

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: *D. Shady*

Date: 1/23/84

MINUTES

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE Anchorage, Alaska December 5-7, 1983

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage on December 5, 6 and 7, 1983. Members present were:

Donald H. Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice Chairman
Al Millikan
William Aron
Don Bevan
Bud Burgner
Larry Hreha
Jack Lechner
John Burns
Fred Gaffney, alternate for John Clark
Steve Langdon

D-1 Herring FMP

The SSC received the report from the Council's working group. The SSC noted that the scientific design and operational plan are not complete at this time. The SSC will withhold its review on this proposed program at this time.

D-2 Tanner Crab FMP

At the request of Dr. John H. Clark, the SSC re-examined its comments on Amendment #10 to the Tanner crab plan. The SSC would like to reiterate that we suspect that the drafting of the Regulatory Issues Paper has been made difficult since the objectives of the regulations have not been clearly stated by either the Board of Fisheries or the Council.

The amendment proposes pot limits and exclusive registration areas. We conclude that neither address a conservation issue. Allocation may result from the implementation of either exclusive registration or pot limits. However, the nature of the allocative effects is unclear. Results of the RIP

indicate, for example, that in an area of mixed fleet size on the northeast side of Kodiak, an adoption of a 200-pot limit could transfer catch from smaller to larger vessels. With respect to the allocative effects associated with the creation of exclusive areas, these outcomes are dependent upon the relative abundance of crabs in different management areas and the levels of effort exerted by various components of the fleet that fish the area.

Given the status of the Kodiak Tanner crab it is unlikely that the reduction from 250 to 200 pots will have any effect on the number of pots fished. Additions to the fleet and the possibility of increase in the average number of pots per vessel will probably mask any effect of the pot limit.

The area registration proposed to limit effort and increase seasons seems unlikely to succeed since the increased effort has mainly come from an increase in local fleet size. We are uncertain as to whether the setting of common opening dates has rendered moot the question of exclusive areas.

We conclude that (a) the amendment will not achieve the objectives for which we think they were designed; (b) there is at least a question as to whether they can be enforced; and (c) that given our experience with Amendment #8 we feel certain they will not make it through the system.

Dr. Clark in his November 17, 1983 letter to the SSC brought to its attention that a statistically weak relationship between CPUE and soak time was used in the RIP. The statistical weakness of the empirical analysis would not change the SSC's conclusion that the nature of the allocative effects of the specified pot limit reduction are unclear.

Contract 82-2

The SSC received the final report on Contract 82-2 entitled, "An Observer Program to Gather In-Season and Post-Season On-the-grounds Red King Crab Catch Data in the Southeastern Bering Sea." The SSC received a presentation by the investigators. The report provides interesting data on the interaction between the king and Tanner crab fisheries. Because the SSC first received the draft final report, we have requested our subgroup for their recommendation. The SSC will make its final recommendation at the next meeting.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

D-3A Sablefish

The team in its September report examined the EY for the sablefish resources of the Gulf of Alaska. The EY evaluation suggests that the condition of the resource is improving. But the team noted that the present EY range provides a reasonable lower EY estimate. Based on the team analysis, the SSC recommends that the EY and ABC remain at the current levels. It is the uncertainties associated with growth, natural mortality and migration which lead to the conservative nature of this recommendation.

The SSC reviewed the staffing document regarding the staff's recommendations of the elimination of the foreign directed sablefish fishing in the Gulf. The staff recommendation is based upon the letters received and the document entitled "Staff Comments on the Allocation of Sablefish" dated December 1983.

The SSC feels that analyses such as the one contained in the document are useful and contribute to the discussion of the issue. The SSC feels that in light of the nature of the staff's recommendation (zero TALFF), a full and complete analysis needs to be completed. The SSC notes that the Council document was not available to the SSC, or the public and has not been reviewed by the PMT. The SSC was only able to give it a superficial review. We feel that there is a need for further review of the benefits and costs of reducing the levels of the directed foreign fishing. The SSC has assigned this report to the Gulf of Alaska groundfish subcommittee and we will be able to provide a review of the staff document by next meeting.

In light of the above, the SSC is unable to support the staff recommendations at this time.

