

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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April 21, 1981

DRAFT AGENDA

40th Plenary Session

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 23-24, 1981
Council Conference Room
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 23 in the Council Conference Room in the Post Office Mall Building, 333 West Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, and will adjourn about 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24. The Council is not expected to discuss changes or revisions to any fishery management plans though they will review their status and scheduling. The meeting will be devoted to administrative and procedural matters, Council operations, and review of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel will not meet in April.

All meetings are open to the public.

INFORMATION ON THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Pre-registration will be required for all public comments which pertain to a specific agenda topic. Pre-registration is accomplished by informing the Agenda Clerk early in the meeting of the agenda item to be addressed and the time required. Public comments may be scheduled for C. OLD BUSINESS, D. NEW BUSINESS, and E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS. There will be a general comment period, agenda item G., scheduled for late afternoon on Friday for testimony on matters not on the current agenda.

A G E N D A

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
- B. SPECIAL REPORTS
 - B-1 Executive Director's Report
 - B-2 Report on Law of the Sea Negotiations (Meacham)
- C. OLD BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Amendment proposals for MFCMA

Review of MFCMA and problems with Council/Commerce FMP process. Amendment development to speed management process, including alternatives to formal implementation of FMP's.

D-2 Review and revise Council Statement of Operating Policies and Procedures (SOPPs)

Originally adopted in early 1977, the SOPP needs to be revised in light of Council experience since October 1976. Includes policy for Plan Maintenance Teams, Plan Development Teams, role of Advisory Panel, number of Council meetings, etc. SSC and AP operating practices and problems are included.

D-3 Agenda for Council Chairmen's meeting June, 1981

Recommendations for Council Chairmen's agenda for the June 21-24 meeting in Homer.

D-4 Proposals for Halibut Limited Entry Economic Workshop

Proposal for Council to sponsor a small workshop for leading fisheries economists to develop and analyze limited entry alternatives for halibut/general longline fishery.

D-5 Review and comments on Representative Gardiner's proposed Alaska Fisheries Center

Representative Gardiner has asked for Council comments on his proposal for an Alaska Fisheries Center.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Review of FMP progress and scheduling

No action scheduled or expected on any FMP as far as actual revisions or changes.

F. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

F-1 Review second half FY 81 budget.

F-2 Review Council staff policies and procedures.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

H. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

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MINUTES

Thirty-Ninth Plenary Session NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Anchorage Westward Hilton
Anchorage, Alaska
March 25 - 27, 1981

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 1981, at the Anchorage Westward Hilton in joint session with the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The joint meeting continued until 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27. The Council met alone at 1:30 p.m. on Friday and adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The Advisory Panel convened on Tuesday, March 24, at 9:10 a.m. at the Anchorage Westward Hilton and adjourned at 5 p.m.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on March 24, in the Council Conference Room. The SSC Subgroup for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab Plan met on Monday, March 23.

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

COUNCIL

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Don Collinsworth, for Ron Skoog
Robert Mace, for John Donaldson
Gene DiDonato, for Rolland Schmitten
Douglas B. Eaton
Leroy Sowl, for Keith Schreiner

Donald Bevan
Robert W. McVey
LCDR Doug Smith, for
RADM Richard Knapp
James O. Campbell
John P. Harville

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Robert Burgner
Larry Hreha
Jack Lechner
Al Millikan

William Aron
John Clark
Steve Langdon
Ed Miles

ADVISORY PANEL

Robert Alverson, Chairman
A. W. Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Stephan
Larry Cotter
Keith Specking
Robert Blake
Paula Easley
Ray Lewis
Lewis Schnaper

Al Burch
Eric Jordan
Dan O'Hara
Richard Lauber
Richard Goldsmith
Jesse Foster
Truman Emberg
Ken Olsen
Don Rawlinson

SUPPORT STAFF

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
James Brooks, NMFS
John Gissburg, AG's Office
Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Mark Miller, ADF&G
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Mike Fraidenburg, WDF
Jim Meehan, NMFS, Washington, D.C.
Robert S. Otto, NMFS

Guy Thornburgh, ADF&G
Pat Travers, NOAA
Mike Rubenstein, AG's Office
George Utermohle, ADF&G
Dick Marshall, NMFS
Bill Robinson, NMFS
Jerry Reeves, NMFS/NWAFC
Jerry A. McCrary, ADF&G

NPFMC STAFF

Jim Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Director
Peggy Hough
Jim Richardson
Jeff Povolny

Peggy McCalment
Judy Willoughby
Elise Zuspan
Jim Glock
Steve Davis

GENERAL PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Reva Lafavour, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau
Norm Lang, Fisherman, Anchorage
Charles J. Miller, Pan Alaska Fisheries, Inc., Dutch Harbor
Gil Gunderson, Sea Alaska Corporation, Juneau
Ken Parker, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Juneau
Steven H. Hoag, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Seattle
Ken Pitre, Canadian Department of Fisheries, Vancouver
Don Martens, Office of the Canadian Consulate General, Seattle
Phil Fuller, Trans-Pacific International, Seattle
Yong K. Kim, Office of the Korean Consulate General, Anchorage
Mary Carson, Pelican Advisory Committee, Pelican
Marcy Jones, M/V MARCY J, Kodiak
Del Valentine, Alaska Shell, Seattle
Roy I. Jackson, Natural Resources Consultants, Seattle
Bill Wilkerson, Washington Department of Fisheries, Olympia,
Washington
Chip McConnaha, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,
Portland
Pat Pattillo, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Seattle
Royal J. DeVaney, Pacific Pearl Seafoods, Anchorage

