools be put on the agenda. Mr. Collinsworth said he is concerned that by not approving Amendment 10 to the FMP the Council is changing an existing regulatory regime without an analysis of the impact of that change on the fishery. When the Board of Fisheries meets in March there will be proposals for pot limits and exclusive registration areas and the Council will need to act on those proposals based on reports from the state, Council staff, NMFS and enforcement agencies. A uniform approach to management of these fisheries is needed. Bob McVey was asked to clarify NMFS' stand on pot limits and exclusive registration areas.

Mr. McVey said that neither pot limits nor exclusive registration areas are precluded as management measures under the Magnuson Act. Decisions on these measures will have to be made on a case-by-case basis. He feels it is important to work with the state to ensure that fishermen are not victimized by inconsistent management regimes.

Council members discussed ways of working more closely with the Board and the possibility of Council members sitting in at Board meetings when crab management is discussed. A workgroup will be created to meet with the Council and Board staff to prepare an improved review and regulatory procedure. A report from this group should be available at the next meeting.

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Public Testimony

Alvin Osterback, Sand Point Advisory Committee. Super-exclusive registration areas are the main management tool for the control of the crab fisheries around Sand Point. If larger boats are allowed to move from area to area, local fleets will lose out in bad weather conditions. A large influx of boats will overexploit the fishery. He supports joint Board/Council hearings on crab management proposals.

Paul Gronholdt, Peninsula Marketing, Sand Point. There is confusion among fishermen about state and Council procedures on Tanner crab regulatory proposals and they have to deal with inconsistencies between state and federal regulations.

Dave Osterback, Sand Point. Tanner crab in the South Peninsula area is one of the last remaining fisheries for local residents and it needs to be protected. An influx of large boats is frustrating and small-boat fishermen sometimes cannot recover from the loss of large amounts of gear.

End of public testimony.

No Council action was required.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska FMP

D-3A Sablefish Management for 1984

Comments were requested in the October 7 "Dear Reviewer" letter on the levels of optimum yield and apportionments to user groups for all groundfish in the Gulf in 1984, and particularly for sablefish. The Council received a very large response on sablefish indicating that the domestic capacity and intent are available to fully utilize the Gulf's sablefish resource. Many requested the foreign directed fishery in the Gulf be eliminated or drastically reduced. Council members were provided with copies of the comments through a Council mailing prior to the meeting and additional comments were in their notebooks.

In September, the PMT reported that although 1983 analyses showed that the stock condition is improving, the results should be viewed with caution. Abundance of large fish, especially important to the reproductive capacity of the stock and to the U.S. fishery, remains stable but low and does not seem to be increasing.

The staff also provided the Council with an analysis on the allocation of sablefish, which concluded that there was sufficient evidence to warrant the elimination of foreign directed sablefish fishing in the Gulf.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

In light of the nature of the staff's recommendation (zero TALFF), the SSC feels that a full and complete analysis needs to be completed. They feel that further review of the benefits and costs of reducing the levels of directed foreign fishing is needed and have assigned the staff's report to the Gulf of Alaska groundfish subcommittee in order to provide a review at the next meeting.

The SSC was unable to support the staff recommendations and recommended that the EY and ABC remain at the current levels.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel suggested that DAH equal OY for sablefish for the entire Gulf. Halibut vessels will be looking to groundfish, which is becoming marginally profitable for the smaller boats, to make a living. The displacement of foreign fishing was envisioned with the creation of the Magnuson Act and it's time to move toward that goal.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes. Representatives of the domestic fishing industry and processors were united in their position that the domestic industry will be able to harvest a large portion, if not all, of the sablefish resource this season and asked the Council to eliminate or reduce the foreign TALFF for sablefish in the Gulf. Representatives of the Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op said elimination of the foreign fishery for sablefish could endanger their herring agreement with the Japanese and negatively impact their local economies. They asked the Council to delay elimination of the sablefish TALFF for at least three years. Representatives of the foreign fishing interests expressed doubt that the U.S. industry is capable of harvesting the entire sablefish resource next season.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members were concerned about completely eliminating the TALFF for sablefish in the Gulf on such short notice and the loss of valuable data when foreign fishing is completely eliminated. Bob Mace also expressed concern for setting a precedent by taking such an action without more adequate notice and discussion.

Paul MacGregor presented an agreement between industry and the Japanese longliners which would reduce foreign fishing for sablefish in the Gulf but not completely eliminate it if indications are that the domestic industry will not take the entire OY. Mr. Winther incorporated Mr. MacGregor's suggestion into a motion.

John Winther moved that the Council set DAH for sablefish in 1984 in the Western Yakutat area at 1,344 mt and reserve at 336 mt. In the Central area set DAH at 1,651 mt and reserve at 612 mt with the understanding that no sablefish TALFF will be used in any directed fishery in that area until October 7. DAP in the Western area will be set at 300 mt. If it appears that not all of the DAH in these areas will be caught by December 31, any projected excess DAH will be transferred to TALFF. Directed foreign longlining for sablefish will not begin until October 7 in the Central and West Yakutat areas.

Any directed foreign fishery for Pacific cod that may be available in the Western Yakutat and Central area will be conducted in waters shallower than 350 meters and may not take more than 5% of sablefish in proportion to all other species in the catch. Gene Didonato seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

D-3B Pollock, Pacific Ocean Perch, Pacific Cod

POLLOCK

Jeff Povolny told Council members that individual regulatory areas for pollock may need revision because of the rapid growth of the U.S. joint venture fishery in Shelikof Strait and the way in which the pollock OY is apportioned. A draft environmental assessment which discussed and analyzed three alternatives was sent out for public comment on November 14. These alternatives were:

- (a) Status quo, distributing 37% of the OY to the Western Area and 63% of the OY to the Central Area;
- (b) A two-step procedure which accounts for a joint venture fishery in Shelikof Strait during the winter/spring period and distributes the remaining OY to the Western and Central areas according to the percentages in (a) above; and
- (c) Combining the pollock OYs in the Western and Central areas.