D-3B Pollock, Pacific Ocean Perch and Pacific Cod

POLLOCK

Distribution of OY

The PMT reviewed three alternatives for distributing the pollock OY between the Central and Western areas. The alternatives were:

- (1) status quo, distributing 37% of the OY to the Western area and 63% of the OY to the Central area;
- (2) a two-step procedure which accounts for a joint venture fishery in Shelikof Strait during the winter/spring period and distributes the remaining OY afterwards to the Western and Central area according to the percentages in (1) above; and
- (3) combining the Western and Central areas' pollock OYs.

The team concluded that option (1) was unacceptable because: (a) the primary fishery which occurs in Shelikof Strait, occurs on fish from both areas; and (b) available growth and survey information indicates that pollock in the Central and Western areas are probably from one stock. Option (2) surfaced over the concern for reducing the risk of overharvesting certain components of the stock. The team noted that if pollock in the Western and Central areas are one stock, then allocating the OY to two areas after the Shelikof fishery makes little difference in terms of protecting the resource. Further, it was felt that this alternative could restrict the developing domestic fishery as the dynamics of the fishery changes. Given the above considerations, the team concluded that the most appropriate choice was option (3). The SSC supports the team's recommendation.

ABC/OY Level

The following sources of information are available to evaluate the pollock ABC:

- (1) an update of the catch-at-age analysis that includes an additional year of data;
- (2) 1983 NMFS research vessel surveys; and

- (3) the results from an age-structured model developed to forecast future levels of exploitable biomass given various harvest levels and future recruitment options.

Results of 1983 NMFS resource surveys and updated catch-at-age analysis indicate that at present the exploitable biomass is in the vicinity of 2.0 million mt. Acoustic surveys in the Shelikof region suggest that the biomass has declined between 1981 and 1983. While an estimate of biomass size for 1983 is not available from catch-at-age analysis, results of analyses conducted to date have shown a continued increase in biomass through 1982. Although the 1983 acoustic survey estimate suggests a decline in abundance between 1981 and 1983, the stock in 1983 is still considered by the team to be at levels of abundance comparable to the high ones experienced in 1980 and 1981.

The team informed the SSC that an age-structured model has been developed to forecast future levels of exploitable biomass given various harvest levels and future recruitment patterns. The referenced model was used to evaluate how the biomass would be affected by five harvest options (300,000 mt, 350,000 mt, 400,000 mt, 450,000 mt, and 500,000 mt) for the 1984-86 fishery given four recruitment patterns:

- (1) 3 billion fish in 1980-84 year classes at age 3;
- (2) 2 billion fish in 1980-84 year classes at age 3;
- (3) 1 billion fish in 1980-84 year classes at age 3; and
- (4) 1 billion fish in 1980 year class and 3 billion fish in 1981-84 year classes.

Results of the analysis indicate that the projected biomass levels are more dependent on recruitment levels than catches. Only at low recruitment levels did exploitable biomass eventually drop below the 1976-82 average exploitable biomass for all the harvest options considered. The conclusion reached by the team from the analysis was that the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for 1984 is at least 400,000 mt and could be as high as 500,000 mt.

Given the survey results, catch-at-age analysis and conclusions derived from the age-structured forecast model, the SSC concluded that the Council could set ABC equal to either 400,000 mt or 500,000 mt.

In view of the proposed ABC options, the SSC suggests the following as possible OY options:

- (1) 400,000 mt;
- (2) 340,000 mt (maintains foreign catch at status quo levels while meeting projected DAH needs); and
- (3) set OY in the 400,000-500,000 mt range with no more than 90,000 to 110,000 mt to be taken outside the Shelikof Strait (SSC preferred option).

It is noted that expansion of OY beyond 340,000 mt (option 1) has the potential for increasing incidental catches of prohibited species.

If the Council decides to set OY at 500,000 mt, it should be temporary since the population probably could not sustain catches at this level. In recent years, five successive strong year classes have contributed to the fishery. The probability of a repeat of this event seems low.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The team in its report indicated that current EY is substantially below the FMP value of 50,000 mt. Further, it might be less than the average 1980-81 harvest for the Western (1,038 mt) and Central (7,900 mt) areas.

As a result of the apparent low levels of abundance and the desire to rebuild the stocks, the team recommended that the OY be set at a level which allows an incidental fishery only. The team concluded that an incidental catch rate of 0.4% should be used.