Kelly Ross, Office of the Japanese Consulate General, Anchorage
 Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Anchorage
 Lloyd W. Canon, Kodiak
 Craig Bartlett, The Fishermen's News, Seattle
 Tuck Bonney, Jonah, Inc., Anchorage
 Noriaki Takagi, Nichiro Pacific, Ltd., Seattle
 Dee Kety, Dutch Harbor Advisory Committee, Dutch Harbor
 Levi George, Yakima Indians, Toppenish, Washington
 Alvin Osterback, Sand Point Advisory Committee, Sand Point
 Randy Rist, Everett, Washington
 John Schmeidtke, Nordstern, A.G., Seattle
 Werner Muschkeit, Nordstern, A.G., Bremerhaven, West Germany
 Nathan S. Jim, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,
 Warm Springs, Oregon
 Wilbur Johnson, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,
 Warm Springs, Oregon
 Steven B. Johnson, Hokuten Trawlers Association and Japan Deep
 Sea Trawlers Association, Seattle
 Paul Johnson, Elfin Cove Advisory Committee, Elfin Cove
 Larry Gamman, Elfin Cove Advisory Committee, Elfin Cove
 Daniel Paul, Kake Advisory Committee, Kake
 John Sweeney, Western Yukon Fisheries, St. Mary's Island
 Mark John, Tooksook Bay
 Harry Wilde, St. Mary's Island
 John Thompson, St. Mary's Island
 Paul C. Bryan, Anchorage
 Matthew Nicolai, Calista Corporation, Anchorage
 D. W. Dean, Juneau
 Matthew Iya, Kawerak, Inc., Nome
 Yako Tinker, Bethel
 Joseph Chinegh, Qwetheluk
 Dale Orbeck, Office of the Governor, Juneau
 Jane Diben, Juneau
 Hiromo Kawamoto, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association, Tokyo
 Joseph Gallagher, Alaska Public Radio, Anchorage
 Walter Johnson, Yaktat Kwaan, Yakutat
 Terry Boholm, North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association,
 Bothell, Washington
 Flore Lekavo, APAI, Anchorage
 Wassie W. Balluta, Sr., Iliamna
 Dennis Petersen, Ocean Spray Fisheries, Seattle
 Ray Tremblay, Anchorage
 Paul MacGregor, Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet
 Association, Seattle
 David Woodruff, Kodiak
 Don Braun, CFAD, Anchorage
 Mike Vawn, CFAD, Anchorage
 James E. Fisher, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Anchorage
 Gretchen Mannix, Alaska Native Foundation, Anchorage
 Japanese Delegation from Japan Fisheries Association, Hokuten
 Trawlers Association, and Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association
 and their interpreters
 Norman Cohen, Juneau
 Harold Sparcks, Nunam Kutlutsisti, Bethel

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clem Tillion. The Chairman introduced Don Martens from the office of the Canadian Consulate General in Seattle; Ken Pitre, Canadian Department of Fisheries, Vancouver; Yong K. Kim, office of the Korean Consulate General, Anchorage; and Bill Wilkerson, Deputy Director, Washington Department of Fisheries.

The Executive Director recommended amending the agenda by deleting item B-5, Coast Guard Briefing on Proposed Safety Standards, and D-1, Korean Joint Venture Permit. The agenda was approved as amended.

Chairman Tillion called for approval of the minutes of the February meeting. The Executive Director noted a correction to page 11, paragraph 2 which should read: "Steve Pennoyer will ask CFEC for data on the number of boats which delivered for two or three consecutive years from the outer district." Bob McVey recommended a correction to the final paragraph on page 19 to reflect that "Japan has imposed voluntary restrictions to reduce their incidental catch of chinook salmon ..." rather than "directed catch of chinook salmon." *The minutes were approved as corrected.*

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Staff travel since the February meeting has been minimal. Jim Richardson traveled to Juneau to work with ADF&G, CFEC, and NMFS on data gathering and analysis systems. Steve Davis attended the meeting of the Crab Subgroup in Seattle.

The May meeting has been shifted from Kodiak to Anchorage at the request of the Finance Committee. The meeting is scheduled for May 28 and 29 at the Captain Cook Hotel. The Advisory Panel will meet at the Captain Cook on May 27.

Hearings were held before an administrative law judge in Seattle on March 5 on the application from Japan for a marine mammal exemption permit for the mothership salmon fishery inside the FCZ. No ruling had been made at the time of the Council meeting, but attendees indicated they were optimistic that the permit would be granted.

John Garner, who had been contracted to work as a consultant with the Limited Entry Workgroup, resigned from the position. The Executive Director will attempt to find someone else to work with the Limited Entry Workgroup.

B-2 Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report on Domestic Fisheries

Mark Miller reported that preliminary figures from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game show the 1980 domestic groundfish catch was 46,188 mt. Pacific cod and pollock each comprised 32% of the total; flounders, 27%; sablefish, 4%; and all others, 5%.

The total domestic groundfish catch through February, 1981 was 4,306 mt, 74% pollock, primarily from the Gulf of Alaska.

Report on Japanese Joint Venture Operations

Universal Seafoods, Ltd. and Nippon Suisan Keisha, Ltd. will begin their joint venture on June 1 in the Gulf of Alaska. Operations are expected to continue through mid-July, and the partners expect to take 6,000 mt of pollock and 1,000 mt of other groundfish for processing into surimi.

The Simonson-Stewart Fisheries/Taiyo Fisheries venture will begin around April 10 and will cover parts of the Bering Sea, Aleutians, and Gulf of Alaska. This venture also hopes to take 6,000 mt of pollock and 1,000 mt of other groundfish.

B-3 NMFS Report on Foreign Fisheries

Phil Chitwood reported that as of February 28 less than 18% of the 207,824 mt TALFF had been taken from the Gulf of Alaska. Poland has taken 63% of its 34,003 mt allocation; Japan has taken 12% of its 128,748 mt allocation; and Korea has not begun fishing.

Less than 10% of the 1.2 million mt Bering Sea TALFF was taken as of the end of February, with only Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany showing measurable effort.

Foreign effort off Alaska decreased from 192 vessels at the end of February to 142 vessels on March 18.

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

LCDR Doug Smith reported that since the February Council meeting the Coast Guard issued two reports of violation and five citations for FCMA infractions. Three of the citations were issued to the Polish stern trawler MARLIN for catch log and vessel identifier violations. The Polish stern trawler OTOL received one citation for failure to maintain its daily cumulative catch log.

West Germany's FRIEDRICH BUSSE received two reports of violation for failure to notify the Coast Guard of an area shift and failure to return eight Pacific halibut to the sea. John Schmeidtke of Nordstern, A.G., operators of the BUSSE, explained that a crew member incorrectly identified the small halibut as flounders and ran them through the fish meal processor. One citation was also issued to the BUSSE for a catch log infraction.

Through March 18, the 1981 Coast Guard patrol effort included 673 sightings and 63 vessel boardings.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 Progress Report on Trawler Logbook Program

Mark Miller of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Juneau, reported that because of its importance to the developing domestic groundfish fishery, the logbook program will be funded by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. The program will provide a mechanism to collect catch information which would otherwise be unavailable while providing fishermen with a standardized record of groundfish catches. The Department hopes to begin the program on June 1, 1981. Sample logbook recording sheets were submitted to the Council, SSC, and AP for comments and suggested improvements.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 St. George Tanaq Corporation/Highly Enterprises Joint Venture

Ed Philemenoff and Mike Jones, representing St. George Tanaq, and Konan Wang, representing Highly Enterprises, requested an additional 1,000 mt allocation of Pacific cod to Taiwan for use in the St. George Tanaq/Highly Enterprises joint venture. They said the increased allocation was critical to the profitability of the operation.