The PMT discussed and analyzed the three alternatives and recommended that the Council approve an amendment to combine the pollock OY in the Western and Central areas. They also recommended that the catch of non-target groundfish species in the pollock fishery continue to be regulated by assigning specific OYs for the species to the Western and Central areas.

The environmental assessment also discussed various OY levels, the biological impact on the pollock resource, the needs of the fisheries, and the potential halibut by-catch by foreign bottom trawling for pollock. The PMT report (provided in Council notebooks) provided additional information on the status of the

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pollock stock and concluded that the ABC was at least as high as 400,000 mt and could be as high as 500,000 mt in 1984. The PMT noted, however, that 500,000 mt was probably not a sustainable yield over a number of years and that the status of pollock should be evaluated in the fall of 1984 in order to determine the appropriate ABC for 1985. The PMT recommended only that OY could be higher than the current level of 200,000 mt for both areas.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The Council was asked to consider an amendment for public review to lower the Pacific ocean perch OY in the Western and Central Areas.

Gary Stauffer noted that Pacific ocean perch are depressed below the EY in the FMP (50,000 mt Gulfwide) and may be less than or equal to the average 1980-81 harvests (1,038 mt in the Western Area, and 4,129 mt in the Central Area). Current OYs are 2,700 mt in the Western Area and 7,900 mt in the Central Area. The 1984 estimate of DAH for Pacific ocean perch are 1,770 mt in the Western Area and 2,622 mt in the Central Area. The PMT recommended that if the Council wishes to rebuild the resource as quickly as possible, the OY should equal 400 mt in the Western Area and 1,000 mt in the Central Area. The staff noted that such low OYs would preclude any domestic as well as foreign fishing on Pacific ocean perch and could disrupt other groundfish fisheries if they take a by-catch of Pacific ocean perch. While better information is being developed, the staff recommended that the Pacific ocean perch OY in the Western and Central areas should equal the DAH plus a small percent (0.4% has been suggested) of the TALFF + Reserves of remaining target groundfish species.

PACIFIC COD, ATKA MACKEREL, FLOUNDERS

The Council was asked to consider an amendment for public review to raise the Pacific cod OY.

A projected TALFF of 520 mt in the Central Area could cause operational problems for the foreign bottom trawl fishery and curtail the foreign longline fishery. Considering the availability of Pacific cod for TALFF in the Western Area and the intense interest in Pacific cod by the U.S. fisheries, it was suggested that the Council may wish to raise the OY in the Central Area only enough to provide for some by-catch in the foreign pollock fisheries.

The PMT concluded that there was no need to change the area distribution of the Pacific cod OY. The team also recommended against revising the Atka mackerel OY distribution or the distribution of the flounder OY as requested by the Japanese industry. The PMT noted that the flounder request should be analyzed for biological soundness of the redistribution of the

harvest and socioeconomic effects on the U.S. fishing industry, particularly the effect on the halibut fishery, before proposing an amendment for public review. The Atka mackerel request, based on information which had not been analyzed by the PMT, will be considered at the next PMT meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pollock OY. The SSC supported the PMT's recommendation to combine the pollock OY for the Western and Central areas.

Pollock ABC/OY Level. The SSC suggested three possible options for OY:

- (1) 400,000 mt;
- (2) 340,000 mt (maintains foreign catch at status quo levels while meeting projected DAH needs);
- (3) Set OY in the 400,000 to 500,000 mt range with no more than 90,000 to 110,000 mt to be taken outside the Shelikof Strait.

The SSC preferred the third option. If the Council decides to set OY at 500,000 mt, the SSC recommends that it should be temporary since the population probably could not sustain catches at this level.

Pacific ocean perch. The SSC recommended that the proposed amendment package for public review include the following three options:

- (1) the status quo;
- (2) $OY = DAH + 0.5 - 1.0\%$ of TALFF and reserves;
- (3) OY set at a level which allows an incidental fishery only.

The SSC noted that the Council should express its intention with regard to rebuilding POP and maintaining this resource as a viable fishery. The SSC feels that the present situation will soon drive the resource to levels where it becomes only an incidental species.

Pacific cod. The SSC supports the PMT's conclusion that sufficient information is not available to justify modification of the distribution of Pacific cod at this time. The SSC recommended that the ABC be set equal to 88,000 mt and noted that deviation from the current OY of 60,000 mt would result in an increase in the incidental catch of halibut.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended adoption of the amendment prepared by the staff that would combine the Central and Western areas of the Gulf of Alaska for purposes of pollock management. The AP also recommended that the OY for this new area be 340,000 mt which takes into account the JVP, DAH and historical TALFF allocation. The AP supported the three options drafted by the SSC for the amendment to consider lowering the Pacific ocean perch OY in the Western and Central Areas. They also recommended that the OY change be incorporated into the three SSC options for the amendment to consider raising the Pacific cod OY in the Gulf.

The AP noted that in order to change a regulation a socioeconomic and biological impact statement should be provided.

Public Testimony

Steve Johnson, Japanese trawl industry. The PMT report seems to indicate that raising the pollock OY to 500,000 mt in the Gulf would not have an adverse biological impact. The Japanese trawl industry would like to see an OY set that would allow the foreign fishery to operate at approximately the same level as it has in the past. The 340,000 mt recommended by staff may not accomplish that. An OY of 400,000 mt seems to be favorable from a biological standpoint and he requested that amount be set. He supported sending out proposed amendments for public review on the Pacific ocean perch and Pacific cod OYs. He said he hopes the Pacific cod OY can be increased and that the PMT will have a favorable report on the requested increase in the OYs for Atka mackerel and flounders.

COUNCIL ACTION

Mr. Didonato suggested that any proposed amendment to lower the Pacific cod OY in the Gulf sent out for public review should include information on a rebuilding schedule if the Council is to address the Team's recommendation to eliminate the directed foreign fishery in order to rebuild the resource.

Council members expressed concern that prohibited species may interfere with expansion of fisheries that land greater proportions of those species. Mr. Mace asked whether information could be gathered on the economic costs to other fisheries by prohibiting the catch of halibut. Don Rosenberg noted that the Prohibited Species Workgroup is addressing this question.

