

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Minutes of the Ninth Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
August 25 - 26, 1977  
Elks Hall  
Kodiak, Alaska

The regular meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was held in Kodiak, Alaska at the Elks Hall on August 25 - 26, 1977. Those present are listed in Appendix A.

The Council meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 25th at 8:45 a.m. by Chairman Elmer Rasmuson. The Council's Advisory Panel had met on August 24th at the Fishermen's Hall from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and again on Thursday morning, August 25th. The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Library on August 24th from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and again on August 25th. The Advisory Panel and the Scientific and Statistical Committee otherwise met concurrent with the Council on Thursday and Friday August 25th and 26th. Vice-Chairman Harold Lokken acted as Chairman in Mr. Rasmuson's absence late Thursday afternoon and Friday.

The provisional agenda for the Council meeting was approved and is included in Appendix B. The minutes of the June 23-24, 1977 Council meeting (which had been mailed out to all Council members) were deferred for comment and subsequently approved as written during the second day of the meeting (Appendix C).

## INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Rasmuson opened the meeting by stating how pleased the Council was to be in Kodiak. The Chairman then introduced Mr. Gordon Jensen as the newly appointed Council member replacing Mr. Henry Eaton and Mr. Clem Tillion, who was reappointed to the Council. Messrs. Gordon Sandison (Commissioner, Washington Dept. of Fisheries) and Ed Huizer (AK Dept. of Fish & Game, alternate for Commissioner Skoog) were introduced as this was their first Council meeting.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Jim Branson presented his report which included the following (Appendix D):

- o That the Council as of August 19th, 1977 reflected a cash balance of \$265,000. The financial statement (dated August 19th, 1977) for FY 1977 showed an expenditure of \$291,000 to date which, with obligated funds and projected expenses, left a projected cash balance of \$233,600. Programmatic expenses are still estimated at \$432,100 for remaining FY77, however NMFS has indicated that extra money has been set aside and that the overall deficit would be made up.
- o A proposed total budget request for FY78 of \$1,671,517 consisting of administrative costs of \$610,457, programmatic costs of \$441,060 and research contracts for \$570,000 was submitted for Council approval.

Chairman Rasmuson assigned the budget review to the Council's ad hoc finance committee, consisting of Council members McKernan, Rasmuson, Lokken, Meacham and Jensen, which met on Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. with the Council staff. The following recommendations were made:

- 1. A suggestion to reduce programmatic funding requests by \$75,000 in anticipation that the shrimp, scallop and dungeness crab management plans would not be started during 1978.
- 2. A reduction in research contract proposals of \$150,000, and
- 3. Acceptance of the FY78 budget with the above stated \$225,000 reductions.

The Council on Friday unanimously approved this recommendation of the ad hoc finance committee to accept the modified FY78 budget request of \$1,446,517.

- o An announcement that additional monies have been allocated to the State of Alaska through the North Pacific Council for their support of Council operations: a total of \$18,000 for FY77 and \$50,000 for FY78.
- o Request for Council approval authorizing the selection of Main Lafrentz & Company for the year-end audit of Council books.

The Council's ad hoc finance committee discussed the selection of an auditor and subsequently recommended to the Council, approval of the Executive Director's recommendation. The Council unanimously approved a motion to authorize the Executive Director to select Main Lafrentz & Company.

- o A report that two contracts had been approved by NOAA; \$12,000 pass-through money to the State of Alaska and \$60,000 for management plan development also to the State of Alaska. A grant request for \$316,000 had been submitted to cover the three contracts approved by the Council at the June Council meeting. The three contracts (The Observer Program for the Domestic Groundfish Fishery, the Development and Enhancement of a Computerized Fisheries Information System in the State of Alaska, and Investigations on the Continental Origin of Salmon in the Area of the Japanese Landbased Fishery) were submitted to the Scientific and Statistical Committee for review before signing. The review is expected to be completed sometime before the Council's September meeting.
- o The report that three research funding proposals (RFP) had been written and were still being reviewed by the SSC before final approval and mailing. The three RFP's are, (1) to investigate the relative merits of the various types of joint U.S./foreign ventures in the developing commercial fishery off Alaska, (2) a study on the impacts of the commercial herring fishery on the economy and villages of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim area in Alaska, and (3) a study of the eastern Bering Sea herring population (in two parts).
- o An announcement that Mike Hershberger had been hired as a consultant writer for the Council on a three month arrangement. Mr. Hershberger's specific responsibilities will be writing environmental impact statements, summaries for the management plans, editing drafts and preparing final camera copy of the plans, and close liaison between management plan preparation and the Council and the Washington offices.
- o An investigation into the feasibility of installing a "word processing computer and typing system" in the Council offices. Partial justification was in the improved ability for Council management plans to be prepared in-house. The system could also store Council files, and provide some communications.

- o A report that changes had been proposed in the Foreign Permit Procedures and Regulations which would allow altering foreign fishing permits. The changes would allow the conditions of the permit to be changed after it had been issued to give the Councils necessary handle to control joint venture problems.

On Friday the Council unanimously passed a motion which accepted the Executive Director's recommendation to support the proposed regulations.

- o An announcement that the final regulations for Council operations had been received.
- o A letter from NOAA had been received thanking the Council for the designation of Clem Tillion as the North Pacific Council representative to the Marine Advisory Fisheries Affair Committee (MAFAC). The letter indicated that MAFAC was amenable to the idea of a Council 'member' rather than a Council 'observer' for MAFAC meetings.
- o Notice that the foreign permit applications for calendar year 1978 should be available for review at the September Council meeting. If received in time the applications will be summarized prior to review.

Councilman Charles Meacham indicated a strong preference for receiving the foreign permit applications early in September. He felt the sheer number to be reviewed would preclude any meaningful analysis during the Council meeting in September. Most all Council members agreed and the Executive Director was instructed to correspond with NMFS requesting their earliest consideration of our need to receive the applications to complete either a partial or step-by-step review prior to the Council meeting.

