

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

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



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

Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 265-5435

November 2-3, 1978

Council Agenda Items for Meeting

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of September 1978 Meeting
3. Executive Director's Report.
 - a. DOC Audit of Council's.
4. NMFS Report of Foreign Fishing Activities Off Alaska.
5. U.S.Coast Guard Report/ NOAA Followup
6. AP Report
7. SSC Report
8. PISCES CONCEPT
9. Relationship of SSC to Council
10. Incidental Species Working Group Report.
10/12/78 memo to Group: from H.L.Rietze. Subject: Incidental Species.
11. AP Term expires.
10/24/78 memo to Council (50); from JH. Branson: Subject: AP Membership.
End of Two-year term, December 31, 1978.

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SUMMARY

Twentieth Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Anchorage Westward Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
November 2-3, 1978

The regular meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was held at the Anchorage Westward Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday and Friday, November 2nd and 3rd, 1978.

The Advisory Panel met Wednesday, November 1 at the Hotel and also at various times throughout the meeting. Due to a scheduling conflict the SSC was unable to hold a formal meeting on November 1 and met on October 25, 26 and 27, 1978, at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, 2725 Montlake Blvd., East, Seattle, Washington. Steve Pennoyer, Chairman of the SSC was present at the Council meeting and gave the SSC report.

A public comment period was held Thursday, November 2, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting.

SALMON TROLL PLAN

The Council directed the High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175° East FMP be re-written with the following provisions:

1. A 28 inch (heads-on) 23" (heads-off) minimum size limit on chinook, on all other species, no size limit.
2. No sex restrictions.
3. All fin-clipped salmon must be landed head-on.
4. A sport bag limit of 6 salmon total, only 3 of which may be chinook. Allow sportfishing year around.
5. Seasons (inclusive):
Chinook - April 15 - October 31,
Coho - June 15 - September 20,
All other - April 15 - October 31.
6. No salmon fishing in the FCZ west of Cape Suckling.

7. Gear: Power troll only, no line limit and no net fishing.
8. A Federal Limited Entry system (essentially) incorporating 950 power trollers currently holding Alaskan Limited Entry permits and a grandfathering in with non-transferable permits of those out-of-state vessels (freezer ships) which have historically fished there prior to December 1, 1977 but do not hold Alaska Limited Entry Permits.

The Plan will be reviewed by the Council for final approval on December 1 before submission to the Secretary of Commerce as the Council's recommendations for the salmon fishery off Alaska.

TANNER CRAB FMP

The Council considered amendments to the Tanner Crab FMP and took the following action:

Amended the FMP to allow foreign fishing in the area west of 173° West longitude and south of 58° North latitude with the catch not to exceed 2,500 mt in that area (C. opilio only) - the TALFF remains 15,000 mt.

Amended the Kodiak Area Tanner Crab OY to 20-35 million pounds.

Recommended no allocation be given to the Republic of Korea who had requested 15,000 mt of Tanner crab C. opilio.

Amend the FMP to require that all foreign crab catcher vessels associated with a given mothership operate only in one area at a time (north or south of 58°).

HALIBUT FMP

An FMP for Halibut off the Coast of Alaska was approved to go forward to the Secretary of Commerce for review. The plan contains:

1. A size limit of 32' heads-on and 24" heads-off.
2. A gear restriction allowing hook and line only.
3. A sport limit of 2 per day.
4. Catch limits of: 3,000,000 lbs in 2N
9,500,000 lbs in 3
500,000 lbs in 4
5. Four split seasons to begin in May, each 15-20 days in duration.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Bert Larkins, (NMFS) presented bleak information based on the North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association's 1977 blackcod CPUE data.

Larkins told the Council that the data indicated the stocks were not capable of producing the 1978 ABC as stated in the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. An amendment to the FMP has been scheduled and advertised for the November 30-December 1 Council meeting to lower the OY from 13,000 mt to approximately 10,000 mt.

ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Council Chairman Tillion withdrew from the AP Nomination Committee and Gordon Jensen was appointed to take his place. The 2-year term of the 25 member Advisory Panel expires in December. Five three (53) nominations were accepted, including 21 from current AP members who wish to remain on the Panel. Final appointments will be made on December 1.

SMALL-BOAT FISHERMEN'S WORKSHOP

The Council reviewed information on a NMFS Small-Boat Fishermen's Workshop proposed and rejected the concept and the invitation to send a representative.

KATZ PROPOSAL

The Council endorsed (no funds) a research proposal entitled "Projection of Biological and Economic Impacts of Alternative Management Strategies for the Alaska King Crab Fishery."

PRESENTATIONS BY DR. D. L. ALVERSON

Dr. D. L. Alverson, Director of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle, made two presentations to the Council: the first, a discussion on the role and relationship of the SSC with the Council; and the second, a report on the plans to develop a Pacific International Commission on Exploration of the Seas (PICES).

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

The Council rejected five joint venture applications for Mexican vessels to deliver fish in the Gulf of Alaska to Korean processing ships.

They also rejected several applications from the Republic of China to fish, for the first time, for sablefish and cod in the Gulf of Alaska.

FMP DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

A meeting of the Council Subcommittee on FMP Development will be held in Seattle on November 20, 1978 to discuss revisions to the multiple FMP long-term schedule. Early development of the Halibut FMP and delays in initial drafts of some of the other plans has changed the original schedule considerably.

BERING SEA CLAM REPORT

Mr. Steve Hughes, NMFS, Seattle, reported on the results of a joint industry/government venture on surf clams in the S.E. Bering Sea.

STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATION AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council discussed a letter from Ambassador Negroponte of the U.S. State Department questioning the need for a State Department representative to be at all Council meetings. The Council will notify the State Department before each meeting as to whether or not they felt the agenda warranted having a State Department representative present.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee discussed the Department of Commerce Audit, the FY'79 Council budget and the NOAA/NMFS budgetary process. The Council took no action.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

A meeting schedule was adopted as follows:

November 30 - December 1, 1978, Anchorage
January 25 - 26, 1979, Anchorage
February 23 - 24, 1979, Anchorage
March 23 - 24, 1979, Juneau