Bob Mace moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the FMP which sets the Pacific ocean perch OY equal to the DAH plus 1/2 to 1% of the TALFF and reserves of the remaining species in the Western and Central Areas. The amendment should include the options suggested by the SSC. John Winther seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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Rudy Petersen moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the FMP which sets the Pacific cod OY in the Central Area equal to the DAH plus 4% of the TALFF and reserves of the pollock expected to be caught in the Central Area. The amendment should include the options recommended by the SSC. Bob McVey seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

In discussing the proposed amendment raising the pollock OY to 400,000 in the Central and Western areas of the Gulf, Council members indicated that they did not want the emergency regulation to increase the catch of prohibited species. They suggested that staff should address this concern in the proposed amendment for consideration by the Council in February.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council request the Secretary of Commerce to immediately promulgate an emergency regulation raising the combined pollock OYs in the Central and Western areas of the Gulf of Alaska for 1984 to 400,000 mt with the provision that no more than 100,000 mt can be taken by foreign fisheries using bottom trawls outside the Shelikof Strait area. The emergency regulation should combine the Western and Central areas for the management of pollock. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Bob Mace moved that the Council direct the staff to draft final amendment language to raise the pollock OY to 400,000 mt and combine the Western and Central Areas for pollock OY management to be presented to the Council at the February 1984 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried unanimously.

D-3C Gulf of Alaska DAP and JVP for 1984

Proposed JVPs and DAPs for 1984, based on a survey of the U.S. industry conducted by NMFS, were mailed to the public after the September meeting. Revised estimates based on the most current information were provided by NMFS during the Council meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed the latest recommended values for DAP and JVP from NMFS. They were extremely concerned that these values were only provided at the last minute with no time to fully analyze them and their impact. In view of the past performance of the domestic industry and the potential operational problems, the SSC suggested the Council should examine the projections of DAH carefully. The SSC noted that in some of the figures there were major discrepancies between the projected values and past performance.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted to adopt the NMFS figures presented at to them, except for the sablefish DAH figures which they thought were low.

Public Testimony

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Assn. When 1983 domestic catch figures for cod in the Central area of the Gulf are compared to the projected 1984 figures, a tremendous increase over previous years is forecast. It is their position that the DAH plus reserve as they currently exist in the FMP should provide enough fish to provide for the expanding domestic fishery in Kodiak this year without cutting out the foreign directed fishery.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members discussed ways of accommodating the U.S. industry needs without totally cutting foreign fisheries off for the next season. A proposal to ask the Regional Director to release reserves of cod to TALFF at the beginning of the year was discussed. Mr. McVey said that unless there was an increase in the cod OY, there would not be enough in reserves to accommodate this request.

Bob Mace moved to approve the JVP and DAP figures contained in the Gulf of Alaska table dated December 8, 1983 (included with these minutes in Appendix II) with the provision that the Council recommend to the Regional Director that 3,000 mt of Pacific cod reserves in the Central area be apportioned to TALFF on January 1, 1984. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried unanimously with Bob McVey abstaining.

D-3D Incidental Halibut Catch by U.S. Trawlers in the Gulf

Jeff Povolny reported that joint ventures now fishing for flounders and Pacific cod could preclude all U.S. trawling in the Central Gulf of Alaska from sometime in December or early January until June 1, 1984, because their potential halibut by-catch is restricted under current regulations. The FMP limits the incidental halibut catch by U.S. trawlers from December 1 to May 31 to specific quotas (29 mt in the Western area, 52 mt in the Central area, and 31 mt in the Eastern area) which, when caught, cause all U.S. trawling to shut down for the remainder of the period. An emergency regulation seems necessary to safeguard the winter and spring midwater trawl fishery for pollock in Shelikof Strait.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurs that the U.S. pelagic groundfish fishery should be exempt from the halibut quota. The incidental catch of halibut in the Shelikof Strait pollock fishery is very low. The SSC also discussed the alternatives provided for addressing the joint ventures other than those in Shelikof Strait, but were unable to

provide a specific recommendation. The SSC recommended that the prohibited species workgroup's deliberations be completed as soon as possible.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that the Council request an emergency regulation that would exempt pelagic (off bottom) trawls in the Gulf of Alaska so that the incidental catch of halibut in other U.S. trawl fisheries would not shut down the pollock fishery. The AP also recommended that the Council request emergency regulations to set the halibut by-catch quotas for U.S. draggers at 270 mt in the Western Area and 768 mt in the Central Area of the Gulf.

Public Testimony

Arne Lee, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. He doesn't understand why the rate of incidental catch for the foreign fleet is so much lower than the domestic fleet. He's very curious about what the economic cost of the halibut incidental catch is to U.S. halibut fishermen in the Gulf. There are a lot of unanswered questions and he would like more information on the problem. At current figures, approximately 18% of the total allowable halibut catch last year will be allowed to be taken as incidental catch. He would like to see a study group convened to work on some of the unanswered questions about incidental catches and their economic impact. One way to handle incidental catch would be a poundage or number limit.

Ron Kutchick, Kodiak. He is a dragger who participates in joint ventures. It is impossible to stay away from the halibut and sablefish. There's a real problem in staying away from prohibited species. He feels American fishermen should be allowed a longer directed halibut fishery to reduce the number on the grounds.

Oliver Holm, Ouzinkie. A limit of 52 mt of halibut by-catch seems unfair to draggers. There are so many halibut on the grounds that it's going to be a real problem. He would like the Council to increase the amount for joint ventures. Crab is also a problem. He recommended that the Council form a workgroup to work with the draggers on this problem.

Donald McCaughran, IPHC. In response to a request from Bob McVey to indicate the most critical areas for halibut, Dr. McCaughran said the Alitak Bay/Trinity Island area is important. Many halibut stay in that area year-round and provide the harvest for Kodiak small-boat fleets. Halibut that leave the area are found off Yakutat, Southeast, B.C., and Washington and Oregon. The halibut stocks have grown considerably and incidental catch is a real problem. He thinks there are solutions which could be found by fishermen working together on the problem. Draggers will

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never avoid some halibut by-catch; they just hope that it never gets so high that it hurts the domestic halibut fishery which is so important to Kodiak and other small-boat fisheries. IPHC has done some study of gear modifications to reduce the incidental catch and will be continuing this research this year.