As a result of the Council's support of the project in December, 1980, the State Department granted an increased allocation to Taiwan. Rather than distributing the entire increased allocation to Highly Enterprises for the project, the government of Taiwan gave Highly only 40% of the allocation based upon the ratio of its gross tonnage compared with the Taiwanese fleet. As of March 21, Highly Enterprises' GOLDEN DRAGON had caught more than its share of the Taiwanese allocation.

Phil Chitwood, National Marine Fisheries Service, reported that 4,520 mt of unallocated Pacific cod TALFF remains. NMFS requested an increased allocation of 600 mt to Taiwan from unallocated TALFF; however, they waited to request more because they wanted to hear from the Council first.

The Advisory Panel unanimously endorsed the increased allocation of Pacific cod to Taiwan with the stipulation that correspondence to the Departments of State and Commerce recommending the increased allocation indicate that this 1,000 mt should be specifically earmarked for Highly Enterprises' use in the joint venture with St. George Tanaq.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council recommend to the State Department an additional 1,000 mt allocation of Pacific cod be granted to Taiwan, indicating specifically that the Council

wishes to have the entire amount earmarked for the St. George Tanaq/Highly Enterprises joint venture. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Executive Director was instructed to write a letter to the State Department conveying the Council's wishes for the increased allocation to Taiwan.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

E-1 Salmon FMP

In January the Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries met jointly to discuss regulations for the 1981 troll fishery and changes to the High Seas Salmon FMP. The Board and Council concurred on most of the proposals, but several major differences remained unresolved, i.e., OY and hand troll gear. The preferred alternatives accepted in January were incorporated into the Draft Amendment, Draft Supplemental EIS, and Draft Regulatory Impact Review and were submitted to the Secretary for review. It was necessary for the Council to make their final decision on the amendment package, which included both the regulatory changes and a new set of objectives for the FMP.

The Council received a letter from Robert McVey containing the comments of the Washington, D.C. office of NMFS on the proposed amendment to the High Seas Salmon FMP, Draft Regulatory Analysis, and Draft SEIS. Two issues were identified as "critical" to the approvability of the proposed amendment:

1. The proposed limitation of fishing gear for hand trollers to a maximum of two lines and gurdies or four sport poles.
2. The proposed requirement that trollers report their catch at an Alaskan port before leaving Alaskan waters by means of a document containing equivalent information to that contained in an ADF&G fish ticket.

The proposal to limit hand troll gear raises the issue of possible violation of National Standard No. 4 by discriminating between hand and power trollers; and National Standard No. 5 by legislating inefficiency.

The proposal requiring trollers to report their catches in person before leaving Alaskan waters also raises the issue of possible violation of National Standards Nos. 5 and 7 by legislating inefficiency and adding to costs rather than minimizing them where practicable. It was suggested that the questions raised over National Standard Nos. 5 and 7 might be overcome by offering trollers three options from which to choose:

1. Filing in-person reports in an Alaskan port before leaving Alaskan waters;

2. Reporting the equivalent information by radio;
3. Filing a written report within a specified time of selling the catch outside Alaska.

The third option has been in effect for the past two years with little compliance. By offering the first two alternatives, fishermen would be given the choice whether to bear the additional cost of returning to an Alaskan port or reporting by radio, although radio reporting may violate certain confidentiality requirements.

The written comments of the Washington, D.C. office of National Marine Fisheries Service on the proposed amendment package are made a part of these Minutes as Appendix I.

Mike Fraidenburg, Washington Department of Fisheries, presented "A Review of 1981 NPFMC Preferred Options and Refinements to the Analysis of Upper Columbia River Bright Fall Chinook Management Needs and Opportunities for 1981," an official report of the Washington Department of Fisheries dated March 12, 1981.

The Southeast Alaska troll fishery harvests non-Alaskan, Canadian, and southern U.S. chinook stocks. All major chinook stock units contributing to the fishery currently have serious management problems, with many individual stocks failing to meet minimum spawning escapement goals. While the wide extent of these chinook resource problems is qualitatively known, specific Southeast Alaska fishery management goals for only two stocks have been defined--Southeast Alaska stocks in aggregate and upper Columbia River brights specifically. In recent years Southeast Alaska chinook harvest rates have increased, while harvest rates by southern U.S. user groups have decreased as ocean and terminal area fisheries have been curtailed. Southeast Alaska fisheries are now the single most important U.S. harvester of some southern U.S. chinook stocks.

The latest information on stock status and ocean distribution of upper Columbia River bright chinooks has enabled the Washington Department of Fisheries harvest management staff to revise its recent assessment of management needs and opportunities for the stock. This was done in direct response to criticisms of the previous WDF analysis which used stock distribution and harvest data from the Trask River as a substitute for Columbia River data. Preliminary results of 1975 brood upriver bright coded wire tag experiments are now available to permit comparison and evaluation of previous analyses using Trask River tag experiments. Both preliminary results were incorporated into the National Bureau of Standards/Washington Department of Fisheries catch regulation and analysis model to derive the results of the WDF report. Preliminary recovery data indicate a more northerly distribution than previously thought. Thus, the relative importance of Southeast Alaska upriver bright harvest is greater than previously believed. The total stock size and number harvested, however, is lower than previously estimated. WDF has

developed a preliminary 1981 Columbia River bright expectation of 69,400 adults returning to the river -- 10% below the previous assumption of 1981 size status, 76,700.

An analysis of harvest share proportions was made using the new Columbia River information. The predicted long-term U.S. harvest proportions of upriver brights project that in 1981 Alaska will take 77% of the U.S. harvestable surplus, while Washington and Oregon will take 23%. The harvest sharing proportions for the period 1974 - 1976 were 41% to Alaska and 59% to Washington and Oregon. Using an overall transfer rate of 63% and average 1977 - 1980 conditions, a long-term 55% catch reduction in Alaska from projected 1981 levels would be required to return to the 1974 -1976 harvest sharing proportion of 41%.