- o An announcement that regulations need to be developed for the two Council management plans, Tanner Crab and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish by October 24th. The exact procedure however, for developing regulations has not been established.
- o An announcement that a trip had been arranged for up to 12 Council members to visit the semi-submersible Sedco 708 oil rig in the North Gulf of Alaska on Saturday. Specific logistics and arrangements were to be worked out through Henry Pennington of the University of Alaska Sea Grant Program.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Branson reported on the important communications received by the Council and referenced in three Council mailings. They included the following items:

1. The Council memorandum from NMFS for June 1977.
2. A memorandum from Director Schoning to the Chairmen of the Management Councils, updating the preliminary estimates of optimum yield, U.S. capacity and surpluses available for foreigners from a memorandum received by the Council at the June meeting.
3. A memorandum from Dr. Alverson NWAFC/NMFS to Director Schoning revising the 1978 optimum yield and total allowable level of foreign fishing for the Bering Sea herring.
4. A copy of pages 6 thru 14 and page 16 of a survey of foreign fisheries literature # C-18, published by the Department of Commerce and dealing with the effects of extended jurisdiction on the Japanese fishing industry.
5. A questionnaire, forwarded at the request of the NMFS, designed to outline the interest areas of Council members.
6. A letter (dated July, 1977) to the Council from Schoning thanking the Council (a) for cooperation in the joint venture hearings and (b) deferred comments on the suggested provisions for licensing foreign fishing vessels, submitted by Dr. McKernan at the last Council meeting.
7. A response (dated July 1977) to the Council from Mr. Schoning on the Council's recommendations for calculating foreign fee prices based on more current fish prices.
8. A memo (dated July 11, 1977) from the Director of the New England Council and a letter from the Chairman of the New England Council (dated July 1977) in response to Mr. Schoning's request for comments on the Proposed Policies and Procedures for Funding Councils.

9. A memo (dated 6/22/77) from the Director of the New England Council with a copy of a "Assistance to Determine Management Objectives" developed by the New England Council.
10. A letter (dated 7/21/77) from Director Schoning to John Harville allocating \$5,000 for the remainder of FY77 for support of the North Pacific Council.
11. A letter (dated 7/15/77) to the Council from Mr. Schoning for Secretary Kreps responding to the Council's recommendations on Bering Sea herring stocks for 1977 and 1978.
12. Copies of errata sheets for the Sea Grant Study "The Bering Sea Tanner Crab Resources, U.S. Production Capacity and Marketing."
13. A letter (dated 7/19/77) to the Council from Carl Rosier (ADF&G) requesting deferral of the submission date for the King Crab Management Plan to February 23, 1978.

The Council further discussed the letter by Rosier. It was noted that the preliminary management plan which would regulate the foreign fishery for 1978 would not affect the domestic fisheries as there are no foreign quotas for king crab. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations should therefore be applicable to all domestic fishing for king crab and was considered adequate.

The Council approved a motion accepting the request for delay in the submission of the king crab plan until February 23, 1978.

14. A letter (dated 7/8/77) from the Director, Pacific Council, to Mr. Schoning with the Pacific Council's response to an NMFS request for suggestions for the 1978 OY figures.
15. A letter from Dennis Sheldon, Vice-President, Alakanuk Native Corporation (dated 6/21/77) to Harry Wilde and Paul Guy of the Advisory Panel of the North Pacific Council, requesting protection of the high seas areas for the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim salmon resource.

16. A memo (dated 7/1/77) from Walter Jones to Harry Rietze with a report on fisheries development activities for June, 1977.
17. A letter (dated 7/26/77) from Dr. Lee Alverson, NWAFC, to Mr. Dick Vetter, National Resource Council, Ocean Sciences Board, in response to an inquiry requiring information from the Council.
18. A letter dated 7/6/77 from Dr. Lee Alverson, NWAFC, to the Council informing the Council of the joint research plan for the Polish Vessel PROFESOR SIEDLECKI.
19. A letter (6/27/77) from the Director, Pacific Council to Mr. Schoning on the management plan development "horse blanket".

Regarding the National Marine Fisheries Service Events Schedule (horse blanket), the Chairman told the Council that it would be discussed at a meeting of all Council Chairmen in Portland on September 14th and 15th.

20. A letter (dated 7/6/77) to Chairman Rasmuson from Admiral Siler, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard thanking the Council for their commendation of the Coast Guard during the March meeting.
21. A letter (dated 7/29/77) to the Council from Larry L. Snead, U.S. State Department, conveying a press release announcing the appointment of Lloyd Cutler as special representative for the United States on upcoming U.S./Canadian Boundary and resource negotiations.
22. A letter (dated 8/3/77) to Director Schoning from the Executive Director of the Pacific Council on the foreign fee schedule.
23. A letter (dated 8/3/77) to Director Schoning from Chairman McKean of the Pacific Council objecting to the short lead time given by NMFS for the Council to respond to items of major importance.
24. A letter (dated 7/29/77) to Director Schoning from Chairman Bruce Lentz of the South Atlantic Council objecting to having green turtles put on the endangered species list and dealing with mackerel and shrimp surplus figures.

25. A letter (dated 8/3/77) to Director Schoning from John McKean, Chairman of the Pacific Council on the proposed Funding Policies and Procedures for Councils.
26. A letter (dated 8/3/77) from John McKean, Chairman of the Pacific Council to John Donaldson of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, objecting to the need for such a quick Council and state response to 1978 foreign fishing permit applications.
27. An update (8/4/77) of the current status of foreign fishing applications and permits issued from the NMFS central office.

The High Seas Salmon Troll Management Plan was currently being distributed for internal review by the Council, the AP and the SSC. The High Seas Salmon Management Plan would be mailed as soon as final edition was furnished, hopefully by September 9th, to all Council, SSC and AP members.

#### ST. PAUL ISLAND HARBOR

Chairman Rasmuson introduced for discussion the development of a harbor at St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea. The development of many of the Bering Sea fisheries would be greatly enhanced if there was a harbor in the Pribilof Islands.

Councilman Harry Rietze, Director of the Alaska Region, NMFS, presented background information on NMFS' efforts to receive approval for the harbor. He said they had asked the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider the need for a harbor at St. Paul, based on (1) the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 which stressed the development of fisheries, especially off Alaska and also on (2) the increased values of fishery products relating from new fishing trends. Mr. Rietze stated, the cost benefit ratio has greatly changed since earlier investigations because of developing fisheries in that area.

He said it was urgent to allocate FY 77 monies to begin a study of the project which would include (1) an economic and biological impact statement and (2) specific bathymetric soundings of the area. Details of the project are included in a letter from Harry Rietze to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to support the reactivation of the Army Corps of Engineers study and move in every way possible towards the construction of the harbor. The motion was amended to include Director Rietze's letter in the Council's supporting letter.

A status report on the project by NMFS was also requested for the September Council meeting.

Council member Bart Eaton suggested inviting the oil industry to assist in this project. This thought produced much opposition as the Pribilof Island area is considered non-compatible with the oil industry development.