Mickey Serwald, President, Alaska Draggers Assn. The 52 mt incidental catch in the Gulf is based on obsolete information. The draggers are doing everything possible to keep the incidental catch low, but the bottomfish operation in the Gulf may be terminated within days. There are more halibut now than ever before. From the fisherman's point of view, an incidental catch based on a percentage of the total catch would be helpful.

Al Burch, Mgr., Alaska Draggers Assn. Mr. Burch read a letter into the record from five Alaska draggers asking the Council to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of the FMP. Mr. Burch said they are working with other associations to come up with answers to the incidental catch problem. It is very important to them to have the 52 mt limit raised.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. The Council should be aware that there is a lot of demographic transition in the fleets at this time when making any changes. The nursery grounds in Bristol Bay are entirely justified and the resource should be considered first. He is involved in the industry workgroup studying the incidental catch problem.

COUNCIL ACTION

There was a consensus among Council members that an emergency regulation was needed to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from provisions of the FMP which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska. The figures contained in the FMP were established in 1978 and were based primarily on a Pacific cod fishery. It was also determined that an extension of the 90-day emergency regulation period would be needed in order to protect the winter & spring midwater trawl fishery in Shelikof Strait.

Gene Didonato moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and 50 CFR Section 672.20(e) which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska by U.S. trawlers because without immediate action current regulations could shut down the U.S. 1984 Shelikof Strait pelagic trawl fishery for Alaska pollock. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried unanimously.

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Bob Mace moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to raise the halibut by-catch limits in Section 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and in 50CFR Section 672-20(e) to 270 mt in the Western Gulf and 768 mt in the Central Gulf of Alaska because without immediate action current regulations could shut down U.S. joint venture and shore-based fisheries using bottom trawls. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken and carried unanimously with Sara Hemphill abstaining.

Several Council members were concerned with the amount of tonnages and while supporting the emergency regulation, said they could not support them in the FMP.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska FMP to control the halibut and crab by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska. The objective of the amendment shall be to hold the total halibut and crab by-catch in all trawl fisheries at approximately the 1981-82 average levels of the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, but with as few impediments as possible to the developing U.S. fisheries in that area. The amendment package shall contain at least the following options:

1. Allow the domestic halibut and crab by-catch to rise and reduce the foreign by-catch by allowing pelagic gear only in the foreign trawl fishery year-round West of 140°W longitude.
2. Establish halibut and crab by-catch rates in the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.
3. A combination of closing halibut nursery areas to foreign and domestic trawling and/or limits and/or by-catch rates on the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.
4. Establish halibut and crab by-catch limits for the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.

As part of the motion, the Council directs the staff to work with the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup to prepare an analysis of these options which can be included in the amendment package. John Winther seconded the motion which carried, 7 to 2, with Bob Mace and Rudy Petersen voting against.

Sara Hemphill moved that the current restriction on joint venture vessel permits, which limits the amount of sablefish which can be delivered to a foreign processing vessel be removed until such time as there is no foreign TALFF on sablefish. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion.

After Council discussion, the motion was withdrawn to allow adequate notice to the public. Jim Branson noted that if it is to be discussed at the next Council meeting, the staff should be directed to do as much analysis as they can before then.

Don Collinsworth suggested the staff look at the geographic distribution of the catch in the foreign fleet and the potential geographic distribution of the catch in joint ventures and find out if the fish are coming out of the same areas or different areas and explore some of the marketing implications of increasing sablefish incidental catch levels and lowering the TALFF.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council direct the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup to include in the scope of their work a complete evaluation of the by-catch of non-target and prohibited species by all fishermen, both domestic and foreign. The prohibited species workgroup is requested to produce information and data detailing species composition of by-catch, an analysis of areas of by-catch, and an analysis of the proportional distribution of by-catch between the pelagic and on-bottom trawl fisheries. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried, 5 to 4, with Campbell, Lokken, Petersen, and Winther voting against.

Some Council members felt that the prohibited species workgroup will deal with these issues where adequate information is available. Jim Branson noted that there is poor information available on domestic catches.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

D-4A 1984 TACs, DAPs, JVPs

Council members were provided with the most recent estimates of industry needs for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands based on a recent NMFS survey. Estimates had been mailed to the public for review and Council members received copies of comments in a recent Council mailing.

Loh-Lee Low told the Council that the PMT report provided was based on the Team's evaluation of the status of the stocks and on the needs of the fishery. Since the September meeting, the Team reviewed information received from INPFC and Japanese and Korean scientists and provided an updated report on status of stocks.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended EY values suggested in the supplement to the Resource Assessment Document (RAD) [2,248,345 mt total groundfish] and concurred with the Team's recommendations for the TAC values.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP heard testimony from several industry representatives who feel the codfish populations are greatly diminished. Therefore, the AP recommended that the PMT harvest recommendations be accepted, except that of codfish. For codfish, they recommended that TAC be allowed to equal DAH, plus an amount for an incidental catch for the foreign fishery, to be determined by the SSC.

Public Testimony

Konrad Uri, TransPacific Inc. The cod harvest is down this year. Abundance of large fish is increasing, but abundance of small fish is diminishing. He would like to see the directed foreign fishery kept at the status quo and very carefully monitored. If the stock goes down, U.S. fishermen should have priority in the fishery.

Adm. Jon Yong Hwang, Korea Deepseas Fisheries Assn. Korean joint venture purchases in 1983 totalled about 60,000 mt. On the whole, their record was good and will improve. He projects a 30% increase in the purchase of codfish based on favorable performance by the American partner, and hopes the Council will keep in mind the need to keep the foreign fisheries viable although he understands the U.S. concern for domestic fisheries. He is concerned that the full realization of the Magnuson Act be preserved--to fully utilize stocks--and feels pollock may go underharvested this year because of allocation problems.

Dennis Petersen, Barry Collier, NPFVOA. Fishermen involved in the fishery see a decline in catches of cod in the Bering Sea. With declining stocks and the domestic industry growing, directed foreign fishing for cod should be precluded for 1984.

