

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Approved By: Robert Alverson  
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## ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES Anchorage, Alaska March 28-30, 1983

The Advisory Panel met on Monday, March 28, 1983, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. in Room 101 of the Old Federal Building, 605 West Fourth Avenue. They reconvened on Tuesday, March 29, from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. and again on Wednesday, March 30 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. The following members were present: Greg Baker, Bob Blake, Bud Boddy, Al Burch, Larry Cotter, Barry Fisher, Jesse Foster, Dick Goldsmith, Eric Jordan, Joe Kurtz, Rick Lauber, Ray Lewis, James O'Connell, Don Rawlinson, Harvey Samuelsen, Walt Smith, Ed Wojack and Chairman Robert Alverson.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson. The agenda was approved by all members. Minutes of the January 3-4, 1983 meeting were approved as read.

### B. SPECIAL REPORTS

- B-1 Executive Director's Report. Not available.
- B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G. Not available.
- B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS. Not available.
- B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard. Not available.
- B-5 Joint Venture Operations. Not available.

### C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

- C-1 Halibut Moratorium. The Advisory Panel passed the concept of a moratorium with a vote of 10 to 6.

The AP approved the "Dual" moratorium concept by a vote of 9 to 2 with 2 abstentions.

The AP asks that any contractor for the Council be required to have language written in a manner so that it is understandable by the general public.

C-2 Halibut Limited Entry. The AP advises that all Council work and expenses on this study or another study be terminated until September when industry people can get back together and discuss the problems of any particular limited entry scheme.

C-3 Joint Venture Permits.

Japan - 400 mt blackcod in Central Gulf of Alaska. This proposal for a joint venture for blackcod in the Central Gulf of Alaska was a close vote of 9 opposed and 7 in favor (see Attachment 1, Minority Report).

The arguments in favor of the joint venture were as follows:

- (1) The joint venture would be conducted at a time when most of the canneries would be involved with salmon and the joint venture would allow these vessels fishing blackcod a viable market.
- (2) The vessels operating in the joint venture would require deliveries in a short period of time for quality purposes and the shore-based plants would not be close enough.
- (3) The fishing grounds would be two days from Southeast Alaska in Western Yakutat and similar distance for Kodiak or Seward.
- (4) The joint venture agreement would have the Japanese purchase an equal amount of processed product from the U.S. processors.

Those opposed had the following comments:

- (1) The U.S. processors currently handle over 18,000 mt of blackcod off Washington, Oregon and California and 3,000 mt of a 9,700 mt quota in Alaska. At a time when the U.S. industry is so close to eliminating the Japanese blackcod fishermen, it does not make sense to promote a joint venture.
- (2) There were numerous canneries in Kodiak, Seward, Cordova and Southeast Alaska that would take the product and pay competitive prices for it in 1982.
- (3) The issues involving pollock joint ventures or yellowfin sole joint ventures were not the same as those surrounding blackcod where the majority of blackcod on the coast is handled by U.S. harvesters and U.S. processors.
- (4) Vessels have been running to and from the Central Gulf to the Gulf Rim processors for over 50 years with iced product, and quality issues should not be that much of an issue.

Japan - add Gulf of Alaska to bottomfish permit in Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. The AP moved to table until further information was available.

USSR - 10,000 mt herring in Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. This joint venture with Marine Resources Company was disapproved 15 to 3 on the basis that such a fishery would be contradictory to the AP position on the Herring FMP, which is to have no offshore herring fishery.

Spain - 8,000 mt Pacific cod, 4,000 mt pollock in Gulf of Alaska. The AP took no action as sufficient data was not available.

In general, the AP had the following comments on those joint ventures they did not take action on:

- (1) There is a need for the application to be complete, detailing the specifics of the joint venture.
- (2) There should be a representative present to answer questions and the State Department should recommend this course of action to future applicants.
- (3) It seemed unfair that joint venture applications with the Koreans, Japanese and Soviets are so detailed and the Spanish application was not presented in as much detail as requested of others.
- (4) There seemed to be no identifiable U.S. component on the Spanish joint venture.
- (5) The Japanese request to have a directed quota in the Gulf was not totally opposed but there is some reluctance to have additional directed effort in the Gulf on cod or pollock when the availability is much higher in the Bering Sea.

Portuguese - 1,500 mt Pacific cod, 500 mt pollock in Gulf of Alaska. The AP felt the Council should be consistent with countries asking only for directed fisheries and that the Portuguese request, if based solely on a directed fishery, should not be approved. If the Portuguese request is tied to the purchase of U.S.-processed fishery products, the AP would possibly have given endorsement to a directed allocation to the Portuguese. Such purchase by the Portuguese should be of substance and not just a nominal purchase of U.S. fishery products. There were no representatives from the Portuguese government or from any U.S. processor to further explain the Portuguese request for a directed fishery allocation; therefore, the AP is unable to give an endorsement to the requested poundages by the Portuguese.