#### INPFC Negotiations

Chairman Elmer Rasmuson reported on the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) renegotiations held recently in Seattle. He told the Council that the tri-lateral meeting between Canada, Japan and the United States had been held August 8th, 9th and 10th and was chaired by Ambassador John Negroponte of the Department of State. Chuck Meacham and Don McKernan attended the meeting. In summarizing the results of the meeting, the Chairman said that two basic problems had surfaced and were major topics of discussion:

- (1) General salmon management problems, and
- (2) The need for continuing scientific forum.

The Chairman said that discussions of an abstention line and the high seas closures were considered predominant factors in salmon management. He also said that it seemed reasonable and prudent to maintain a formal forum for the scientific sharing of information and research.

A second renegotiation session is scheduled for Anchorage beginning October 24th.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT INPFC REPORT

Carl Price, Department of State representative to the Council, told the Council that the informal, intergovernmental meeting on the future of the INPFC held in Seattle was for the purpose of establishing broad outlines of negotiating positions. Beside NPFMC members present there were two members from the Pacific Council. At the September Council meeting in Anchorage he would be prepared to discuss the U.S. position on amending INPFC. He said that if at that time the Council agreed on the position the proposals would be cabled to Japan and

Canada for review before the next renegotiation meeting. The State Department expected substantive negotiations to be complete before the end of the year.

#### U.S./Canadian Salmon Talks

Dr. Don McKernan reported on the salmon interception talks between Canada and the United States in Seattle on August 11th and 12th. He said that of principal interest were (a) intercepted salmon stocks, (b) the Alaska/Canadian trans-boundary stocks and (c) the Columbia River stocks. Dr. McKernan told the Council that the two governments had basically agreed in principal that enhancement projects and ensuing benefits should be enjoyed by the owner country. Another session would be held this fall.

Boundary issues and other fishery problems had now received the highest priority. The announcement of the assignment of Ambassador Cutler, to these negotiations was considered a positive step in attempting to resolve the boundary issues with Canada.

The Chair announced that Mr. Cutler would be in Portland on September 15th and had telephoned ahead to arrange meetings with as many of the North Pacific Council members as possible. The Chairman urged those free to do so to arrange a meeting with Mr. Cutler around his schedule to the West Coast.

#### MANAGEMENT PLANS

A major portion of the meeting was spent in discussion of two management plans: the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery during 1978 and the Tanner Crab Fishery off Alaska (Chionoecetes spp.). The major purpose of the discussions were two-fold: (1) to identify areas of common concern relating to comments and issues raised during the public hearing and testimony, and (2) to generally discuss those areas for the purpose of introducing all facts and arguments for debate and consideration prior to the September Council meeting at which time the Council will decide on the final format and content of these two management plans. The discussion then ended in tentative and general decisions. No formal or final decisions will be made on either management plan until after the close of the 45 day public review process. The Tanner Crab Plan discussion follows:

## TANNER CRAB PLAN

The following subheadings reflect major categories of the plan which were either controversial, in error, or needing further clarification.

Tanner Crab Size Limit: The discussion of a legal size limit for tanner crab involved members of the management plan drafting team, the Advisory Panel, the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council. In his introduction the Chairman told the Council that in all five public hearings the size limit for tanner crab had been mentioned. Some comments and discussions he said, indicated (1) there was a financial burden to the fishermen associated with the need for an extra crew member to measure crabs, (2) that processors enforced their own minimum size requirements, (3) there were biological justifications for protecting mature and maturing male tanner crab, (4) that biological justifications for allowing a size limit cushion guaranteed protection of the stocks and (5) that there was a decrease in abundance predicted for tanner crab (Chionoecetes bairdi) in the Bering Sea by 1982.

Councilman McKernan requested the record to show "what surpluses would be available for harvest by changing the legal size for tanner crab?" A question was then raised as to whether or not the size limit should be a (1) integral part of the management plan or (2) an integral part of the regulations. The question raised by Chairman Rasmuson led to a discussion of the ultimate responsibility for regulations and plan development. Referring to this, Councilman John Harville stated that any major change in the management plan required a new environmental impact statement. It was further stated that both regulations and plans were only recommendations and that the Secretary of Commerce had final statutory decision making authority.

Dr. Lee Alverson, Chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, in commenting on the size limit question, restated the position of the SSC. Alverson said the SSC specifically recommended the 140 mm or 5.5 inch recommendation of the drafting team. This limit, he said has been suggested in order to provide a high degree of protection for mature males in order to insure maximum fertilization of the female population.

While the 140 mm size limit would protect almost 100 percent of the immature and newly mature crabs as well as about 30 percent of the previously matured crabs, Alverson told the Council that recent data suggested a lower size limit might be practical. In referring to a paper by Sumerton and Low, Alverson said that under current harvest strategies, the harvest potential could be substantially increased by lowering the size limit to between 102 and 120 mm, the associated increase in yield being 50 percent.

In summation, Dr. Alverson said the SSC could not come to a consensus as regards a specific size limit, however, he said the group did feel that the size limit for the 1978 season should not be set below 5 inches or 127 mm and all concerned agree that a reduction to 5.3 inches or 135 mm was unlikely to harm the reproductive capacity of the stocks. Also the optimum size harvest would occur at 140 mm while the optimum total production would probably occur by harvesting 120 mm sized crabs.

While considering a reduction in the size limit, the Council was told that the potential for loss of breeding population was 30 to 40 percent in a reduction from 5.5 (40 mm) to 5 (mm) inches. However, a 15 percent gain in yield would be realized by reducing the size limit from 140 mm (5.5") to 135 mm. Steve Pennoyer of the SSC, then stated that at 5.3 inches all males would be protected for one mating cycle. Councilman Don McKernan felt that with the predicted decline in C. bairdi stocks we should harvest more crabs from the younger year classes.

The Chairman suggested there were also nonbiological considerations: economic concerns of processors and fishermen. He said testimony from processors has indicated they do not wish a reduction in the 5.5" size limit, while testimony from fishermen has been split, some in favor of reducing the size limit and some against any reduction.

In answer to a question by Councilman Harold Lokken on the affect of size limit on recruitment, Dr. Alverson stated that size limit considerations would not affect the predicted downward trend of the stocks in the Eastern Bering Sea.

Steve Pennoyer reported that the 5.3" minimum size limit in effect in Prince William Sound has had no effect on spawning, the females last year were 100 percent fertilized.