Barry Collier. An industry group has been established to study the crab incidental catch problem and the Council may want to have representation on the group.

Barry Fisher. He feels the numbers set too high for cod and that industry experience was not taken into account when estimates were made.

Donald Swisher, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn/Hokuten Trawlers Assn. The foreign trawlers' most serious operational problem in 1983 has been to avoid sablefish as an incidental catch in the trawl fishery. They would like the Council to take a serious look at 1983 industry DAH figures and the projected 1984 figures. They feel the projected figures are much too high. The Japanese trawl industry would need about 1,250 mt TALFF to be available to allow them to continue fishing. They would need at least

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1,000 mt of Pacific ocean perch as an allowable incidental catch. Raising the TAC to about 50% of the OY would still allow for rebuilding of stocks. They asked the Regional Director to make some immediate releases to TALFF to deal with the incidental catch problems.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline & Gillnet Assn. The cod TAC of 210,000 mt suggested by the PMT was designed to accommodate the foreign fisheries to allow them to continue to fish at the current level without expansion. The lower figures being discussed will shrink the TALFF and cause problems for their fleet. He asked the Council to adjust the TAC upward by approximately 15,000 mt or re-examine the projected DAHs, or that serious consideration be given to remedying this problem by the use of the reserve mechanism by the Regional Director.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members discussed ways of providing a minimum amount of cod for the Japanese at the beginning of the year. Lowering the TAC for cod would also cause the TALFF to shrink causing problems for the Japanese fleets. It was noted that the Regional Director, through amendment to the FMP, has the authority to make adjustments if necessary. Mr. McVey said that he would need direction from the Council on how they want to approach the situation. The Regional Director also has field order authority for closures if conservation problems occur. Mr. McVey also noted that withholding TALFF until later in the year could be a problem because it is almost entirely an incidental catch. Releasing only minimal amounts until July 1 would be a better way to handle it. Council members agreed with Mr. McVey's suggestion.

John Winther moved that the Council recommend to the Regional Director that he do everthing possible to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Japanese longliners by releasing 2,000 mt of cod until there is better information on the codfish stocks in the Bering Sea. Jeff Stephan seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council establish the 1984 TACs, DAPs and JVPs based on current NMFS estimates, as submitted on Table 1 of December 9, 1983, 9:30 a.m. (Included here at Appendix III). The motion was seconded by John Winther and passed unanimously with Bob McVey abstaining.

Bob McVey said that zero TALFFs should be avoided because they become prohibited species and are tossed over the side and valuable information is lost. Jim Branson noted that the Regional Director has the authority to shift some amounts out of reserve to avoid this situation.

D-4B Incidental Catch of Prohibited Species

Incidental catches by U.S. trawlers in joint ventures of king crab and Tanner crab in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary have increased considerably in 1983. The Council received letters from NPFVOA and the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union asking the Council to reconsider their policy on the by-catch of prohibited species by U.S. trawlers in that area. Current Council policy is to not impose restrictions on the developing groundfish fishery. In addition, U.S. trawling in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary has been designated an experimental fishery in order to gather data on by-catches. A report by Dr. Jerry Reeves evaluating the impact of incidental crab catches on Bristol Bay crab in 1983 concluded that incidental catches were not a significant factor in the observed decline in stock abundance of king and Tanner crabs.

It was the concensus of the Council that the PMT should address the problem of the incidental catch of prohibited species in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary and recommend possible action by the Council.

Amendment 6 to the BSAI FMP

The Council received a letter on December 9 from Bill Gordon disapproving Amendment 6 to the BSAI FMP because it was determined that the amendment is not consistent with the criteria set forth in paragraph (1)(A) of Subsection 304(a) of the Magnuson Act. The letter stated that there was support for the concept involved to promote and expand both the harvesting and the processing sectors of our commercial fishery while providing for conservation and other needs, but that all reasonable alternatives were not considered. Council staff will analyze the conclusions in the letter and report to the Council in February.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts and Proposals

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC received draft final reports for Contract 82-2 (Crab Observer Program) and Contract 82-1 (Social and Cultural Aspects of the Pacific Halibut Fishery) for review and will give final recommendations on their adequacy at the February meeting.

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The SSC also reviewed sablefish research priorities and determined that a domestic groundfish monitoring program should be given highest priority. The SSC established the following prioritized list of research projects to be submitted for programmatic funds:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Domestic Groundfish Monitoring | \$145,000 |
| 2. | Chinook Salmon Incidental Catch - Part II | 40,000 |
| 3. | Bering Sea Herring Scale Analysis - Part II | 60,000 |
| 4. | Fisheries Mgmt. Conference | 10,000 |
| 5. | ADF&G FMP Development | 15,000 |

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee concurred with the SSC's recommendations. The SSC and Finance Committee recommended these studies be sole-sourced, either because they are extensions of ongoing work where necessary expertise has been accumulated or, as with item 4, the Council is simply a co-sponsor.

The Finance Committee reviewed current contracts and found no action necessary other than to withhold final payment on Contract 82-2 and Contract 82-1 until final reports are approved.

The Committee recommended that a summary of current king crab research projects being conducted be provided to them at the February meeting.

COUNCIL ACTION

Bob Mace moved to approve the Finance Committee's recommendations. John Winther seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

In an impromptu speech before the Council, Bill Sheffield, Governor of Alaska, congratulated members on their efforts on behalf of the Alaska fishing industry. He also thanked the Council for approving an Alaska/Korea joint venture and underscored the importance of bottomfish to the Alaskan fishing industry. He told Council members that diversification is important as well as finding new, innovative methods of fishing.

Although the Governor is in favor of a U.S.-Canada salmon interception treaty, he is not prepared to endorse one which is not equitable for Alaskans.