For 1981 the Washington Department of Fisheries has immediate needs to meet the upriver bright spawning escapement goal and relieve mixed stock management problems in Columbia River fisheries. To solve this problem, savings must come from mature fish. Using an 80% transfer rate of mature fish through Canadian fisheries, 7,375 mature fish must be saved in Southeast Alaska. From the revised model estimate of 25,167 mature upriver brights in the Southeast Alaska catch, the necessary reduction to achieve the combined management goal in 1981 is 29% measured from the 1980 catch level of approximately 320,000 fish. A harvest reduction of this magnitude would achieve immediate needs for the Columbia River and would also be a significant first step toward attaining long-term status quo. The 29% chinook catch reduction equates to a 20% fishery revenue reduction. The Washington Department of Fisheries felt that the 29% savings of Columbia River brights could be accomplished with the existing preferred season options, an additional June closure of at least 24 days, and a harvest guideline of 227,000 chinook in Southeast Alaska.

Public Testimony

Lewis Schnaper, Executive Director of the Alaska Trollers Association, testified before the Council in opposition to any OY reduction for the 1981 season. He objected to prohibiting the Alaska troll fishery from taking fish which will ultimately be taken by Washington, Oregon, and Canada. He said the costs to Alaskan fishermen would be extraordinary compared to the value of the Columbia River hatchery fish and cited poaching along the Columbia River as a contributing factor to problem with bright stocks.

Mr. Schnaper suggested that changes in fishing patterns due to new Canadian troll regulations, which reduced the number of lines from unlimited to six, should provide some relief for the Columbia River bright stocks. He said that neither the Canadians nor the Pacific Fishery Management Council have made any commitment in the aftermath of Council/Board action in January to reduce their harvest of chinooks. Mr. Schnaper did support the objectives for the FMP as amended at the January meeting.

John Harville told Mr. Schnaper that he was incorrect in his statement that the Pacific Council had taken no action to follow the Council's lead in reducing chinook OY. The Pacific Council also took action to reduce their chinook harvest by 10%. Seasons were shortened and limits on sport fishing were imposed, even though these measures were not directly aimed at Columbia River bright stocks.

Mary Carson, representing the Pelican Advisory Committee and herself, asked the Council and Board to consider keeping the hand troll fleet inside the surf line because of incompatibility between hand and power troll gear.

Paul Johnson, representing the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee, said that dams are the major culprit causing the Columbia River bright stock problems. He also urged the Washington Department of Fisheries to take action to curtail alleged poaching along the Columbia River.

Levi George, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, testified in favor of a 54% reduction in chinook OY. He described the historical Indian fishery along the Columbia River and said the problem with Columbia River brights has been caused by trollers' and Alaska fishermen's greed.

Wilbur Johnson and Nathan Jim, representing Washington/Oregon Confederated Tribes, thanked the Council and Board for the opportunity to comment. Mr. Jim said the Yakima Indians depend on salmon for their lifestyle. He said the Columbia River was once the greatest producer of salmon, but has been reduced to marginal production through over-harvest. The Indians use the fish for ceremonial feasts and their main concern is for the salmon.

Chip McConnaha, staff biologist for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, said that conservation is the issue. He urged the Council to take meaningful action this year with a 54% reduction in chinook OY.

Clint Buckmaster presented a proposal to help disburse the heavy concentration of trollers inside state waters. He felt that area registration may be feasible. He suggested that trollers be required to register in two of four areas each season, and that they would be stuck with those areas throughout the season.

John Harville pointed out that Washington, Alaska, and Oregon are facing a joint problem. He said that reductions are needed in order to prolong the life of the stocks in question and expressed hope that Canada would join the United States to protect this renewable resource.

Council Action on 1981 Amendments

The Council took the following final action on proposed 1981 amendments to the Troll Salmon FMP:

Management Objectives

It was necessary for the Council to formally adopt the proposed objectives which resulted from the January Council meeting. The proposed objectives are:

1. Manage the troll fishery in conjunction with other Southeast Alaska fisheries to obtain the number and distribution of spawning fish capable of producing the optimum total harvest on a sustained basis from wild salmon stocks harvested in Southeast Alaska.
2. Allocate the optimum yield to the various Southeast Alaska user groups as directed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
3. Decrease directed and incidental harvest of smaller, immature fish and reduce sub-legal chinook hook/release mortalities where possible consistent with allocation decisions and with the objective of maximizing benefits to user groups.
4. Control and reverse recent trends of expanding effort and catch in outer coastal and offshore Southeast Alaskan waters to accomplish conservation goals.
5. Develop fishery management techniques which will allow full utilization of salmon returning to supplemental production systems while providing necessary protection for inter-mingling natural runs which must be harvested at lower rates.
6. Work towards the development of an integrated coast-wide management plan for chinook salmon.

The Advisory Panel adopted the proposed objectives.

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt the proposed objectives; seconded by Harold Lokken. The objectives were unanimously adopted.

Regulatory Proposals

Optimum Yield

The Advisory Panel voted 9 to 8 in favor of maintaining the current OY level of 286,000 to 320,000 chinook. Those who opposed the status quo were concerned with the conservation needs of Southeast Alaska chinook stocks and recommended reducing the OY.

Bob Mace moved that the Council approve a 29% reduction in optimum yield for the 1981 season; seconded by Gene DiDonato for purposes of discussion.

Gene DiDonato spoke in favor of the motion, stating that such a reduction would yield significant benefits to all streams and rivers up and down the Pacific coast.

Don Collinsworth spoke in opposition to the motion. He felt that a 29% reduction would place an extremely heavy economic burden on the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.

Bob McVey said he was impressed by the Washington Department of Fisheries presentation and acknowledged the long range benefits possible from an OY reduction of this magnitude. He asked the Board of Fisheries to seriously consider the 29% reduction and expressed hope that Canada would do likewise.

Board of Fisheries member Jim Beaton said that the Board unanimously opposed a reduction of 29%.

Bart Eaton spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that any such reduction would merely represent a reallocation of the resource. He feared the Canadians may not respond similarly to reduce their catch of chinooks.

Donald Bevan opposed the motion, but said he would support a reduction on the order of 15%.

Harold Lokken opposed the 29% reduction because it is too much for the Southeast Alaska troll fishery to bear at once.

John Harville suggested that the reduction in OY should be done more gradually. He said a 15% reduction would offer measurable relief for upper Columbia River stocks.

Upon call for the question, the motion was defeated by a vote of 7 to 2.