Council staff has recommended an OY which equals DAH plus a small percentage for TALFF and reserves to allow an incidental catch. Current OYs for the Western, Central and Eastern areas are 2,700 mt, 7,900 mt and 875 mt, respectively. The lack of a specified rebuilding schedule and analysis of how the stock will be affected by the alternative OYs made it impossible for the SSC to evaluate the merits of the alternative OY options. Since the action required by the Council at this meeting is to approve an amendment for public review, the SSC recommends that the package include three options.

- (1) the status quo
- (2) the staff recommendation
- (3) the team recommendation

The SSC noted that the POP resource has supported a domestic fishery for many years. The Council should express its policy with regard to POP rebuilding and their intention regarding maintaining this resource as a viable fishery. The SSC feels that the present situation will soon drive the resource to levels where it becomes only an incidental species.

PACIFIC COD

Distribution of OY

The 1981 trawl survey showed a biomass distribution of 59, 39, and 2 percent in the Western, Central, and Eastern areas, respectively. The apportionment in the FMP is 28, 56, and 16 percent in the Western, Central, and Eastern areas, respectively. An examination of the survey results and fishery data led the team to conclude that sufficient information is not available to justify modification of the distribution at this time. The SSC supports the team's conclusion and recommends that the distribution remain unchanged.

OY Level

The Gulf-wide OY currently is set at 60,000 mt. This OY was arrived at by setting OY = ABC. To the best of our knowledge, ABC was set at 60,000 mt to provide protection for the halibut stocks.

At the time the FMP was written, MSY was estimated to be about 88,000 mt to 177,000 mt. The team has indicated that in light of current data, no modification of this range is required at this time. It was revealed that: (a) trawl survey estimates for cod will be updated in 1985, based on the 1984 tri-annual trawl survey, and (b) updated 1983 values from the foreign longline fishery and the Japan-U.S. cooperative survey will be available in the spring of 1984. The team did indicate that the ABC could be set at the lower end of the MSY range. The SSC recommends that the ABC be set equal to 88,000 mt.

The SSC identified two OY options that the Council could consider:

- (1) OY = 60,000 mt (status quo), and
- (2) OY = 88,000 mt

It should be noted that deviation from the status quo could result in an increase in the incidental catch of halibut.

D-3C Domestic Processed Catch (DAP) and Joint Venture Processed Catch (JVP)

The SSC received the latest recommended values for DAP and JVP from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The SSC was extremely concerned that these values were only provided at the last minute and that no one had time to fully analyze these numbers and their impact.

The SSC reviewed how the recommended values were developed. The NMFS simply adds up the survey results. They do make the necessary inquiries to ensure that the estimates are applied to the proper area and species. They do not include any adjustment for past performance. The SSC, therefore, notes that these recommendations for certain fisheries tend to be high. As we have stated before, we believe that the final numbers should contain adjustment to account for past performance. To assist the Council, the SSC has developed Table 1, which provides original DAH estimates and actual catches for 1981, 1982 and 1983.

The SSC applied these DAP and JVP recommendations to the allocation formula using the SSC recommendations regarding ABC/OY. The results are given in Table 2. The SSC has attempted to identify on this table those fisheries where the OY/DAH levels will cause operational problems in the foreign fisheries. Our table also includes columns showing Final 1983 TALFF and foreign catch through November 19th.

In view of the past performance (Table 1) and the potential operational problems (Table 2), the Council should examine the projections of DAH carefully. The SSC notes that in some of these cases there are major discrepancies between the projections and past performance.

D-3D Incidental Catch of Halibut by U.S. Trawlers

The SSC reviewed the problems associated with the quotas for the incidental halibut catch in the Gulf of Alaska. Based upon testimony received by the SSC from joint venture fishermen, this limitation apparently will shut down joint ventures in the Gulf within the next few days. The plan would not allow further trawl fishing until June 1, 1984.