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Chairman Jim Campbell announced that there is an opening on the Advisory Panel and that the nominating committee will be looking at resumes and will have a recommendation before the next Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 1983.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

C-1 Halibut Fishery Management

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn., Member of Halibut Workgroup. Kodiak is united against any form of moratorium or limited entry. He feels the make-up of the Halibut Workgroup was not equitable. Large boat representatives had three votes representing the same fleets; Petersburg with two permits had one vote and Kodiak with 700 permits had one vote. He does not feel the circle hooks had the effect of doubling the size of the fleet; they just reduced the number of days to catch the same amount of fish and cut expenses for fishermen. He feels the Council should work through IPHC's Conference Board to develop management measures.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. They have supported a moratorium in the past, but not sure it is still a good idea since OMB did not approve it. The halibut fishery is now absorbing effort from other fisheries which are in bad shape. Not enough is known about where the halibut come from and they may decrease in the future. He feels the objectives for halibut management that the workgroup developed are a good start, but doesn't know just what the Council's course of action should be.

Arne Lee, Bob Alverson, Jack Knutsen, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. Mr. Lee pointed out that there seems to be a large discrepancy in the number of permits issued and the number of boats actually fishing. The number of boats will not decline if the Council abandons the moratorium or limited entry. More boats may come into the fishery because of the circle hooks. He feels the Council should set up a time plan to study any limited entry proposals and send them out for public comment. He is sympathetic to the proposal by the fishermen in the Pribilofs, but feels everyone should be treated equally. Bob Alverson said Association members endorse the moratorium as amended by the Workgroup and recommend that it be sent to the Secretary, regardless of OMB's previous comments. The Conference Board is probably the best way to address management alternatives for the 1984 season. Mr. Knutsen said he doesn't feel that the halibut fishery can support the size of the fleet; the management regime now seems to be to fish until the stocks are gone and then go into another fishery.

Barry Collier, North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. The fishery should be managed for the benefit of the resource; then there would be no problems in the fishery.

Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. The IPHC will not deal with the concept of the developmental fishery for the Pribilofs. The only way to deal with the situation is for the Council to approve the proposal before them.

Flore Lekanof, Anthony Murculief, St. George Tanaq Corp., John Hooper, Nelson Island Fishermen's Assn. Mr. Lekanof said he is encouraged by the support they have received for their proposal for a developmental fishery. Area 4C should be established as an exclusive registration area open to small boat fishermen. Mr. Murculief said that halibut fishing is important to their

economy and the fact that they took 94,000 pounds last year by hand-jigging demonstrates that they could take a larger quota if the area were restricted to small-boat fishermen. Mr. Hooper also said that an exclusive registration area is the only way they will be able to develop their fishery in Area 4C.

Sig Mathisen, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. He feels a moratorium is the first step in going into a limited entry system, but feels the Council should get involved in the IPHC's Conference Board for management of the fishery. He feels the Council should approve the moratorium and make it clear to NOAA and OMB that it is the first step toward a permanent management system for the fishery. If the moratorium is not going to be implemented, then something should be done in Area 2C which, he feels, is in worse shape than other areas.

Peter Allan, Kodiak. The moratorium is actually a limited entry scheme because of its restrictions. He asked that if the Council approves a moratorium, it not include vessel restrictions and the transfer of rights clause. An overall plan is needed for halibut management, not the piece-meal approach now being used. Mr. Holm said he felt Harold Lokken's proposal was well thought out, but he feels the Council should give the management authority to the IPHC Conference Board. Mr. Allan agrees with the objectives developed by the Workgroup and urged the Council to approve them.

Mike Haggren, Kodiak. Against the moratorium because it is not for biological reasons. He feels the fleet will equalize sooner or later; the strong will survive and the weak will drop out. He is against a exclusive registration area for Area 4C. Feels IPHC management has been good and sees no reason for the Council to get involved.

Barbara Monkiewicz, M/V KIKITUK, Kodiak. If the moratorium is approved, she is concerned about the vessel size limit. They have been very careful not to overcapitalize over the years and are now ready for a larger boat. Council should not pursue limited entry concepts because public hearings have not been held. Ms. Monkiewicz commended Harold Lokken on his work toward trying to solve the halibut problem, but is against his proposal; two-day-a-month openings may be good for some, but not for all.

Paul Folley, North Pacific Fishermen's Assn., Homer. A meeting of fishermen in the Homer area was held to discuss the moratorium; all of the members present were in favor of the moratorium. Mr. Folley suggested pre-registration for the halibut fishery, possible exclusive registration areas so IPHC would have an idea of what the effort is going to be by area, and staggered openings as possible management methods. If other areas in the state are against a statewide limited entry system, he asked the Council to consider one for the Southeast only.

Chuck Kekoni, Assn. of Alaska Halibut Fishermen. At this time, limited entry could not work because of the large number of people already in the fishery. He asked the Council to continue to explore halibut management methods and work with the IPHC Conference Board.

D-3A Gulf of Alaska Sablefish

Bill Gilbert, Ocean Beauty Seafoods. Ocean Beauty Seafoods is committed to the complete utilization of aquatic resources within the FCZ as soon as possible and utilization of existing shoreside facilities. There is a market for sablefish and he would like to develop a program to bring sablefish to Alaska processors for initial processing before shipping to the Lower 48. He urged the Council to provide increased allocations for domestic groundfish harvests.

Robert Brophy, Icicle Seafoods. Mr. Brophy told Council members that Icicle Seafoods has fulfilled their commitment to process 400 tons of sablefish and feels that in 1984 the entire sablefish OY in the Gulf can be utilized by the domestic fishing and processing industry.

Dave Woodruff, Alaska Fresh Seafoods. He believes the domestic industry can take the entire TALFF in 1984. His plant would like to process one to two million pounds of sablefish in 1984.

Peter Zachara, Independent Fishermen of Alaska. There are 20 fishing vessels out of the Sitka area and there is simply not enough fish to go around. The domestic industry cannot continue to expand until the foreign fishing industry is asked to leave. He would like to see the DAH raised to the OY level in the entire Gulf.

Joe McGill, Alaska Herring Co-op; Val Angason and Wm. Nicholson, Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op. If the sablefish TALFF is eliminated, their herring operation with the foreign longliners would be jeopardized. They have tried to develop domestic markets but have had no luck. Loss of their agreement with the Japanese would have a detrimental effect on their local economy. They are working on the problem but need more time, at least 3 years, before the TALFF is eliminated.