The question was raised (and unanswered) by Councilman Bart Eaton regarding the effect on optimum yield (OY) if the biological yield of crab is increased 15 percent by reducing the size from 5.5 to 5.3 inches. The Council is expecting an answer to that question at the September Council meeting.

The Council then approved a motion to bring the Council one step closer to a final size limit decision required at the September Council meeting. The motion accepted (for consideration only,) a size limit of 135 mm for all of Alaska tanner crab (C. bairdi). The motion carried with Mssrs. Rasmuson, Gordon Jensen and Bob Mace voting no.

Geographic Areas of Separation for Foreign and Domestic Fishing: The Chairman reminded the Council that there were three recommendations for areas to exclude all foreign tanner crab fishing, (1) there be no foreign fishing for tanner crab south of 58° north latitude and east of 164° west longitude (in Tanner crab plan draft) (2) Councilman Ed Huizer of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game representative, told the Council that the Alaska Board of Fisheries had recommended the line be moved to 58° 39' north latitude, and (3) a southern extension of the line was proposed by Harry Rietze, Director NMFS for 56° north latitude, (1978 PMP proposal).

The discussions regarding closed areas for foreign crab fishing developed around three central points: first was the need to protect all C. bairdi stocks from foreign fishing. Rationale: The U.S. was now fully capable of harvesting all available C. bairdi and the historic Japanese catch of tanner crab south of 58° has contained a large portion of that species. Second, was the need to reserve some C. opilio for U.S. expansion into that species. Rationale: The U.S. is expected to harvest an increased amount of C. opilio this year and needs some protection to assure an economically feasible catch-per-unit-effort of C. opilio. The 58° north latitude closure line protects C. bairdi stocks and provides access to C. opilio to U.S. fishermen in that market. The Alaska Board of Fisheries' recommendation of 58° 39", north latitude closing line was proposed to buffer the boundary line foreign crab fishery for both tanner crab and blue king crab. It was pointed out that historically boundaries closing areas to foreign had been subject to major concentrations of foreign effort.

The 1977 foreign catch of Tanner crab in the Bering Sea was broken into three areas. In Area A, 2,500 metric tons were harvested of which 95 percent were C. bairdi and 5 percent were C. opilio. In Area B, 5,600 metric tons were caught of which 50 percent were C. bairdi and 50 percent were C. opilio. In Statistical Area C, 4,400 metric tons of tanner crab were harvested, 5 percent C. bairdi and 95 percent C. opilio. Catches by foreign crab vessels in Areas A and B would be eliminated by the prohibition for fishing below 58° north latitude. The 95 percent catch of C. opilio in Statistical Area C would represent the species breakdown for tanner crab north of 58° north latitude.

Councilman Bart Eaton, also a fishing Captain, told the Council that there were 27 new large crab vessels under construction. He said that fully 70 percent expected to enter the Bering Sea tanner crab fishery. Four were of the catcher/processor type and the remainder were traditional crab boat designs. Captain Eaton said that 30 to 40 boats fished the Pribilof area for C. bairdi this season and after the next major C. bairdi season could be expected to fish C. opilio. This provided the justification for securing all of the C. bairdi and a major portion of the C. opilio for U.S. harvest.

In conclusion, the Council adopted a motion (as an expression of continued support of the plan and for the purpose of concentrating discussion) which would prohibit foreign fishing east of 164° west longitude and south of 58° north latitude with Mr. Harry Rietze dissenting.

Alaska State Regulations - Adoption by Reference:

The tanner crab plan, the Chairman told the Council, proposed to adopt the management system used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in managing this fishery. This concept, while highly desirable, posed some legal problems.

Kim White, NOAA legal Counsel, told the Council that the original statements on pot limits and exclusive area registration may not be consistent with the FCMA. The problem was with the wording used in the management plan and not in the concepts themselves. The problem relates to adoption by reference of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations, giving the authority and management power to the State for regulation of the fishery.

The Chairman said these concepts must remain in the management plan and that the justification would require different interpretative wording in the plan.

The Chairman then designated an ad hoc committee to take the State regulations and incorporate them into the plan to guarantee consistency with national standards and stated MP goals and objectives. Councilmen Ed Huizer (ADF&G), Harry Rietze (NMFS), NOAA counsel Kim White, and Coast Guard counsel Jim Ellis, were requested to work on the problem and report at the September Council meeting.

The broader question of authority to manage fisheries through emergency regulations was discussed by the Chair. The question he said, did not imply that emergency regulations per se, are of an unplanned, spontaneous nature, but rather denote the need for flexibility in opening and especially closing seasons based on harvest ranges and monitored daily catch rates. The question also requires, as brought out by Rear Admiral J.B. Hayes, a decision as to whether the entire state management regime, and the historic use of emergency regulations, should be a part of the plan itself or part of the implementing regulations. In definition of the final problem Kim White, NOAA legal counsel, said the proposed regulations could be either adopted integrally as a part of the plan, or adopted in whole by reference. However, if adopted (in whole) by reference they would not automatically change year to year as the Alaska Board of Fisheries changed them.

Councilman Clem Tillion proposed the idea of adopting very substantive state regulations and then mentioning that portions of the regulations, should (and in fact do), deal with the need for unpredicted openings and closures of fishing seasons and areas.

Councilman Rear Admiral Hayes again suggested the NMFS and USCG legal staffs, as well as NMFS Director Rietze, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game representative Ed Huizer, meet and work out problems associated with adopting or using State regulations and incorporating them into the plan consistent with national standards. The Chairman agreed that the working group should plan to incorporate as many regulations as could be agreed upon into the plan. Councilman Donald McKernan reminded the Council that agreements should be in principal and not in substance as the Secretary of Commerce still has final statutory authority to make regulations and that Councils may only prepare and submit recommendations.

In accepting a question from the audience, Council members McKernan, Huizer, and Harville told Mr. Tom Casey, Manager of the United Fishermen's Marketing Association, that the practical matter of closing the Kodiak king crab season could be handled by a field announcement covered by the management plan as an integral part of the management requirements of that plan.

Tanner Crab C. Bairdi and C. Opilio: Chairman Rasmuson in summarizing the intent of the Tanner crab fishery management plan, told the Council that the U.S. fishing industry expected to harvest all available C. bairdi and a substantial portion of C. opilio. Because of the uncertainties associated with predictions of U.S. catch, a detailed discussion followed relating to status of the stocks for both Tanner crab (C. opilio and C. bairdi), optimum yield considerations for both crab, and total allowable catch figures for the American fishing industry and the foreign fishing industry in the Bering Sea.