TABLE 1
Gulf of Alaska
DAH(mt)/Catch(mt)

		<u>1981</u>				<u>1982</u>				<u>1983</u>			
		DAH		CATCH		DAH		CATCH		DAH		CATCH	
		DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP
Pollock	W	29	6,708	275	1,526	25	5,750	82	128	25	5,750	0	498
	C	6,277	9,263	507	2,131	5,380	7,940	2,129	74,187	5,380	104,020	112	131,873
	E	<u>811</u>	<u>1,773</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>1,520</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>1,520</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	7,117	17,744	782	3,657	6,100	15,210	2,237	74,315	6,100	111,290	112	132,371
Pacific													
Cod	W	980	1,213	238	0	840	1,040	4,481	21	840	1,040	0	469
	C	5,460	1,598	717	1,772	4,680	1,370	1,910	173	4,680	1,370	3,029	1,147
	E	<u>1,727</u>	<u>688</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	8,167	3,499	987	1,772	7,000	3,000	6,435	194	7,000	3,000	3,050	1,616
Flounder	W	116	700	0	0.1	100	600	0	6	100	600	0	171
	C	350	957	74	1,060	300	820	68	12	300	820	65	1,391
	E	<u>1,050</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>460</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	1,516	2,194	484	1,060	1,300	1,880	162	18	1,300	1,880	170	1,562
POP	W	29	373	0	0	25	320	0	0	25	320	0	1,934
	C	344	1,121	0	0	295	960	2	3	295	960	0	13
	E	<u>93</u>	<u>1,441</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total	466	2,935	0.1	0	400	2,515	2	3	620	1,480	8	1,946
Sable-													
fish	W	117	198	0	0	100	170	20	0	100	170	0	134
	C	1,167	256	10	0	1,000	220	29	1	1,000	220	278	55
	E	<u>4,667</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>1,737</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,700</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>2,652</u>	<u>0</u>	W-Y 530	0	204	0
										E-Y 850-1,135	0	400	0
									SE 470-1,435	0	1,807	0	
Total	5,951	792	1,747	0	5,800	680	2,701	1	2,950-4,200	390	2,689	189	

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Gulf of Alaska
DAH(mt)/Catch(mt), continued

	<u>1981</u>				<u>1982</u>				<u>1983</u>			
	DAH		CATCH		DAH		CATCH		DAH		CATCH	
	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP	DAP	JVP
Atka												
Mackerel W	0	338	0	0	0	290	0	0	0	290	0	789
C	0	1,260	0	0	0	1,080	0	0	0	1,080	0	0
E	<u>0</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	0	2,415	0	0	0	2,070	0	0	0	2,070	0	789
Rockfish												
GW	817	233	305	0	700	200	257	0	700	200	315	277
Thorny- head	7	0			6	0			6	0	(?)	12
Squid	0	175	194*	1,804*	0	150	109*	313*	0	150	(?)	4
Other Sp.	<u>1,284</u>	<u>723</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>620</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>1,360</u>	<u>2,840</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>312</u>
Grand Total	25,325	30,710	4,499	8,293	22,400	26,325	1,190	74,844	19,466- 21,286	123,300	7,006	139,078

*includes all other species in addition to the "other species" category

SSC Memo

TABLE 2

7 Dec 83

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH

SPECIES	AREA	84				FINAL 83	NOV19
		W/C	RESERVE	DAP	JVP		
POLLOCK		400000	80000	24360	210300	234660	37401
	E	16600	3320	300	0	300	34985
TOTAL		416600	83320	24660	210300	234960	72424
P. COD		16560	3312	500	250	750	7505
	C	33540	6708	11691	14621	26312	15494
	E	9900	1980	120	0	120	1588
TOTAL		60000	12000	12311	14871	27182	24587
FLOUNDERS		10400	2080	0	10	10	1809
	C	14700	2940	102	8615	8717	6547
	E	8400	1680	300	0	300	40
TOTAL		33500	6700	402	8625	9027	8396
POP		2700	540	0	1770	1770	665
	C	7900	1580	622	2000	2622	4650
	E	875	175	460	0	460	14
TOTAL		11475	2295	1082	3770	4852	5329