Paul MacGregor, Japanese Longline Assn. Mr. MacGregor feels that there was not enough advance notice of the possibility of eliminating the sablefish TALFF in the Gulf. The longliners have been successful at arrangements to avoid gear conflicts and establish ground preemption. They are always willing to work with the domestic industry to solve conflicts. There is no real proof that the domestic industry is capable of harvesting the entire OY in the Gulf in 1984. Mr. MacGregor also told the Council that he felt there was not a thorough analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of eliminating the TALFF.

Jack Knutsen, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. Mr. Knutsen said the real issue is how many years the Japanese will be fishing sablefish in Alaska. The domestic industry will be making a large transition because of what is happening in the halibut fishery and he believes they can take the entire harvest in 1984.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. They need the opportunity to fish more westward for sablefish. Their main concern is that there will be shorter and shorter halibut openings and they need something to fish in between these openings. Sablefish is their first choice.

Rod Armstrong, Agent for Korean fishing fleet. They have a very small directed blackcod fishery and last year had only one vessel on the grounds. They participate in the gear conflict prevention measures along with the Japanese and observe the time-area restrictions in the West and have never had any complaints. They would like to participate in any discussions that might be held to preserve any kind of access for them to this fishery and are willing to respect any restrictions in order to continue participation. The Council has never taken such a precipitous action before as cutting TALFF two weeks before the fishery begins and he requested that they act in a fair manner and with goodwill. There should be a full opportunity for all involved to submit data and proposals and participate in discussions before any such action is taken.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn. They have a real problem with lost gear around Kodiak on the ledge. The foreign vessels lose the gear and then Kodiak fishermen get tangled in it. If the Council doesn't want to take the foreign fleets out of the entire area, he would like to suggest giving domestic fisherman the chance to fish first and allowing the foreign fleets to fish later in the fall.

Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. The resources should be utilized per the FCMA. He feels the DAH estimates based on the NMFS survey are probably too high. Although the sablefish fishery in Southeast is fairly well developed, development in the western part of the Gulf is slower than predicted by NMFS and he believes that NMFS figures will prove to be over-estimations. He feels that DAH estimates should be revised downward. The Japanese trawl industry does not have a directed sablefish fishery and he would like to see an adequate amount of TALFF provided for incidental catch. A mechanism outside the OY is needed to permit the trawl fisheries to go forward. Mr. Johnson said he did not think the issue of the sablefish OY has been in the Federal Register or supporting documents prepared and doesn't think the Council should make a hasty decision on this issue.

Lonnie Chesnut, Alaska Longline Fishing Assn. Last year domestic fishermen fished in the area of the Portlock Banks and decided that they would increase effort further westward, but they need relief from the Japanese longline pressure. There is so much Japanese gear on the grounds that it is one to two years before domestic fishermen can fish without getting entangled in lost gear.

David Harville, Alaska Draggers Assn. Groundfish allocations are being requested for a species (sablefish) which American fishermen are denied an opportunity to sell. Alaska Draggers is currently engaged in three joint fishing ventures with different nations and have at least 20 American trawlers involved. This is the first opportunity for the American segment to provide a strong data base on which to base future American groundfish operations in the Gulf of Alaska. Presently, there is an arbitrary regulation limiting the landing of sablefish in a joint venture arrangement to less than 1.5% of the total catch. There is no conservation-related reason to prevent U.S. landings in excess of this amount. The Alaska Draggers Assn. supports the development of full utilization of the available sablefish resource by the American

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fishing industry, but feels it is unfair to be limited to such a severe degree in their opportunity to market sablefish in joint ventures. Sablefish represents a significant percentage of the total catch in all areas they are trawling. They asked the Council to remove the limitation on American fishing to support the fullest possible domestic utilization of the total resource.

Ron Kutchick, Kodiak. He has participated in joint ventures out of Kodiak and is allowed to sell sablefish except when involved with a joint venture. He has received six telegrams from Bristol Bay fishermen and organizations asking the Council to give the Japanese longliners a fair deal.

Paul MacGregor. Mr. MacGregor said he had developed a solution to the problem which he felt would be mutually agreeable. The basic agreement would be to phase-in foreign effort this year in the western area of the Gulf after October 7. If the U.S. industry could harvest the entire sablefish quota in the gulf, then there would be no directed foreign sablefish longlining there for the remainder of 1984. The NPLGA vessels would only longline for Pacific cod in waters less than 350 meters.

End of public testimony.

1984 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH (MT)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>TALFF</u>
POLLOCK	W/C	400,000	80,000	24,360	210,300	234,660	85,340
	E	16,600	3,320	300	0	300	12,980
TOTAL		416,600	83,320	24,660	210,300	234,960	98,320
PACIFIC COD	W	16,560	3,312	500	250	750	12,498
	C	33,540	6,708	11,691	14,621	26,312	520
	E	9,900	1,980	120	0	120	7,800
TOTAL		60,000	12,000	12,311	14,871	27,182	20,818
FLOUNDERS	W	10,400	2,080	0	10	10	8,310
	C	14,700	2,940	102	8,615	8,717	3,043
	E	8,400	1,680	300	0	300	6,420
TOTAL		33,500	6,700	402	8,625	9,027	17,773
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	W	2,700	540	0	1,770	1,770	390
	C	7,900	1,580	622	2,000	2,622	3,698
	E	875	175	460	0	460	240
TOTAL		11,475	2,295	1,082	3,770	4,852	4,328
SABLEFISH	W	1,670	334	300	50	350	986
	C	3,060	612	1,541	110	1,651	797
	W. Yak	1,680	336	1,344	0	1,344	0
	E. Yak	1,135	0	1,135	0	1,135	0
	S.E.	1,435	0	1,435	0	1,435	0
TOTAL		8,980	1,282	5,755	160	5,915	1,783
ATKA MACKEREL	W	4,678	936	0	400	400	3,342
	C	20,836	4,167	0	1,500	1,500	15,169
	E	3,186	637	0	0	0	2,549
TOTAL		28,700	5,740	0	1,900	1,900	21,060
OTHER ROCKFISH	GW	7,600	1,520	395	500	895	5,185
THORNYHEADS	GW	3,750	750	150	50	200	2,800
SQUID	GW	5,000	1,000	100	10	110	3,890
OTHER SPECIES	GW	28,780	5,756	100	400	500	-22,524
GRAND TOTAL		604,385	113,087	44,855	240,586	285,441	205,857