During the Council's discussion of OY figures for the two species, the following subjects were discussed: the U.S. industry's capacity and intent to harvest and market tanner crab, the separation of domestic and foreign fleets, biological status of stock reports, and various social and economic factors.

The question was raised as to whether or not an optimum yield for Tanner crab in an area closed to foreign fishing need be established? Carl Price, Department of State representative, told the Council that the domestic OY did not need to be established if there were compelling reasons for the restriction of foreign fishing. Discussion surrounding the question and answer dealt with which justifications could be used. Councilman McKernan concluded the only justification in effect was market considerations.

In further discussion by management plan drafting team coordinator, Don Collinsworth, also of the SSC, he said that the incidental catch of C. opilio by the U.S. crab fishery was expected to be between 3.25 and 6.5 million pounds south 58° for 1978. Councilman Bart Eaton stated there was a potential for a 15 to 20 million pound catch of C. opilio by a large domestic mothership fleet. Projections of indirect catch were

based on extrapolation of new information and 1977 catch statistics. Councilman Ed Huizer suggested the Advisory Panel also consider recommendations on the capacity of the U.S. industry to harvest tanner crab (C. opilio) south of 58° for 1978.

Harry Rietze discussed the rationale for establishing the 1977 PMP OY figures and said that the historic catch by the Japanese and the unknowns regarding the impact and the expansion on the C. opilio market were the major reasons for the Tanner crab OY and TAC figures.

In attempting to ascertain why the OY for Tanner crab C. opilio north of 58° was reduced to 13,000 metric tons from an MSY and ABC of 75,525 metric tons, the Council learned that only 50 to 60 percent of C. opilio were greater than 4 1/2 inches carapace width and that further reduction in OY was necessary because of the density pattern of crab distribution as it relates to the economics of fishing and catch-per-unit-effort.

Dr. Lee Alverson, Chairman of the SSC said that the 1977 OY for C. opilio was "based solely on the historic Japanese catch." The Chairman restated that values for assessing OY were purely judgemental, and that Tanner crab (C. opilio) could be harvested south of 58° by the U.S., eliminating the need to establish OY because there would be no foreign fishing in that area.

The Chairman said that the OY concept could sacrifice another fishery for specific and definable economic and social concerns and in his opinion this was a totally proper legal rationale for determining optimum yield.

Councilman John Harville suggested the management plan drafting team and the Advisory Panel address the question and recommend an OY for C. opilio south of 58° north latitude. Harry Rietze, in discussing the development of OY, said that from the point of view of the National Marine Fisheries Service there was no way to measure the impact of the whole MSY of C. opilio on the developing tanner crab fishery marketing process, that concentrations of crab needed for economic success were much less than the original 330 million pounds calculated as MSY. The Chairman repeated his advice to the Council that they must take the best information available to make their decisions.

General Comments: Some comments expressed regarding the management plan itself dealt with the basic format of the plan and the development of data and management objectives so the reader could make logical and independent conclusions. In summarizing these concerns Councilman McKernan said that his language with the language were with the inability of the objectives to be consistent and logically followed through to conclusion. He also felt the portion of the plan dealing with past history should be removed and put in a separate document. This information was requested conveyed to the management plan drafting team leader, Bill Donaldson, ADF&G, Kodiak.

#### GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY DURING 1978

The Vice-Chairman introduced, for discussion, major portions of the Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan. In prefacing all remarks and comments regarding the plan, Vice-Chairman Lokken told the Council that the discussion was for the sole purpose of bringing together tentative conclusions to better equip the Council to focus on and approve the management plan at the September Council meeting. The Vice-Chairman also emphasized the fact that the public comment period was still open and that all comments received during that period would be reviewed.

The discussion generally evolved around two major topics: first being the U.S. potential and commitment for the development of blackcod longline, grey cod and bottom trawl fisheries by the U.S. and the second dealing with the effect of joint venture options in the management plan.

Sablefish: Mr. Keith Specking, Chairman of the Advisory Panel presented a list of AP recommendations on the groundfish plan. These recommendations consisted of the following:

1. That the equilibrium yield for sablefish be reduced from 22,000 MT to 16,600 MT.
2. The optimum yield for sablefish be set at 13,000 MT.
3. All foreign longlining be prohibited east and south of Cape St. Elias.
4. That all longlining be prohibited in November, December, January and February.

5. That Option II.A of the draft fishery management plan favoring the preservation of halibut over the unencumbered growth of the domestic trawl fishery be adopted.
6. That the time closure for foreign trawling in the area near Kodiak Island (147° - 157° west longitude) be extended 15 days, from February 15th through May 31st rather than thru May 15th.
7. That all foreign and domestic trawling be prohibited in the shaded area shown on the maps found on page 8-21 and 8-22 of the management plan. (S.E. sanctuary areas.)

The recommendations presented by the Advisory Panel were unanimously accepted by the Council as a part of the Advisory Panel report.

In further discussing the sablefish fishery in southeast Alaska and in the Gulf of Alaska, Burt Larkins, NMFS reported that proposed reductions were based on current declines in both catch-per-unit-effort and catch-per-boat-day. He said it was thought that if OY were reduced to 75 percent of 17,000 metric tons it could serve to rebuild the stocks in general and also to increase the average size of the sablefish. Elimination of all foreign longlining south and east of Cape St. Elias would eliminate 30 percent of the foreign black cod catch and thereby concentrate foreign efforts into other areas in the Gulf of Alaska. It was thought that this might lead to overfishing certain isolated stocks.

Bert Larkins also said that pollock stocks in the Gulf of Alaska were undergoing a change which would lead, over the next 3 to 5 years, to a drop in total numbers, but that the proportion of large fish in the population was not expected to change.

Optimum Yield: The discussions of groundfish quotas lead to a Council expression of approval for holding 30 percent of the optimum yield in reserve to use in case of under-estimation of the domestic fishing capacity. Councilman Ed Huizer, when asking when and who will release 30 percent of the optimum yield, was referred to the management plan which states that on October 1, 30 percent of the OY held in reserve would be reallocated based on catches to that date.

Larkins also reminded the Council that the preliminary management plan allocated a 30 percent reserve of the surplus while the fishery management plan allocated 30 percent of the optimum yield to the fishery. He reminded the Council that this represented a substantial difference in philosophy.