84 TALFF

84 DAP

84 JVP

84 DAP

84 RESERVE

84 W/C

84 TALFF

84 CATCH

84 NOV19

520

3043

390

3698

* Plus 40,000 mt

SSC Minutes

Species	Area	84 OY	84 Recour	84 DND	84 JVP	84 DAH	84 TALFF	Final 83 TALFF	Nov 19 CATCH
SABLEFISH	W	1670	334	600	50	650	686	1400	1148
	C	3060	612	1541	110	1651	797	2660	1754
	W.YAK	1680	336	1344	0	1344	0	1414	454
	E.YAK	1135	0	1135	0	1135	0	0	0
	S.E.	1435	0	1435	0	1435	0	0	0
TOTAL		8980	1282	6055	160	6215	1483	4132	3356
ATKA MACK	W	4678	936	0	400	400	3342	3952	2505
	C	20836	4167	0	1500	1500	15169	20656	7866
	E	3186	637	0	0	0	2549	3186	0
TOTAL		28700	5740	0	1900	1900	21060	27794	10400
ROCKFISH	GW	7600	1520	395	500	895	5185	7000	1492
THORNYHEA	GW	3750	750	0	50	50	2950	3724	651
SQUID	GW	5000	1000	100	10	110	3890	4990	264
OTHER SPE	GW	28780	5756	100	400	500	22524	15000	1681
TOTAL		604385	113087	45005	240586	285591	205707	224202	56194

The SSC was informed that the Council can temporarily solve this problem through emergency regulation. It is our understanding that the emergency regulations could be in effect for a maximum of 90 days with a possible extension for an additional 90 days.

The SSC concurs with the recommendation that the U.S. pelagic groundfish fishery should be exempt from the halibut quota. The incidental catch of halibut with Shelikof Strait fishing is very low. The SSC was concerned that the proposed motion covers the total Gulf of Alaska but concluded that since it was for a limited period of time, that the application Gulf-wide would not cause any long-term problems.

The SSC discussed at length the alternatives provided for addressing the joint ventures other than those in the Shelikof Strait. The SSC is unable to provide a specific recommendation. The SSC has attempted to provide an estimate on the catch of halibut which could occur in other DAP and JVP fisheries.

The SSC was provided information on the incidental catch of halibut in those other joint venture fisheries. A total catch of 2,155 mt of groundfish resulted in a 96.1 mt catch of halibut. This represents an incidental catch of 4.5%. Statements made before the SSC indicated that the rate needed is 5%. We estimate that the total harvest during a 90-day period could be as high as the following:

DAP	10,000 mt
JVP	16,000 mt
Total	26,000 mt

At 5% incidental catch this harvest could result in a halibut catch of 1,300 mt. The SSC notes that halibut being taken in those joint venture fisheries average 7 lbs. in weight.

The SSC reviewed the incidental catch of halibut in the current foreign groundfish trawl fishery. In 1982 in the Central Regulatory Area there was a total groundfish catch of 76,338 mt. The incidental catch of halibut was 866 mt.

The SSC noted that the incidental catch of halibut by the domestic crab and shrimp fisheries is down because those fisheries are extremely depressed.

The SSC notes that the long-term solution to all prohibited species catches by the foreign and joint venture fishery is being addressed by the Council's prohibited species group. The SSC recommends that the results of that group's deliberations be completed as soon as possible.

Other Business

Prohibited Species Workgroup

The SSC heard a report from the chairman of the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup outlining work to be accomplished during Phase II and indicating the schedule for completion of the report. The SSC accepted the report and encouraged the workgroup to proceed with haste.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

EYs

The SSC reviewed the supplement to the Resource Assessment Document, which updates the RAD document through November 1983. The document updates the EY values for the Bering Sea groundfish resource. These values are summarized in Table 1 within that document. The SSC found that the November update provides the best available EY values for the groundfish complex. The SSC believes that until new information is available, the Regional Director should use those EY values in the management of the groundfish resource.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

The SSC reviewed the process described in Amendment 1 for the establishment of the total allowable catch (TAC). TACs are to be recommended by the Council based upon biological information and on socioeconomic consideration. The biological information is provided in the Resource Assessment Document (RAD) while the types of socioeconomic considerations are discussed in the amendment.

The SSC discussed the TACs as proposed by the PMT (described in the team report dated November 16, 1983) in light of the guidelines provided in the amendment. Based upon that discussion the SSC concurs with the team's recommendation and recommends that the Council adopt the values for TAC as proposed.

