

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



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

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

Certified By: *Robert D. Alverson*

Date: *December 8th 1983*

MINUTES

ADVISORY PANEL

Anchorage, Alaska
September 27-28, 1983

The Advisory Panel met on Tuesday, September 27, 1983, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and again on Wednesday, September 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Conference Room in the Old Federal Building at 605 West 4th Avenue. The following members were present:

Bob Alverson, Chairman
Bud Boddy, Vice Chairman
Patricia Barker
Al Burch
Larry Cotter
Jesse Foster
Ron Jolin
Eric Jordan
Joe Kurtz
Rick Lauber

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson. Chairman Alverson introduced Patricia Barker, Home Economist for the Cooperative Extension Service, as the new AP member taking the place of Kristy Long. Chairman Alverson also introduced Barry Collier, the new Executive Director of the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owner's Association, who was attending the meeting. Congratulations were extended to AP members Bob Blake and Jesse Foster who were elected to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The agenda was approved by all members. There were no comments on the minutes of the July 26-27, 1983 meeting.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. Jim Branson presented his report to the Advisory Panel.

- (a) Concern over Operational Procedures. In response to the letter [agenda item B-1(a)] sent to Council members from several industry representatives expressing their concerns over the Council's operating procedures, Mr. Branson suggested the policy and planning committee be activated to address those concerns. The AP supported this suggestion.
- (b) Conflict of Interest. Bob McManus, NOAA General Counsel in Washington D.C. discussed the conflict of interest problem with the Advisory Panel. The AP has questions about the position of the Secretary of Commerce on this issue and why the Secretary had not taken action to prevent this problem. Mr. McManus said Mr. Kim White, Deputy Assistant Counsel, is looking into drafting the technical basis for an exemption.

The Advisory Panel was concerned that NOAA General Counsel should be doing something and not just sitting there.

- (c) Portugese Request. Phil Chitwood presented the following information on the Portuguese request:

If they receive a directed allocation of 8,000 tons of Pacific cod and 20,000 tons of pollock, they would in turn purchase 10,000 tons of salt cod from U.S. processors and 12,000 tons over the side (which would include some filleted and some partly salted) from U.S. fishermen. The total round weight of the purchase would be 40,000 tons.

The AP unanimously approved a motion to endorse the concept of this proposal and considers it a step in the right direction. However, they were not completely satisfied with the details of the proposal.

- C-2 Halibut Fisheries Management. Steve Hoag gave a recap of the fishery. The report was followed by a lengthy discussion by AP members, Halibut Workgroup members and others.

The Advisory Panel felt that the best solution had already been rejected by OMB.

The AP passed a motion 9 to 7 with one abstention to recommend to the Council that they should not promote the policy of limited entry or moratorium in the halibut fishery, but encourage a management program that endorses the objectives of the Halibut Workgroup.

- C-3 Legislative Update. The AP heard a legislative update by Ron Miller.

Because this information concerned groundfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP area, the AP decided to discuss it in length under the agenda item D-6.

- C-5 Joint Venture Permit Applications

- (a) Spain. George Dickson, President of Alaska Salt Fish Company presented the Spanish joint venture permit application. The Spanish

have purchased domestic product in the past but will no longer do so in the future due to the low salt cod price and high duty on American processed fish. They feel, however, that American on-board processing is better than theirs.

Larry Cotter felt that Spain should be contributing to the domestic industry as a whole and not just to U.S. vessels.

A motion to approve the joint venture permit was passed 11 to 2 with one abstention.

- (b) Taiwanese Permit Application. The Advisory Panel recommends denial of the Chief Dragon 737 (substituting for Highly 301) permit.

The AP commented that violations don't follow the vessel, they follow the Company.

- C-6 Foreign Fees Workgroup Report. Doug Larson gave a presentation on the report.

The Advisory Panel recommends to the Council that the Foreign Fees Workgroup reconvene and recommend approaches to making foreign fees more beneficial to the U.S. industry.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- D-1 Salmon FMP. The Advisory Panel requests the Council to ask the Japanese, Koreans, Taiwanese, and the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission to report on the number, species composition, and stock of origin of salmon caught in the high seas gillnet fisheries in the North Pacific. The AP would also request the countries participating to take some U.S. observers on the squid and land-based salmon gillnet fleet to observe the fishery and take scale and tissue samples for U.S. analysis to determine stock origins. The AP asks the Council to request the Pacific Council and INPFC to join in funding high seas tagging and research in the Pacific where the foreign salmon fishery takes place. Furthermore, if the foreign countries are unwilling to cooperate we would urge the Council to reconsider allocations of Alaskan groundfish to uncooperative nations.