Enforcement: In discussing enforcement problems, Admiral Hayes told the Council that the communication logistics involved in checking fishermen in and out of fishing areas in the Gulf of Alaska placed a tremendous communication impact on the Coast Guard. He further went on to say that enforcement of pot limits would be almost impossible. The Chairman asked the U.S. Coast Guard and the NMFS to prepare a joint report for the September Council meeting on enforcement impact analysis based on the two management plans and the proposed regulations.

In the concluding discussions on the development of a domestic fishery (specifically for black cod or sablefish) the Council raised several questions which were referred to Bert Larkins and the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center for response at the September Council meeting. These questions were:

1. What is known of the black cod migration in the Gulf of Alaska?
2. What are the consequences of closing an area if it concentrates fishing for black cod in other open areas which may be nursery areas for halibut?
3. Can the plan be adjusted to accommodate reduced foreign allowable catches in specific Gulf of Alaska areas?
4. A specific analysis of fishing if foreign longlining were moved west of Cape St. Elias.
5. All new information regarding status of stocks of black cod in the Gulf of Alaska.

#### September Consideration of the Two Management Plans

The Chairman suggested the lead agency for both management plans, tanner crab and Gulf of Alaska groundfish bring expanded errata sheets to the September Council meeting. The errata sheets should contain two types of information: (1) all editorial changes and (2) all substantive data changes. The Chairman suggested that the combination of the errata sheets, the second drafts of the management plans now available and a copy of all comments received regarding the management plans would be satisfactory to make final decisions on the plans by the Council.

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT (Appendix E)

Dr. Lee Alverson, Chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, reported to the Council on Friday morning, that the SSC had met Wednesday evening from 7 - 10:00 p.m. and Thursday morning. He reported that all members were present and that the following matters were discussed.

- o That the clam fishery experiment in the Bering Sea had been completed and that a formal document was being prepared and would require substantial review.

Steve Pennoyer, Vice-Chairman of the SSC, on Friday, and in the absence of Dr. Alverson, presented the formal report of the clam study (Appendix F). He told the Council that the study had been conducted for 32 days ending on August 10th in the southeast Bering Sea. The SMARAGD had used a clam dredge 7' x 18' weighing 12,000 pounds (an east coast style) to make a total of 230 tows. He said 45 tows were made in the eastern Bristol Bay area and 185 tows along the Alaska Peninsula. The latter series of tows were the most productive generating catches in the neighborhood of 200 to 400 pounds per ten minute tow. Extrapolated, this indicated the potential for 50 to 100 - 80 pound bushels per hour. Pennoyer also reported there were no apparent paralytic shellfish poisoning problems (PSP) and no biological problems.

Councilman Donald McKernan raised the question of incidental catch and area of interest for marine mammals. In discussing this problem Don Hales (Bureau of Sports Fish and Wildlife representative), said that their Department had a special interest in this aspect and would like to work with the Council more closely. The Chairman then appointed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, the University of Alaska, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to study the report and use the existing working group as the core for the management plan drafting team.

- o The SSC announced they would meet in Anchorage on September 20th and 21st to review the salmon management plan.
- o Members of the SSC unanimously agreed that the existing detailed outline for management plans was tedious, failed to result in a cohesive report, and made it difficult for Council members and other to ascertain

the rationale supporting management decisions proposed in the plans. The members noted that the difficulty resulted from excessive verbiage associated with biological, sociological, and economic descriptors. The members acknowledged that such information was pertinent and, to a degree, mandated by the legislation; but, nevertheless, felt that the outline could be restructured in order to result in a more reasonable and readable document.

The Committee recommended the following format for the basic management plan:

- A. Cover sheet
- B. Executive Summary
- C. Management Plan Content
  - 1.0 Table of Contents
  - 2.0 Introductions
    - 2.1 Goals and objectives for management plan
    - 2.2 Operational definitions of terms used
  - 3.0 Description of Fishery (short abstract)
    - 3.3 History of management (short abstract)
  - 4.0 Biological descriptors
    - 4.7 Current status of stocks
    - 4.8 Estimate of future stock conditions
  - 5.0 Catch and capacity descriptors.
  - 6.0 Optimum yield concept
  - 7.0 Total allowable level of foreign fishery
  - 8.0 Management regime

The remaining material, including full coverage of 3.0, 4.0, etc., would be attached to the plan as appendices or annexes. The environmental impact statement and economic impact statement would be similarly attached, hence meeting all the specific reports, data requirements, etc., as outlined in the legislation.

The Committee also examined the Federal Register announcement of 'Interim Council Regulations - Part VI' dealing, in particular, with the "Contents of Fishery Management Plans." The Committee was unanimously opposed to the format outlined for plans and felt that many of the items listed would substantially delay plan preparation and generate a great deal of verbose, unnecessary information. Although the Committee felt that all of the items in some way were desirable as background information concerning a fishery or fisheries, much of the material could be incorporated into a general study document and need not be specifically identified for management plans. The Committee recommends that the Council send a letter to the National Marine Fisheries

Service objecting to the standard format for fishery management plans as described in the Federal Register and suggesting specific alterations for both the format and topics included.

- o The SSC noted that it had received a copy of a report, prepared by Sam W. Stoker, concerning possible interaction between a clam fishery and certain marine mammals of the Bering Sea. The Chairman noted that the report contained a number of value judgments and failed to support many of its conclusions with facts or data. Inasmuch as the report might have a substantial impact on the potential development of a clam fishery in the Bering Sea, the SSC has recommended that two review groups examine the document; the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NMFS scientists will review the paper and submit comments to the Committee Chairman. These comments will be summarized and submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

The Committee was briefed on the clam survey results which showed evidence of commercial potential along the Aleutian Chain in the area from Port Moller, east towards Bristol Bay. Inasmuch as a report will soon be published demonstrating commercial potential, it is recommended that the Council convert its study group to a management team and that ADF&G take the lead agency role in this matter. A full report of the clam study will be given at the next Council meeting.

- o The Committee examined a number of RFP's as prepared by the Council and agreed to assist in their modification. The Chairman will submit comments concerning the RFP's to the Executive Director during the first part of the week of August 29.

A research proposal by Dr. Katz was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee recommended that the proposal not be funded because it does not meet the general criteria for high priority projects as outlined at the last session of the SSC.