Bob Mace then moved that the Council approve a 15% reduction in optimum yield for the 1981 season, providing for an OY range of 243,100 to 272,000 fish; seconded by Harold Lokken.

Board of Fisheries Chairman Nick Szabo said the Board would recommend to the Commissioner a 10% to 15% reduction (272,000 to 288,000 fish). The Board feels that this will put Canada in the position to make an equal gesture.

Gene DiDonato opposed the motion, but acknowledged the consideration the Board and Council had given the matter.

Don Collinsworth opposed the motion and suggested that for greater flexibility the Council should adopt a procedure similar to the one recommended by the Board.

Upon call for the question, the motion carried with objections by Don Collinsworth, Bart Eaton, and Gene DiDonato.

Chinook Season

The Advisory Panel approved the May 15 through September 20 chinook season.

Bob Mace moved that the 1981 chinook season begin on May 15 and end on September 20; seconded by Harold Lokken.

Gene DiDonato moved to amend the motion to include a 24-day closure during June with the dates of the closure to be set by Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the Board of Fisheries; seconded by Harold Lokken for discussion purposes.

Gene DiDonato explained that a closure in June would improve the transfer rate of fish through Canadian waters.

Patrick Travers, NOAA General Counsel, advised that this type of closure is generally done by Regional Director field order in outside waters, and by the Commissioner in inside waters.

The Chairman ruled that the motion to amend the prior motion was out of order and should be handled separately. Upon call for the question on the original motion, the Council approved a chinook season for 1981 with parameters of May 15 to September 20, the record noting Gene DiDonato in objection.

Coho Season

The Advisory Panel approved a coho season for 1981 from June 15 through September 20. They also recommended that fishing for other species be allowed during closures.

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt a coho season for 1981 to begin on June 15 and end on September 20; seconded by Harold Lokken. The motion was unanimously approved.

Area Closures

The Advisory Panel approved the status quo, which would allow the entire FCZ east of Cape Suckling to remain open to salmon fishing.

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt the status quo to allow the entire FCZ east of Cape Suckling to remain open to salmon fishing; seconded by Donald Bevan. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Power Troll Gear Restrictions

The Advisory Panel approved the status quo for power troll gear restrictions, six lines north of Cape Spencer and four lines south of Cape Spencer. The AP suggested that the troll fishery be managed so that historical catch levels between hand and power troll groups are preserved.

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt the status quo for power troll gear restrictions, six lines north of Cape Spencer and four lines south of Cape Spencer; seconded by Jim Campbell. The motion was unanimously approved.

Hand Troll Gear Restrictions

The Advisory Panel unanimously approved two gurdies or four sport lines for hand trollers.

Bob Mace expressed concern that the Board of Fisheries' action to limit hand trollers to one gurdy or four sport lines may undermine approvability of the amendment package under the National Standards.

Patrick Travers confirmed that approval of the one gurdy or four sport pole limit would be difficult under National Standard No. 4. He said that hand and power trollers may be treated differently; however, any differences must be equitable.

Bob McVey moved that the Council reconfirm its action of the January meeting that hand trollers may have on-board no more than two gurdies or four sport lines; seconded by Harold Lokken. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treble Hooks

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt the Board's position that treble hooks will be banned from possession and use aboard fishing vessels; seconded by Don Collinsworth. The motion carried with Donald Bevan in objection.

Reporting Requirements

The Advisory Panel approved the proposed action that all fishermen must submit fish tickets or equivalent documents before leaving Alaskan waters with salmon on board.

Discussion followed on the feasibility of requiring fishermen to come into port to submit fish tickets before leaving Alaskan waters. Bob McVey expressed concern that this may be a critical issue to the approvability of the amendment package due to legislative inefficiency and additional costs, rather than minimized costs, to fishermen.

Bob Mace moved that fishermen be required to submit fish tickets or equivalent documents before leaving Alaskan waters with salmon on board; seconded by Jim Campbell. The motion was unanimously approved.

Heads-On Landing Requirement

The Advisory Panel unanimously adopted the proposed action that heads be retained on fin-clipped fish only.

Bob Mace moved that the Council adopt the proposed action that heads will be retained only on fin-clipped fish; seconded by Donald Bevan. There being no objection it was so ordered.

Limited Entry

Bob Mace moved that the Council instruct the staff to draft a proposed limited entry system for both hand and power trollers based on past history of participation in the FCZ. The limited entry system would become effective for the 1982 fishing year and provide for both transferable and non-transferable permits. Transferable permits would be based on two or more landings, documented by fish tickets, for any two years during the period 1975-1978 and two or more documented landings during either 1979 or 1980. Non-transferable permits would be based on two or more documented landings during either 1979 or 1980. The proposal should include recommendations for enforcement, including a vessel identification system for all vessels participating in the FCZ fishery. The draft proposal is to be available for Council review at the May meeting. The motion was seconded by Gene DiDonato for discussion purposes.

Donald Bevan spoke in favor of the motion, but questioned whether deliveries made by a previous permit owner would transfer upon purchase of the permit by a second fisherman.

Chairman Tillion suggested that the rights and privileges of the previous permit holder should be transferred upon sale to the new permit holder.

Board member Griffin Quinton described the historical hand troll fishery as a low-key fishery designed for personal use to supplement income. He said that hand trolling today can be just as effective as power trolling, and the two gurdy limit makes hand trolling more than it is meant to be. He expressed fear that hand trollers may overtake power trollers from their current 80/20 allocation to 70/30, 60/40, and so on. He said the Council's hand troll gear configuration was inconsistent with the proposed OY reduction.

Don Collinsworth spoke in favor of the motion, but suggested that the Council establish a cut-off date for participation.

Bob McVey said he could not support the motion for a limited entry system during this time of cost-cutting within the federal government. He said that NMFS had taken substantial budget cuts, that Council programmatic funding was been cut by \$500,000 nation-wide, and that the Council should not undertake a program of this nature during a period when future funding will be level or less than the current year.

Upon call for the question, the motion carried, with Robert McVey in objection.

E-2 Herring FMP

At the December meeting the Council approved the Herring FMP after review of the AIC formula by the SSC and AP. Norman Cohen raised a question about how the formula would respond in certain circumstances and suggested that the formula needed improvement. Although the SSC felt that the formula was not perfect, they considered it to be the best available and that it would, in fact, respond properly in the circumstances described by Mr. Cohen.