- D-2 Herring FMP. Dennis Petersen, representing the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owner's Association, presented a herring proposal to the AP which would provide for an experimental offshore ocean fishery. They requested an allocation of 10,000 mt for the project, which would be conducted in the winter. This would be an entirely domestic project using American catcher boats and American processors on and off shore.

The concerns of the AP were: (1) who would determine which vessels and processors participate; (2) how this proposal would affect the high seas fishery the Pribilof people are trying to develop in St. George Island area; and (3) that the amount of fish requested was too high.

The AP recommends that the proposal be rejected because of the excessive amount of herring requested. However, they felt that the SSC should propose a research plan designed to take into account an offshore fishery.

D-3 King Crab FMP. The AP heard a report from Bob Otto on the poor condition of the king crab fishery. The AP recommends that research proposals be drafted that address the king crab problem for presentation to the Council.

D-4 Tanner Crab FMP. Amendment #10 was discussed by the AP. This amendment proposes establishing exclusive registration areas for Southeast Alaska and Alaska Peninsula and set a 200-pot limit in the Kodiak area. The AP recommends approval of the exclusive registration areas and the 200-pot limit. However, they also requested that the staff and Kodiak representatives study the pot requirements further to achieve their conservation goals.

D-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

(a) 1984 Groundfish Status of Stocks. The Advisory Panel heard a report by Gary Stauffer on the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish PMT meeting held September 20-21. The AP unanimously approved a motion to request the Council to inform the foreign governments involved that 1984 will be the last year for TALFF on pollock and cod. Also, that the foreign sablefish fishery be moved to west of Trinity Islands.

(b) Prohibited Species. The Advisory Panel unanimously passed a motion to ask that the Council direct the Gulf of Alaska Working Group on Prohibited Species to proceed with phase II of the study focusing on developing methods of reducing the catch of prohibited species and methods of improving the data base in the U.S. fishery.

(c) 1984 DAP and JVP. The Advisory Panel passed a motion 14 to 1 to ask that the Council send out for public comment the estimated DAPs for 1984 contained in Table 1 [agenda item D-5(c)] as our proposed 1984 DAPs. We expect joint venture catches to equal or exceed those shown for 1983 in the same table. Final estimates of U.S. needs for 1984 will be made at the December meeting following the public comment period.

D-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.

Tony Vaska informed the Advisory Panel that there are two bills proposing OCS development off the Georgia Banks. He suggested that the AP ask the Alaska Congressional Delegation to take a closer look at those proposals and to request a delay in the N. Aleutian Shelf and Navarin Basin areas.

The importance of the developing and continuing fisheries to the State of Alaska and the nation far exceed the accelerated lease schedule proposed in the Outer Continental Shelf in the Bering Sea.

The AP recommends that the Council recommend to the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, Representative Don

Young, and Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, to delete the North Aleutian Shelf from OCS development indefinitely, and the Navarin Basin for 10 years.

The AP heard public comment from Jay Hastings on the proposed change of foreign trawl closure dates in the Petrel Bank area. The main concern prompting the change is gear conflict. Mr. Hastings felt there are other alternatives that would solve the problem, and because of the various concerns expressed in the discussion by other members, the AP passed a motion 11 to 2 to request the Council to maintain the dates of the Petrel Bank foreign trawl closure as January 1 - June 30, instead of the change submitted in Amendment #1.

Proposed 1984 catch figures for TAC, DAP and JVP were discussed. The AP passed a motion to maintain the status quo on OY, and unanimously approved a motion to request that the Council send out for public comment the TAC3 option for 1984 in Table 56 of the RAD [agenda item D-6(c)]. they also suggested the DAP and JVP proposed figures be sent out for public review.

During the discussion on the report "Prohibited Species Catch by Foreign Joint Ventures in the Eastern Bering Sea" by Loh-Lee Low, the AP expressed concern about the incidental catches. The AP passed a motion to suggest to the Council that a task force consisting of interested industry representatives be formed to investigate the matter.