In developing this recommendation the SSC had extensive discussions regarding four species, Pacific ocean perch, sablefish, Pacific cod and turbot. A summary of those discussions are as follows:

TURBOT

The team is recommending a TAC of 59,610 mt. The Japanese industry has requested initially 85,000 mt. This request has been revised downward to 67,500 mt. The 67,500 mt is the best estimate of EY. The SSC was informed by the team that the turbot species group has two components, Greenland turbot and Arrowtooth flounder. Greenland turbot make up approximately 60-70% of the total species group. The data indicate that this component has had declining recruitment levels. It was based upon this data that the team recommends that the TAC be below the EY. The SSC concurred with that recommendation. The SSC feels that the team needs to examine the status of this resource in detail next year.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The team has recommended TACs of 1,780 mt for the Bering Sea area and 2,700 mt in the Aleutian Islands area. The Japanese industry has recommended 2,600 mt in the Bering Sea area and 9,520 mt in the Aleutian Islands area.

The team's recommendations in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are based upon accounting for DAH estimates and the need for an incidental catch in the foreign trawl fishery. The foreign recommendation in the Bering Sea area is based upon their analysis of the data. In the Aleutian Islands area their recommendation was based upon the initial proposed TAC. The SSC reviewed the

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The SSC reviewed the application to the current Assessment Document, which updates the BSAI document through November 1984. The document updates the BSAI values for the Bering Sea groundfish resources. These values are summarized in Table 1 within that document. The SSC found that the November update provides the best available FY values for the groundfish component. The SSC believes that the November update is available, the Bering Sea Division should use those FY values in the management of the groundfish resources.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

The SSC reviewed the process described in Amendment 1 for the establishment of the total allowable catch (TAC). TACs are to be recommended by the Council based upon biological information and on stock assessment information. The biological information is provided in the Resource Assessment Document (RAD) while the types of stock assessment information are discussed in the Assessment Document.

The SSC reviewed the TAC as proposed by the BSAI (described in the same report as of November 1984) in light of the guidelines provided in the Assessment Document. Based upon that discussion the SSC recommended the TAC be increased and recommended that the Council adopt the value for TAC as proposed.

In developing this recommendation the SSC had extensive discussions regarding four species, Pacific ocean perch, sablefin, Pacific halibut and turbot. A summary of those discussions are as follows:

TURBOT

The team is recommending a TAC of 22,000 mt. The Japanese initially has registered a total of 22,000 mt. The team has been advised that the TAC was derived by the team from the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI and the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The team has recommended TACs of 1,700 mt for the Bering Sea and 1,700 mt in the Aleutian Islands area. The Japanese industry has recommended 1,700 mt in the Bering Sea area and 1,700 mt in the Aleutian Islands area.

The team's recommendation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI and the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI. The team has advised that the team's assessment of the BSAI is based on the team's assessment of the BSAI.

harvest of POP in 1982 and the estimates for 1983. The SSC found that the level of TAC proposed by the team will allow sufficient incidental harvest in the foreign fisheries. The SSC concurs with the team's recommendation.

As we did for the Gulf of Alaska the SSC recommends that the Council express its intention regarding maintaining the resource as a viable fishery.

SABLEFISH

The team has recommended TAC for the Bering Sea area for 3,740 mt and 1,600 mt for the Aleutian Islands area. The Japanese industry has recommended that the TAC be set at EYs for these areas. The SSC found that the team level meets the identified needs and therefore supports the proposed TACs.

PACIFIC COD

The team has recommended a TAC of 210,000 mt. The Japanese industry recommended the originally proposed TAC of 258,075 mt. The team in developing its recommendation used as a guideline the need to promote full utilization of the resource. The team's value for TAC was developed to prevent any increase in foreign catches above the historical levels (1977-82). They used in their evaluation a DAH value of 121,622 mt. It should be noted that the latest DAH estimates provided by the NMFS is 131,622 mt. The team has noted that the EY is projected to decline rapidly in the immediate future. The SSC does not recommend changing the TAC. This could result in a reduction of foreign catches and a carryover of cod to 1985. With the decline in cod stocks which has already begun we believe this to be a prudent action even though the natural mortality is 45%. Amendment 1 was developed specifically to take care of the types of problems which might occur. It should be noted that the plan provides the flexibility to the Regional Director to adjust the TALFF and DAH as necessary.