The Council felt that changing one variable in the formula may improve it, and modified the formula accordingly at the December meeting. A review by Council staff, NMFS, and others found the new formula to be less responsive and, in some cases, quite inappropriate. The new formula may cause a significant upward or downward change in AIC, even though the herring biomass remains constant. This can be remedied by returning to the original formula and recalculating the observed incidental catch rate annually, based on the best and most current available data and using the methods outlined in the FMP.

The SSC reviewed the formula adopted by the Council in December. They concluded that the original formula meets the incidental catch requirements of the groundfish fishery and better responds to short-term conservation needs of the herring resource. The SSC reaffirmed their December recommendation which stated: "The SSC recognizes the limitations of the formula but considers it the best alternative available."

Harold Lokken moved that the original formula to determine Allowable Incidental Catch be reincorporated into the final Herring FMP so the FMP, FEIS, and Draft Regulatory Impact Review may be submitted for Secretarial review; seconded by Gene DiDonato. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

The Allowable Incidental Catch and Herring Savings Area portions of the Herring FMP directly affect the Bering Sea groundfish fishery. NOAA general counsel suggested that the Council include these as a de facto amendment to the Bering Sea Groundfish FMP for clarification purposes. This would be the only action required to make the two plans consistent.

Bob Mace moved that the Allowable Incidental Catch and Herring Savings Area portions of the Herring FMP be included as a de facto amendment to the Bering Sea Groundfish FMP; seconded by Jim Campbell. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

E-3 King Crab FMP

At the February meeting the Council reviewed the first draft of the Joint Statement of Principles between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries for management of domestic fisheries off Alaska. At that time the Council suggested several minor changes. Those changes were made

and the revised draft was presented at the March meeting for Council review and discussion with the Board. The document attempts to formalize the roles of both organizations to achieve the most effective and efficient management of the king crab fishery off Alaska.

At the February meeting the Council directed the King Crab PDT to modify the draft FMP so it would meet the needs of both the Council and Board of Fisheries. The Council subgroup met with the PDT in Seattle on March 16 to review the revised FMP and make further changes. As a result of those efforts, the new DFMP is a generic document without specific reference to either organization. The DFMP still maintains the original goal as a general multi-year plan. The document was prepared as a reference document which the Council can use to show that additional conservation is not required, as determined by the Council, beyond that currently in effect by the State of Alaska.

The SSC's examination of the March 18, 1981 draft of the King Crab FMP was focused primarily on Areas and Fisheries, Management Objectives, Management Measures, and Enforcement/Reporting Requirements. The SSC did not attempt to thoroughly examine the appendices, but suggested that information describing the fishery contained in the Appendix, Tables 13 through 22, should be updated.

The SSC found that the management philosophy and strategy described in the plan were generally acceptable. Each management objective was examined in detail and found to be appropriate. The SSC found a need to understand the costs and benefits associated with each management measure and suggested that, if the information is not available, the Council should initiate efforts to obtain the appropriate information. One weakness of the draft noted by the SSC was its failure to explicitly link objectives and management mechanisms.

The SSC noted that no mention was made of who will be responsible for development of the background information in the section which describes determination of OY. A statement is needed at the beginning of the section that a joint working group made up of personnel from concerned management agencies will be charged with this responsibility.

The SSC noted that 40 million was suggested in the draft as the minimum acceptable number of fertilized females in the ABC determination process for the Bristol Bay area. The report, "Projected 1981 Guideline Harvest Level for Red King Crab in Bristol Bay," by Dr. Jerry Reeves, was reviewed to determine if that number was acceptable. Given the spawner recruitment data presented in the report, the behavior of the data through time, and the uncertainty associated with the exact nature of the spawner recruitment relationship, the SSC concluded that the number was acceptable.

The SSC recommended modifications to the enforcement and reporting requirements section because of confusion over reporting responsibilities. The SSC suggested that the November 1980 Federal Register description of the reporting requirement for the Tanner crab fishery be adopted because it clearly states what information is to be reported, when the reports are to be submitted, and who is to fill out the report.

The SSC also recommended a number of wording changes to clarify the text of the draft FMP. A list of those changes is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix II.

The Advisory Panel majority adopted the following resolution in response to their review of the Joint Statement of Principles and draft FMP:

"Whereas the State has provided successful conservation and management measures sufficient to maintain the biological integrity of the king crab resource while at the same time insuring a favorable economic climate in which the harvesting and processing sectors has prospered;

Whereas the State has provided an opportunity for public review for the purpose of modification of present management philosophy and related regulations through the State Board of Fisheries process;

Whereas the need does not exist for additional management and conservation measures by the federal government;

The Advisory Panel recommends to the Council that they approve the Draft Statement of Principles between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and that the management plan referred to in that Joint Statement of Principles be accepted as the management plan used to manage the king crab fishery with the clarification that in regard to Section 5.4 titled "Exclusive Registration Areas", option 1 -- maintain status quo -- be adopted with the addition of the sentence which says: "The State Board of Fisheries shall have authority to designate exclusive and non-exclusive registration areas."

The opinion of the minority was reflected in a letter from the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association to Chairman Clem Tillion dated March 23, 1981. The letter stated that the Association does not believe the Council has authority to enter into such an agreement with the Board and that execution of the Joint Statement of Principles is contradictory to the intent of the Magnuson Act.

The Advisory Panel felt that the specific regulations for the king crab fishery should be handled by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Donald Bevan suggested that the Council should adopt the draft FMP at the March meeting as a preliminary document.

Don Collinsworth objected to the general approach and attitude developing toward the management plan. He stressed that it is not a draft FMP to be sent to Secretarial review; nor is it going to be formally adopted by the Council and Board. He said the purpose of the document is to look at the plan, which is a product of many agencies, for possible adoption by the Board of Fisheries as the State of Alaska FMP. He suggested that the joint body, Board and Council, should make the finding that the State is properly managing the resource. If the document is sent out for public hearing, it will be used to determine whether it is consistent with the National Standards, not for adoption as a formal plan. He further suggested that the document should be called a "framework" rather than an "FMP" because of its generic qualities.

Harold Lokken asked how differences of opinion between the Council and Board will be resolved. Mr. Collinsworth said that if the Board and Council are at odds on a particular point, the Council must determine whether it should proceed with a federal plan for Secretarial review and implementation, provided that the Board and Council cannot agree and the disagreement is substantial.

Nick Szabo said it would be useful to the Board if the Council could clarify its attitude toward an FMP. He said the Board thought the Council wanted the Board to continue its management of the resource. He suggested that if the Council does not have confidence in the State, the Council should proceed with a full plan.