#### C-4 Other Business.

1984 Salmon PSC Amendment. The Advisory Panel unanimously approved a motion to adopt for public review the proposed salmon PSCs for 1984 as negotiated between the western Alaska natives and the Japanese. This would be 35,750 chinook and 38,441 total salmon.

#### D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

##### D-1 Salmon FMP

The Advisory Panel reaffirms its action taken during the January meeting in Juneau regarding salmon issues (see Attachment 2).

The AP in addition takes exception to the Canadian Embassy Memoire and states that the State of Alaska is dedicated to the conservation of chinook salmon. The AP deplors the concept of management by threat that leads to the practice of species elimination, specifically with regards to chinook and Fraser River sockeye salmon.

The AP challenges the Canadians to match the Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries' conservation practices on salmon with or without a treaty.

D-2 Herring FMP

The AP reaffirms its position taken during the December 1982 meeting (see Attachment 3). This was passed 11 to 4.

Those opposed commented that they felt the Herring Plan issue was the Council at its worse. The Plan has been in the works for over six years and still there was no working plan or even a PMT.

D-3 King Crab FMP

The AP recommends continued funding for the Crab Observer Program based on the comments received from Dr. Otto and Dr. Reeves.

The AP moved to adopt the Team's recommendations as outlined in the Team report. There was one in opposition.

Several felt that terms such as depressed, stable, increasing, high and low pre-recruitment abundances, average and peak should be defined and put out for public review. It was also felt that the methodology of exploitation rates ranging from 0.2 to 0.6 should be explained better for general public review.

The following resolution applies to both king and Tanner crab.

Whereas there is serious problems in the Pacific crab resource and serious gaps in our knowledge of the resource and whereas a symposium of leading crustacean scientists and fishermen is needed to share information and identify research needed and whereas the Advisory Panel is concerned about the future of this multi-million dollar resource, therefore the AP recommends that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council participate in sponsoring a crustacean symposium in Alaska.

The AP did not take up any specific king crab resolutions as it was felt by those involved in king crab, such issues would be better addressed in front of the Board and the joint meeting of the Board and Council.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP

The AP did not take up any specific Tanner crab regulations as it was felt by those involved in Tanner crab, such issues would be better addressed in front of the Board and the joint meeting of the Board and Council.

The AP requests that the Juneau NMFS office and Coast Guard indicate to mariners and foreign fleets the location of pot storage areas and inform the foreign fleet specifically of heavy concentrations of gear expected in the St. Matthew and Pribilof areas when fishing is allowed to begin for king crab.

ADVISORY PANEL MINORITY REPORT  
on the  
SABLEFISH JOINT VENTURE

March 30, 1983

As you will recall, the Advisory Panel, at its March 28, 1983 meeting, narrowly rejected (9 to 7) the RYUSHO MARU NO.18's joint venture permit application for a 400 mt operation in the west Yakutat area. Considering the closeness of the vote and the unique properties of this proposed longline joint venture, I thought it appropriate to draft a minority report supporting approval of the permit.

Briefly outlined, the proposed operation would involve some 10 to 20 U.S. longline vessels delivering at sea to the RYUSHO MARU NO.18. Generally, the area of operations will be west Yakutat specifically within a 60-mile radius of Cape St. Elias. The processing vessel will receive some 400 mt of product including incidental species such as rockfish, Pacific ocean perch and Thornyhead. The month of August has been selected as the time of operation.

In addition to offering U.S. longliners the opportunity to harvest a substantial portion of the DAH and Reserves in the west Yakutat area, this proposed joint venture will have several unique characteristics which I believe should lead the Council to approve the permit application.

1. NPL has agreed to purchase an amount of U.S. processed product equal to the amount of the permit application.
2. During the period of operations, there will be no Japanese directed sablefish fishing operations in the entire west Yakutat area, offering all U.S. longline vessels the opportunity to operate anywhere in the area from 140°W to 147°W without direct foreign competition. It is important to note that during this same period, the Southeast outside area will quite likely be closed, forcing vessels interested in sablefish to move westward into the west Yakutat area. The lack of direct competition and resultingly higher catch rates associated with the Japanese withdrawal will create optimum conditions for vessels desiring to operate in the area.

It should be pointed out that for U.S. longliners these will in essence be "new" fish in that if not taken by U.S. fishermen, these sablefish would be allocated to TALFF and harvested by foreign fishermen. Additionally, the U.S. fishermen are negotiating with NPL to insure that the product is labeled as U.S. caught as a means of improving U.S. product identity in the Japanese marketplace.

Considering the "fish and chips" nature of this proposed venture and its benefits for any U.S. longliner desiring to operate in west Yakutat, whether or not they are joint venture participants, I would urge that the Council approve this joint venture permit application.