The Council may wish to provide guidance to the Regional Director as to the level of harvest the Council wishes to achieve in the foreign fishery.

REVIEW OF PROCESS

The SSC has requested that the team review the procedure for establishing the TAC and report back to the Council during next year any recommended changes.

D-4A Domestic Processed Catch (DAP) and Joint Venture Processed Catch (JVP)

The SSC reviewed the recommendation from NMFS for DAP and JVP. The SSC had hoped to provide the Council with a table showing actual performance and DAH estimates in the past year. We found that the data were not readily available.

During our deliberations we heard testimony that the DAHs for Pacific ocean perch in the Aleutian Islands area, Pacific cod, and the Atka mackerel may be low. The SSC believes NMFS should examine the figures carefully (NMFS has made adjustments).

The SSC did note that in many of the documents we were given, reserve was broken out by species. The Council should be aware that Amendment 1 specified that the reserves are not specified by species or species group. The plan

specifies that after the TACs are determined, each TAC is reduced by 15%, forming the reserve, and the remaining TACs (85%) are then apportioned to DAP, JVP and TALFF in that order by the Regional Director. That apportionment is provided in Table 3 to our minutes. The SSC did not identify any problems caused by the apportionment that we felt could not be handled by the Regional Director with the authority he is provided in the plan.

D-4B Incidental Catch of Prohibited Species

The SSC did not have time to consider in any depth this item at this meeting. The SSC would prefer to wait on this until after the Council provides the staff and the team with direction and proposed actions have been drafted.

E-1 Contracts and Proposed Projects

The SSC received draft final reports for Contract 82-2 (Crab Observer Program) and Contract 82-1 (Social and Cultural Aspects of the Pacific Halibut Fishery) for review and will give final recommendations on their adequacy at the late January meeting.

The SSC also reviewed sablefish research priorities and determined that a domestic groundfish monitoring program should be given highest priority. The SSC thus established the following prioritized list of research projects to be submitted for programmatic funds:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | <u>Domestic Groundfish Monitoring</u>
Provide first year funding for a State of Alaska monitoring system including dock sampling and observers to collect catch and effort information on the domestic groundfish fishery. | \$145,000 |
| 2. | <u>Chinook Salmon Incidental Catch - Part II</u>
Provide additional information on stock separation of chinooks caught incidental to the foreign trawl fisheries. | 40,000 |
| 3. | <u>Bering Sea Herring Scale Analysis - Part II</u>
A continuation of the ongoing stock separation studies on herring. | 60,000 |
| 4. | <u>Fisheries Management Conference</u>
Will provide the Council's share in cosponsoring this conference that will examine current problems and solutions in fisheries management. Total estimated cost is \$92,000. | 10,000 |
| 5. | <u>ADF&G FMP Development</u>
Provide support for ADF&G personnel participation in Council activities. | 15,000 |
| | TOTAL | \$270,000 |

TABLE 3
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH

SPECIES	TAC	DAP	JVP	DAH	TALFF	RESERVE
POLLOCK/BS	1200000	18163	253000	271163	748837	
POLLOCK/AL	100000	500	3000	3500	81500	
POP/BS	1780	550	150	700	813	
POP/AI	2700	550	2000	2550	0	
ROCKFISH/BS	1550	50	20	70	1247.5	
ROCKFISH/AI	5500	50	4000	4050	625	
SABLEFISH/BS	3740	2540	100	2640	539	
SABLEFISH/AI	1600	50	100	150	1210	
P.COD	210000	104442	27180	131622	46878	
Y.F.SOLE	230000	1361	36500	37861	157639	
TURBOTS	59610	20	100	120	50548.5	
FLATFISH	111490	1361	22000	23361	71405.5	
ATKAMACKEREL	23130	227	21000	21227	0	
SQUID	8900	20	20	40	7525	
OTHERSPECIES	40000	3000	2000	5000	29000	
TOTAL	2000000	132884	371170	504054	1195946	300000

These proposals will be available the week of December 12. The SSC recommends sole-sourcing these studies either because they are extensions of ongoing work where necessary expertise has been accumulated, or as with item 4, the Council is simply a cosponsor.