TABLE 2

1984 BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH (MT)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TAC</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>TALFF</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>
POLLOCK	BS	1,200,000	18,163	253,000	271,163	748,837	
	AI	100,000	500	3,000	3,500	81,500	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	BS	1,780	550	150	700	813	
	AI	2,700	550	1,745	2,295	0	
ROCKFISH	BS	1,550	50	20	70	1,247.5	
	AI	5,500	50	4,000	4,050	625	
SABLEFISH	BS	3,740	2,540	100	2,640	539	
	AI	1,600	50	100	150	1,210	
PACIFIC COD		210,000	104,442	27,180	131,622	46,878	
YELLOWFIN SOLE		230,000	1,361	36,500	37,861	157,639	
TURBOTS		59,610	20	100	120	50,548.5	
FLATFISH		111,490	1,361	22,000	23,361	71,405.5	
ATKA MACKEREL		23,130	227	19,433.5	19,660.5	0	
SQUID		8,900	20	20	40	7,525	
OTHER SPECIES		40,000	3,000	2,000	5,000	29,000	
TOTAL		2,000,000	132,884	369,348.5	502,232.5	1,197,767.5	300,000

MINUTES
PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
December 5-6, 1983

The Permit Review Committee met on December 5-6, 1983 to review foreign vessel permit applications for joint venture and directed fishing operations in 1984. In attendance were Keith Specking, Dick Knapp, Rudy Petersen, John Winther, Rick Lauber, Joe Kurtz, Choate Budd, Guy Thornburgh, Jim Branson and Clarence Pautzke. Keith Specking chaired the meeting on December 5 and Dick Knapp chaired the meeting on December 6. The Committee reviewed applications for all joint venture vessels and those directed fishing vessels with serious violations, "serious" being defined as a penalty that exceeds or is expected to exceed \$3,000. The following actions were taken on the vessels listed in Sections 1 through 6 of agenda item C-2:

JAPAN JOINT VENTURES: The Committee recommends approval for all vessels.

JAPAN DIRECTED FISHING: The Committee recommends approval for all vessels except the KIYO MARU 55, TOMI MARU 83, KURYO (YURYO) MARU 31, NIKKO MARU, AKEBONO 15, AKEBONO 17, AKEBONO 18, AKEBONO 21, SHINNICHI MARU 38, SHUNYO MARU 118, and ZUIYO MARU 28. The first four vessels were seized in 1983 and the Committee recommends that the Council not approve permits for these vessels until their cases are settled.

The last seven vessels, while not seized, were implicated in the NIKKO MARU case and were issued reports of violation for not maintaining proper transfer logs while transferring fish to the NIKKO MARU. The Committee recommends that the Council not approve permits for these seven vessels until the NIKKO MARU case is settled.

The Committee recommends that the Council make it very clear to the foreign operators that: (1) these violations are not and will not be taken lightly; (2) they should move quickly to settle their cases; and (3) the foreign operators should take steps to ensure total compliance with terms of their agreements with the United States.

SOUTH KOREA JOINT VENTURES: The Committee recommends approval of all vessels. The Committee noted that a revised application has been received from Joint Venture Fisheries LTD that increases the combined requested amounts of ground-fish for Nambug and Oyang Fisheries from the 14,000 mt indicated in Section 2 to 21,000 mt.

SOUTH KOREA DIRECTED FISHING: The Committee recommends approval of both vessels, the NO. 215 TAE BAEK and NO. 201 O DAE YANG.

USSR JOINT VENTURES: The Committee recommends approval for all vessels including the AMURSKIY BEREG, a cargo transport added to the list in Section 3. The Committee noted that MRC has revised its estimated joint venture request downward to 92,300 mt from the 96,935 mt indicated in Section 3 of item C-2.

TAIWAN JOINT VENTURES: Recommend approval of all three vessels: GOLDEN DRAGON 1, CHIEF DRAGON 101, and CHIEF DRAGON 737.

TAIWAN DIRECTED FISHING: Because of the poor violations record of the Highly Enterprise Company and because two seizure cases for Highly vessels are still pending from late 1982, the Committee recommends that no direct allocation be given to Taiwan in the Gulf of Alaska or Bering Sea/Aleutians until the Taiwan joint ventures in those areas are at least 80% complete. Thus, a directed fishery would be allowed in the Gulf after the joint venture had taken 9,600 mt in the Gulf. Similarly, a directed fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutians would be allowed only after Taiwan joint ventures in the area had taken 5,600 mt.

Under these conditions, the Committee recommends approval of the GOLDEN DRAGON 1, CHIEF DRAGON 101, CHIEF DRAGON 737, and CHIEF DRAGON 777 for directed fishing permits in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutians. The Committee recommends no renewal of permits for the HIGHLY 303 or HIGHLY 707 until the cases of the HIGHLY 301 and HIGHLY 302 are settled.

SPAIN JOINT VENTURE: The Committee recommends approval of the BAHIA DE LOS BASCOS application.

WEST GERMANY JOINT VENTURE AND DIRECTED FISHING: The Committee recommends that each West German vessel, the MOND and FRIEDRICH BUSSE, be permitted a 14,000 mt direct allocation for 1984 with 50% withheld until after June 30. The second allocation would be granted to a vessel only if it had purchased at least 3,000 mt in joint ventures by June 30 and committed to buy 3,000 mt more in joint ventures after June 30. Meeting the above conditions will result in a directed allocation of 14,000 mt and joint venture of 6,000 mt for each vessel in 1984.

The Committee makes their recommendations because of Nordstern's poor past performance in meeting joint venture commitments made during permit review time prior to the fishing year.

NORWAY AND POLAND PERMIT APPLICATIONS: The Committee received information on prospective operations for vessels of Norway and Poland in 1984. The Committee noted that the applications were incomplete and deferred action until the next Council meeting in February 1984.