Chairman Tillion asked Council members Bevan, Collinsworth, and Harville and Board Chairman Nick Szabo to meet with the legal staff to revise the Joint Statement of Principles into a document which would be acceptable to both bodies and would comply with the Magnuson Act.

The joint session reconvened on Friday morning, March 27, to review the revised Joint Statement of Principles, attached to these Minutes as Appendix III.

SSC Vice-Chairman Richard Marasco offered no comments on the revised draft, as it had not been reviewed by the full SSC.

Advisory Panel Chairman Bob Alverson reviewed and reaffirmed the Advisory Panel's action on the king crab plan as contained in their minutes dated March 24, 1981.

Matthew Iya, representing Kawerak, Inc., testified before the joint session, proposing to close Area Q in the king crab fishery and prohibit commercial crabbing east of the Norton Sound area. He said the people of Nome have noted great reductions in their village harvest of crab, from over 25,000 pounds in 1978 to less than 75 pounds in 1980.

John Harville spoke to the joint session for the committee which re-drafted the Framework and Joint Statement of Principles. He explained that the Framework attempts to draft procedures to be used for managing the king crab fishery and that the Joint Statement of Principles lays out protocol for Council and Board co-management.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council accept the March 26 Draft Framework and incorporate into it the changes suggested by the SSC as outlined in their Draft Minutes dated March 24, 1981; seconded by Jim Campbell. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mace then moved that the Council receive the revised Draft Framework and revised Joint Statement of Principles for referral to the Board of Fisheries. The Board of Fisheries will proceed with their regulations for the king crab fishery and those regulations, the Draft Framework, and the Draft Joint Statement of Principles will be forwarded to the public for a 45-day review period, after which time the Council will decide whether to go forward with a formal FMP or adopted the Board of Fisheries' proposal. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken, who noted that this acceptance should not indicate formal approval of the documents by the Council. Upon call for the question, the action was unanimously approved.

The floor was again opened to public testimony. Dick Goldsmith, representing the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, referred to his letter of March 23, 1981 to Chairman Tillion which questioned the Council's authority to enter into the proposed agreement with the Board. He was concerned that if the Joint Statement of Principles were adopted by the Council and Board it may set a precedent for other Alaskan fisheries. He felt such action destroyed the credibility of the Council as a management body.

The Executive Director explained to the Board the Ad Hoc Crab Pot Storage Workgroup's proposal to allow pot storage on the fishing grounds at all times. The option assumes that the cost of removing king crab gear from the grounds between king crab seasons outweighs the enforcement costs associated with openings and closures of the season, fair and equal start of the king crab season for all users, and potential biological risks to crabs and others fishes from being retained in pots between active fishing seasons.

In a letter to the Council, Lieutenant Clinton Converse of the Alaska Department of Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife Division, opposed the proposed storage area because it lies in important crab fishing grounds. The proposed area would significantly increase enforcement costs by requiring crab pot examination and increased surveillance.

NMFS Law Enforcement Division and the U.S. Coast Guard also opposed the proposed storage area because it may encourage

illegal fishing by catcher/processor vessels and create conflicts between stored crab pots and trawl gear.

Advisory Panel Chairman Bob Alverson said the AP would like to have a pot storage area and suggested that it may be appropriate for the Council to indicate whether the storage area should be at sea or on shore and let the Board come up with the storage area's configuration.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council accept the recommendation of the Advisory Panel for determining the pot storage area; seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP

The Council and Board discussed minor inconsistencies between current state and federal Tanner crab fishery regulations. Current state regulations provide for a fixed season closure date, while federal regulations allow the Tanner crab season to continue until closed by Regional Director field order when OY is reached. The Council proposed that the state change its season closure date to one established by field order.

The Advisory Panel also suggested that the state be asked to change its season closure date to one established by field order process so that Tanner crab fishing may continue as long as possible.

Nick Szabo pointed out that flexible management such as this, i.e., field order closures, has not worked in the past because the action cannot be taken quickly enough.

Bob McVey acknowledged Mr. Szabo's concern, but pointed out that there was only a one-week delay in the previous incidence before regulations closing the season were instituted.

Bart Eaton urged the Board to consider the tremendous expense to fishermen caused by a closure of approximately six weeks between Tanner crab and king crab seasons. He said that Tanner crab season should not be closed until OY is reached.

Mr. Szabo responded that in 1980 it appeared that by mid-July there was little interest in continuing the Tanner crab fishery.

Public testimony was received from Dick Goldsmith, Executive Director of the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, in support of field order closure for the Tanner crab season. He pointed out that last year the Council eliminated the foreign TALFF for Tanner crab. He felt that American fishermen should be given every opportunity to take that amount of Tanner crab so Japan will not be able to come back and request the allocation again because domestic fishermen did not utilize it.

Mr. Szabo said that fair start and grounds preemption problems are subjects which have been brought to the Board many times in

the past. He said he did not see how fair start problems or grounds preemptions can be avoided with simultaneous Tanner crab and king crab seasons.

Chairman Tillion stated that it was the Council consensus that the opilio season should be left open as long as possible to encourage domestic utilization of the resource.

Donald Bevan supported the idea that the domestic industry should take as much of the Tanner crab OY as possible. He said that fair start can be assured through tank inspections, and if everyone has the opportunity to preempt grounds, then there is no grounds preemption. He urged the Board to build flexibility into their regulations so that problems can be coped with as they occur.

Bob McVey said that the domestic industry must be committed to take the entire OY because of the elimination of TALFF. Closing the season in times of little activity will preclude the opportunity for U.S. fishermen to achieve OY.

The Council maintained its consensus position that the Tanner crab season should be closed by field order if, and when, OY is achieved, and asked the Board to consider a change to state regulations to this effect.

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

In February the Council approved Amendment #10 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP for Secretarial review. Amendment #10 will close the Eastern Regulatory Area to all foreign fishing east of 140°W, reduce the Pacific Ocean perch OY from 14,400 mt to 875 mt, and permit foreign trawling year-round between 140°W and 147°W with pelagic gear only.

Amendment #9, which imposed the Lechner Line around Kodiak Island, has been approved by Terry Leitzell, but has not been approved by the Secretary. NOAA is waiting for clarification of Executive Order 12291, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act, and the regulatory freeze before taking action on the amendment.