The Committee briefly examined the OY values as submitted in the most recent report (August 16) from NOAA headquarters. Members found it difficult to properly evaluate the OY values inasmuch as no data were provided on MSY values, equilibrium yield values, or allowable biological catch. In the absence of such information, the Committee could not make enlightened commentary. Regardless, the following points should be considered:

We recognize that the EY for Pacific pollock has been set at 1 million metric tons and the total allowable foreign catch at 950,000. Considering the general quality of the data upon which estimates are made, the Committee would prefer a somewhat more conservative approach--e.g., 850,000 tons. The Committee also recommends that the management team re-evaluate blackcod values in light of the new analyses conducted by Dr. Low at the NWAFC. It was brought to the attention of the SSC that it might be desirable to attempt to lower the OY value in order to achieve higher average size of fish. The Committee noted there were two sides to this issue: that concerned with the contribution of food to the world protein source, and consumer interest. Although the interest of U.S. fishermen might be better served by establishing a higher average size, there could be a substantial biological loss resulting in increased fish prices to consumer groups.

- o The socio-economic report under preparation by a Committee sub-panel is still in progress and is not expected prior to the next session of the Council.
- o The Committee felt it might be desirable to hold a seminar or workshop to educate Council members in general biological concepts, terminology, and rudiments of socio-economic theory.

Dr. McKernan asked about the potential domestic herring fishery in the Bering Sea in 1978. Alverson said the SSC was concerned by strong expressions of U.S. interest in the herring resource and that the expected catch forecast, a reserve might be required, to be subtracted from the FAC and made available to the U.S. In reviewing the U.S. intent in the commercial herring fishery in the eastern Bering Sea, Harry Rietze told the Council that while 3,300 tons had been taken in 1978, almost 10,000 tons were projected for 1978. The Council requested a letter be sent NMFS asking for the ABC, MSY, EY and OY figures which went into determining the 1977 and 1978 OY estimates for herring in the Eastern Bering Sea.

#### NMFS 1978 OY ESTIMATES:

Council members were told by Harry Rietze that contingency 1978 OY figures had to be submitted for the Alaska region in the event the Council management plans were not finished and Preliminary Management Plans were again needed. In response to this request (for Council input), the Council recommended reviewing only those OY figures which were not covered by the two Council management plans under development.

Several Council members voiced their concern over the proposed OY estimate of 950,000 MT for pollock in the Bering Sea. Dr. McKernan, Bart Eaton, Charles Meacham, Ed Huizer and Clem Tillion all questioned the figure. The rationale, they said, was the statement that an equilibrium range between 850,000 and 1,000,000 metric tons was desirable to rebuild the stocks.

In defense of the proposed OY estimate, Harry Rietze told the Council that at 950,000 metric tons the stocks would take longer to rebuild than at 850,000 metric tons, but that when the U.S. expressed an intent to enter the fishery, then the OY could be lowered to allow faster rebuilding.

Charles Meacham suggested that the Council consider holding 30 percent of all OY values for contingencies in the developing domestic fishery.

Councilman McKernan requested the minutes to show the following as regard to the North Pacific Council's opinions on OY estimates by NMFS: That the Council has a major question on the determination of OY on a great number of species and that the Council generally supports the utilization of 30 percent of OY held in reserve for the trawl fisheries and herring in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska groundfish Trawl Fishery and for Sablefish.

#### REPORT OF THE AD HOC FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Don McKernan, Chairman of the ad hoc finance committee, reported on the following items which were discussed in a meeting of the ad hoc committee Friday morning.

- o That the Committee had reviewed the process of selecting a Council auditor and recommended to the Council they approve the Executive Director's recommendation of Main Lafrentz & Company.
- o That the Committee had reviewed the FY78 budget proposal and recommended the budget be reduced to approximately \$1,446,517. The detailed discussion of this recommendation is covered on page 3 of the minutes.
- o That the Committee had discussed the foreign fee schedule as requested by NMFS and in light of the information contained in the proposed foreign fee schedule, requested a letter be sent to NMFS again suggesting more current price information be used. Councilman Meacham, in agreeing with the subcommittee's recommendations, emphasized that the recommendations for pollock and black cod were very much in error and should be more reflective of current prices.

- o That the Committee had considered the subject of economic impact statements. McKernan told the Council that full economic consideration of each plan would not be acceptable within the time frame. In a point of clarification Councilman Rietze said that the economic impacts should be considered minimal and that an economic impact statement should not greatly deter the progress or the time schedule for management plan development.

McKernan said the subcommittee recommended that a letter be written to NMFS suggesting (1) that the time required for drafting an economic statement be minimized, and (2) that in no circumstance should this result in a delay in plan development.

- o That the committee had reviewed the correspondence with Spencer Apollonio, Executive Director, New England Council, and Lawyer Richard Sharood and the Executive Director requesting an independent study of the events schedule. McKernan told the Council that the subcommittee opposed such action and suggested that the Council and the Executive Director investigate the possible amendment changes required in the Act to accomplish the same goal. In a strong statement to the Council, McKernan stated he preferred to work within the system to analyze necessary amendment changes rather than start to undergo independent longterm legal battles.
- o That the ad hoc committee had studied the subject of requests for Council views on proposed funding policies and procedures developed by Robert Schoning and answered by the Executive Director. The Committee suggested that the Executive Director work with the Council, the management plan drafting teams and the National Marine Fisheries Service to guarantee adopted policies be consistent with the needs of the Council and the Council's relationship to the Act.

The Council unanimously approved the motion accepting all the recommendations presented above by the ad hoc finance committee.

#### ADVISORY PANEL VACANCIES

Councilman Charles Meacham, Chairman of the ad hoc committee for Council Advisory Panel appointments told the Council letters of resignation had been received from Advisory Panel members William Burke and Jay Gage. He told the Council

that his committee had received five nominations for the openings. Resume and information would be gathered until September when the final decision would be made. The five recommended to fill the two vacancies were Steve Burgess from Calista Corporation, John Jacobson from Oregon, Don Rawlinson from Peter Pan, Ed Hamilton from Safeway and Roy Rickey, independent consultant.

The Council unanimously approved a motion accepting the resignations of Burke and Gage from the Advisory Panel.

#### HIGH SEAS SALMON TROLL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Council received the first draft of the High Seas Salmon Troll Fisheries Plan for internal review (Appendix G). The Council instructed the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Advisory Panel and Council members to review the plan for purposes of editorial and substantive changes. Recommendations would be needed at the September Council meeting for approval as a Council draft. The High Seas Salmon Plan - INPFC, was not completed and will be mailed to the Council, the AP and SSC for internal review during the month of September.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee subsequently scheduled September 20th and 21st to meet in Anchorage to review the troll plan. The Advisory Panel scheduled a meeting in Anchorage on September 21st to complete their review of the plan.

#### REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE STUDYING INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION (Appendix H)

Vice-Chairman Harold Lokken, also Chairman of the ad hoc halibut working group, told the Council that their report was complete and should be considered in conjunction with the Canadian negotiations. The report, included detailed material on the life history of halibut, its fishery and management, the discussion of alternative management institutions and allocation schemes, and a summary of other Canadian and United States fishery issues. He further said the report had been developed after five meetings of the group held in Seattle, April 15th, May 11th, and August 4th, August 16th, and Anchorage on July 12th, with the following persons in attendance; Lee Alverson, Gordon Jensen, Harold Lokken, Steve Pennoyer and Bernie Skud. He also said Ed Huizer, Donald McKernan, Chuck Meacham, and Al Pruter participated at times.

In discussing the report, the Council expressed no particular views on the matter, but subsequently recommended the

appointments of Mr. Lokken and Mr. Gordon Jensen as the Council's representatives to the IPHC renegotiations. The recommendation was unanimously accepted and the Executive Director was subsequently advised to write Mr. Cutler of the official designees of the Council.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD REPORT (Appendix I)

Rear Admiral J.B. Hayes, Commander of the 17th Coast Guard District for Alaska reported on U.S. Coast Guard enforcement activities from July 1 to the present time. Since July 1st, 13 infractions had been recorded of which 4 were violations and 9 were citations. Of the four violations, two were by the Tiawanese trawlers, TAI CHANG 1 and HIGHLY 301, which were issued reports of violation for retaining and processing regulated species of fish for which Tiawan does not have a quota in the Bering Sea. The illegal fish catch was reported as follows: the HIGHLY 301 was found to have 1.3 metric tons (or 2.6 percent of the total catch) of Pacific cod and the TAI CHANG 1 was reported to have 3.4 metric tons (or 4 percent of the total catch), 24.4 metric tons (or 40 percent of the catch) and 1.2 metric tons (or 2 percent of the catch) of illegal species.

The Admiral told the Council that these violations pointed out the need for more clearly written regulations to, (1) define the term "other groundfish" so that everyone knows what it means, and (2) grant allocations of fish in such a manner that incidental catches of fish can be retained in an area where it was expected that type of fish would be caught.

The Admiral also said that most of the recent violations have continued to be minor and of a purely technical nature, primarily dealing with vessel identification and the safety of boarding parties.

The Coast Guard report indicated that the surface patrol effort in August will only be 60 boat-days, due to vessel casualties. The Admiral said that the patrol effort would increase in September to a level of approximately 109 boat-days. The Coast Guard report also included a chronological listing of all FCMA violations off Alaska and a report of total cutter-patrol days, total aircraft-patrol effort, analysis of boarding and enforcement incidents, an analysis of cumulative boarding and citing statistics, and a report on the effectiveness of FCMA surveillance and boarding effort.

The Admiral repeated his concern for USCG enforcement requirements as his entire fleet was being overutilized to the point of

using such miscellaneous vessels such as buoy tenders as patrol and enforcement vessels. He went on to say that special interest fishery cases which required large amounts of enforcement time were taking away from the total enforcement capabilities of the Coast Guard off Alaska.

Referring to the problem of "other groundfish quotas" the Department of State Representative, Carl Price, requested a clarification of that point. Bert Larkins, management plan drafting team leader from the audience told the Council and Mr. Price that "other species quota" applied to species not specifically listed and not to just those species which in general are not the target species.

#### FOREIGN PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

Keith Specking, Chairman of the Advisory Panel and also Chairman of the ad hoc committee studying foreign permit applications, reported that the committee had met Friday morning to discuss four foreign permit applications. The committee recommended that all four permit applications be recommended for approval by the Council. They are:

- o JA-77-0341 - The KONGO MARU, a factory stern trawler requesting fishing rights in the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska for a portion of the Japanese allocation of groundfish in those areas.
- o JA-77-1087 - SHINANO MARU, a refrigerated transport ship to support ships in fisheries off Alaska--with no fishing capacity.
- o JA-77-1088, the KIZAN MARU, a refrigerated transport ship to support ships in fisheries off Alaska -- with no fishing capacity.
- o JA-77-0377, the DAISHIN MARU #18, a stern trawler requesting fishing rights for a portion of the Japanese allocation in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Aleutians from October through December--freezing capacity only.

The Council unanimously accepted this recommendation and approved a motion to recommend approval of the four permits.

#### FOREIGN FISHING ACTIVITIES OFF ALASKA (Appendix J)

Craig Hammond of the National Marine Fisheries Service presented a report on foreign fishing activities off Alaska from July 1 though August 15, 1977. A total of 652 individual

foreign fishing and associated support ships had engaged in the fisheries off Alaska during July and that from August 1 to August 15th a total of 298 foreign fishing and support ships had fished off Alaska. The July figures represented 633 Japanese, 11 South Korean, and 8 Soviet ships. In August there were 283 Japanese, 8 South Korean and 5 Soviet ships, and 2 Republic of China vessels. The complete report is contained in Appendix J.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Casey, Manager of the United Fishermen's Marketing Association in Kodiak testified concerning the determination of optimum yield of pollock in the Bering Sea. He told the Council he felt that 950,000 metric tons could not be justified in light of the most recent scientific information and requested the Council to consider a reduction.

In response to the testimony Councilman Henry Wendler asked the Council to solicit all information leading to MSY and ABC considerations for pollock.

Mr. Ed Furia, representing New England Fish Company, testified on three points: the externalities surrounding the decision to set the OY for pollock in the Bering Sea at 950,000 metric tons, the herring overage and allowable catch problems in the eastern Bering Sea, and the need for environmental impact statements or negative declarations regarding major changes in management plans.

Mr. Wally Pererya, Vice President and General Manager of the Marine Resources Company, Inc., commented on the Gulf of Alaska trawl plan saying that the catch per unit effort for total pollock numbers would drop, however the average size indicators showed an increase in the upcoming size of individual pollock. He also said that the Russian vessel SULAK which would like to take 35,000 tons of hake in a five month period would also like to take 35,000 tons of pollock in the Gulf of Alaska.

End of public comment.

In closing, the Council expressed its appreciation to Mr. Jim Hess for the fine job he had done with the public address system, to the Elks Lodge for the courtesy of the use of their auditorum and to the town of Kodiak.

There being no further business before the Council it was ruled adjourned by Vice-Chairman Harold Lokken.