C-3 Other Business. The AP requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council follow up on its last request to the Pacific Fishery Management Council regarding Ed Wojcek's participation on their Salmon Advisory Panel.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

Treaty. The AP heard a report from Dr. Dayton L. Alverson regarding the proposed Salmon Treaty between Canada and the United States.

Since the PDT recommendations were predicated on a harvest suggested in the Treaty, the AP acted on the Treaty first and recommends at this time that the Council go on record as opposing the Treaty. This was supported 16 to 1.

The AP therefore advises that the Council request the Department of Fish and Game design a season using historical catch data that results in a commercial catch of approximately 285,000 to 288,000 chinook salmon. After the designed season commences the fishery will proceed without interruption, with the exception of designed closures herein provided. In this manner fishermen will benefit with higher catches if increased stock availability is observed or correspondingly have lower catches if the run exhibits lower than average availability; thus, providing a built-in mechanism for protection of the run.

This designed season would probably require a closure from April 15 to May 15 to benefit Alaskan Systems, a closure in June to benefit systems in the lower 48, and a closure in August to benefit Canadian systems. This would not disrupt normal emergency power of the Secretary of Commerce.

(The AP salmon season appears to open with a closure from April 15 to May 15, this maintains the historical fishery period so in future years if the stocks warrant further harvesting the historical integrity of seasons beginning in April would be preserved.)

If the Council requires an option from the PMT report, the AP suggests option #2.

We request the State and Federal governments to provide funds to research the timing of distinct chinook stocks in the Southeast commercial harvest and that this research data be used in the future to set seasons so that endangered stocks receive maximum protection and healthy stocks and hatchery stocks receive the heaviest harvests.

The following are responses to the Plan Development Team's suggestions.

Coho Salmon Management Proposal. The AP recommends the present system regarding coho salmon management be continued.

Selected Species Fisheries. The AP felt the Board of Fisheries Proposal #223 addressed this and recommended passage of it. There were four in opposition to selected species fishing.

The proposal reads, "The Department shall manage the salmon fishery to allow species-specific fishing when particular species of salmon are closed to trolling for conservation or allocation purposes."

Justification: Single species fisheries are feasible with a hook and line fishery, although incidental hooking of non-targeted species may occur; for the most part, gear and area regulations can minimize impact to stocks. Economic impacts to fishermen will also be minimized. The key to effective single species fishing is the continued education of fishermen in the necessary techniques. Workshops or instructional manuals developed by the Department.

Beginning with Board of Fisheries recommendaiton #208, the AP recommends adoption of the Board of Fisheries decisions on specific season and gear proposals.

D-2 Tanner Crab FMP

Steve Davis indicated that there probably is no need to take further action on this as new developments had occurred. The AP took no action.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- D-1 Salmon FMP. Bill Robinson gave an indepth report of the status of stocks and the U.S.-Canada talks.

The AP has no specific recommendations at this time. One AP member who spent the summer in Oregon, Eric Jordan, indicated he perceived a conservation problem with chinooks being taken by sport fishermen. The sport fishermen catch large chinooks by snagging them and take only the eggs and leave the carcass.

Eric felt that if escapement goals are achieved in southern rivers, the Alaskan fishermen should have a larger quota off Southeast Alaska.

- D-2 Herring FMP. The AP voted to recommend that no herring fishing be allowed outside state waters, but to incorporate the herring resource into an FMP with management delegated to the State of Alaska. This passed 11 to 4.

The AP also moved that the Bering Sea Herring FMP be amended so that it reflects a desire for research to identify stock abundance and segregation before herring are harvested outside of three miles. This passed 17 to 1.

Those in favor of harvesting inside felt that the existing herring fishery and subsistence fishery were established and should have precedent over any proposed offshore fishery.

Those opposed had these problems with the proposed fishery management:

- (a) There were insufficient pluses and minuses of the herring savings areas as these applied to domestic fishermen.
- (b) The herring ABC did not include all age classes of the fishery.
- (c) What happens if the market fails for roe or icing conditions preempt an inside fishery.
- (d) The proposed formula for determining the quota for an offshore fishery does not have any biological basis as per the SSC report in Sitka.

- D-4 Tanner Crab FMP. Steve Davis gave the Tanner crab report. The AP approved the amendment to go out for public review. There was one opposed due to having received the amendment on such short notice.

D-5 Gulf of Alaska FMP

- (a) The AP endorsed their previous support for no directed pot fishing for blackcod from 140°W to Cape Addington. There was one opposed.
- (b) EY level for sablefish. The AP recommends no change and would like to emphasize that even with the continued reductions in ABC and OY in westward areas, no improvement in the stocks has been noticed. The AP suggests a conservative approach.