The Plan Development Team will review proposals for 1982 amendments and submit a 1982 amendment package to the Council at a later meeting.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

In February the Council deferred until March action on the proposed closure of INPFC Areas I and II in order to consider proposals from the Japanese fishing industry to voluntarily reduce their catch of western Alaska chinook salmon. It was also necessary for the Council to clarify Council action of the February meeting on domestic fishery restrictions in Area A, the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary.

Closure of INPFC Areas I and II

The SSC reaffirmed the majority's opinion as stated at the February meeting that time/area closures are an extreme response to the problem which will not protect halibut. They recommended no time/area closure.

The Advisory Panel approved the closure of INPFC Areas I and II to all foreign trawling from October 1 to March 31, but noted that they did not wish to supercede any negotiated agreements between the parties involved.

Steve Johnson, representing Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association and Hokuten Trawlers Association, and Norman Cohen, representing fifteen villages of western Alaska, presented a negotiated agreement between the parties which called for an amendment to the Bering Sea PMP to impose on the 1981 foreign trawl fishery an interception limit of 65,000 chinook salmon, 60,000 of western Alaskan origin. Limits imposed on foreign nations with groundfish allocations for the Bering Sea would be proportionate to each nation's percentage of the total Bering Sea groundfish TALFF. If any nation's incidental trawl catch of chinook salmon reaches its national limit, all of that nation's trawl vessels will be prohibited from trawling in INPFC Area II and two sub-areas of INPFC Area I for the remainder of the winter fishing period, which is January 1 - March 31 and October 1 - December 31.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council accept the agreement negotiated between the natives of western Alaska and the Hokuten and Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association; seconded by Bob Mace. The motion was unanimously approved.

Clarification of Area A

In February the Council passed a motion to continue the experimental domestic trawl fishery in Area A of the Bering Sea provided that the incidental catch of halibut, a prohibited species, is less than 1% of the total trawl catch. Catch composition will be reviewed twice, at 10,000 mt intervals. If, after the first 10,000 mt, an operation's catch is more than 1% halibut, that venture will be given an additional 10,000 mt with which to reduce the total incidental catch rate to 1% or less. If, after the second review, an operation's incidental catch rate still exceeds 1%, that operation will be prohibited from trawling in the area.

The Council also accepted a modification of Area A which in turn modified Area B.

A working group of representatives of Seattle-based fishing interests met with Council members Don Bevan, Gene DiDonato, and Bart Eaton on March 12 to discuss and clarify this issue. They proposed re-wording the amendment for the experimental domestic fishery in Area A to clarify the term "species venture." They

also supported using the original coordinates for Area A rather than the modified Area A accepted by the Council at the February meeting. There was some concern among the fishing community that all prohibited species would not be equally protected under the incidental catch limitation.

The Advisory Panel took no action to adopt the re-wording of domestic trawl fishery restrictions. They did suggest, however, that reference to the year 1982 be omitted to prevent expiration of the restriction at the end of a plan year.

The AP reaffirmed its concern over any trawl fishing in Area A and by a vote of 9 to 5 (with 1 abstention) agreed that Area A should be closed to all trawling.

Public testimony was received from Dick Goldsmith, who said the majority of attendees at the Seattle meeting were crab fishermen who felt that the current amendment would protect halibut and other species as well.

Phil Fuller, of Trans-Pacific International, owners of the ARCTIC TRAWLER, also participated in the Seattle workgroup. He confirmed that the majority in attendance were crab fishermen who felt the wording in the amendment was adequate to cover the incidental catch of other species as well as halibut.

Bart Eaton moved that the wording in the amendment be strengthened to clarify that the incidental catch limit for the experimental domestic trawl fishery covers all prohibited species, including halibut; seconded by Gene DiDonato. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Board of Fisheries/Council/Alaska Legislature Resolution to Reduce Incidental Take of Chinook Salmon by Foreign Trawlers

The Board of Fisheries asked the Council to approve a joint resolution of the Board, Council, and Alaska Legislature stressing the need for appropriate measures to reduce offshore chinook interceptions by all foreign offshore fisheries. The resolution asks the Japanese government and fishing industry to develop methods and apply appropriate modifications to their high seas operations which will help reduce their trawl interceptions of salmon. The resolution urged the Council to support research to determine the continent of origin of chinooks taken in the Japanese landbased drift net fishery, Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea foreign trawl fisheries, and the Japanese high seas mothership fishery.

Donald Bevan moved that the Council join the Board and Legislature in the resolution; seconded by Harold Lokken. The action was unanimously approved.

Public Hearings on Amendment #3

The Executive Director asked for Council confirmation to hold a public hearing on Amendment #3 on April 22 in Anchorage.

The Advisory Panel concurred with the proposed April 22 hearing and also requested that a hearing be held in Seattle.

The Executive Director was instructed to proceed with a hearing on April 22 in Anchorage and to arrange a hearing in Seattle.

F. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

F-1 Status of Contracts and RFP's

Possible Council action was pending on Contract 79-4, "Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fisheries Data" and Contract 80-6, "The Applicability of Limited Entry to the Alaska Halibut Fishery."

The final report for Contract 79-4 was received too late for SSC review.

The SSC did review Tetra Tech's responses to the SSC subgroup's questions on the final report. They found that Tetra Tech complied with the SSC's requests and recommended approval of the contract.

Jim Campbell moved that the Council approve Contract 80-6 for final payment; seconded by Harold Lokken. Final payment was unanimously approved.

F-2 New Research Proposals

The SSC reviewed a draft RFP entitled "Determination of Stock Origins of Chinook Incidentally Caught in Foreign Trawls in the U.S. Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska FCZ," and felt that it would complement other research efforts either underway or being considered by Alaska Sea Grant, the University of Washington, and the Alaska Legislature. They recommended that the RFP be released for bid.

Jim Campbell moved that the RFP be finalized and sent out for bid; seconded by Don Collinsworth. The motion carried with the record noting abstention by Donald Bevan.

F-3 Financial Status Report

No action required. Information only.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No further testimony was presented to the Council.

H. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tillion reminded the Council and public that the April meeting will be an administrative work session. The Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee will not meet, but their Chairmen are invited to join the Council session.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the 39th plenary session of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix I Comments on the Troll Salmon Amendment Package from National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C.
- Appendix II Scientific and Statistical Committee's Proposed Changes to the Text of the King Crab Framework
- Appendix III Revised Joint Statement of Principles Between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries for Management of the King Crab Fishery Off Alaska, 3/26/81