

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

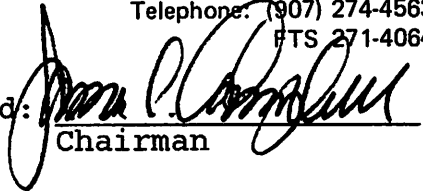
James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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Certified: 
Chairman

MINUTES

57th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 7-9, 1983
Old Federal Building
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 57th plenary session on Wednesday, December 7, 1983 at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Federal Building, Anchorage, Alaska and adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, December 9.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met at the Old Federal Building on Monday and Tuesday, December 6-7, 1983.

The Advisory Panel met at the Old Federal Building on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7-8, 1983.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee members, Advisory Panel members and general public in attendance are listed below.

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Robert W. McVey
Rudy Petersen
Jeffrey R. Stephan
Ray Arnaudo
RADM Richard Knapp
John Winther

Jon Nelson for
Dr. Robt. Putz
Don Collinsworth
Sara Hemphill
Gene Didonato for
Bill Wilkerson
Robert U. Mace for
John Donaldson

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
William Aron
Don Bevan
Bud Burgner
John Burns

Steve Langdon
Jack Lechner
Jack Robinson
Fred Gaffney for
John Clark
Larry Hreha

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Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson, Chairman
Bud Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Barker
Al Burch
Barry Collier
Barry Fisher
Weaver Ivanoff
Ron Jolin
Joe Kurtz
Rick Lauber

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

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Jim Glock

Doug Larson
Ron Miller
Jeff Povolny
Helen Allen

Support Staff

Pat Travers, NOAA/GC
James Brooks, NMFS
Choate Budd, USCG
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G
Loh-Lee Low, NWAFC
Guy Thornburgh, ADF&G
Ron Berg, NMFS

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Kirk Beiningen, ODFW
Gary Stauffer, NWAFC
Loh-Lee Low, NWAFC
Donald McCaughran, IPHC

General Public

Don Martens
William S. Gilbert
Kwang Ho Cho
Dong Hwan Bae
Sam Chul Bae
Nellie Peratrovich
Kee Jun Lee
Dale R. Lindsey
Thorne Tasker
Charles Welling
David Harville
Robert Brophy
C.Y. Huong
K. Kawanmura
Mark Chandler
Iliodor Philemenof

Ed Zyblut
J. Y. Lin
Jin Nei Han
Chi-Nam Oh
Dave Woodruff
Jackie Martin
Jay Hastings
Michael Turner
Henry Mitchell
Tadoshi Nemoto
John Schmiedtke
Peter Zachara
K.Y. Lee
Dave Pierce
John J. Durkin
Mel Monsen

Charles J. Miller
Jee H. Lim
John C. Marr
W.K. Lim
Chris Blackburn
Arne Lee
Mark S. Lundsten
Sig Mathiesen
Mike Zacharof
Kurt Schelle
Flore Lekanof
L.S. Bereznin
Alan Reichman
Edwin W. Anderson
P. Corbett
Paul Folley

Executive Panel

Ray Lewis
Jim O'Connell
Dan O'Neil
Jack Phillips
Don Rabinowitz
Harvey Sarnat
Walt Smith
Tom Stewart
Tony Vaska
Ed Wojcik

Bob Alvarado, Chairman
Ed Bobdy, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Barker
Al Branch
Harry Collier
Henry Fisher
Weaver Kraft
Ron Loria
Joe Luria
Rick Lusher

WRM Staff

Doug Larson
Ron Miller
Jeff Rovinsky
Salon Allen

Jim H. Hancock, Executive Director
Clarence Perkins
Judy Wilkings
Steve Lurie
Jim Gluck

Support Staff

Fred Carney, ADRC
Bill Caldwell, WWS
Cathy Harwood, WWS
Kirk Benjamin, CTRW
Gary Scuttler, WWS
Lois Lee, WWS
Donald Montgomery, IAWC

Pat Travers, WWS
James Brooks, WWS
Christa Bode, WWS
Steve Bode, ADRC
Lois Lee, WWS
Guy Thompson, ADRC
Ron Berg, WWS

General Public

Charles J. Miller
Lee W. Pitt
John C. Marx
W.R. Pitt
Chita Robinson
Anne Lee
Mark S. Landston
Sig Morrison
Mike Schmitt
Kurt Schelle
Steve Lakoff
L.S. Berstein
Alan Robinson
Edwin W. Anderson
P. Corbett
Tom Kelly

Ed Spina
J. Y. Lin
Jim Neilson
Chih-Hsin Sh
Dave Woodruff
Lachie Martin
Ray Hastings
Michael Turner
Henry Mitchell
Thomas Kemmer
John Schmalzer
Peter Sachar
E.Y. Lee
Dave Lurie
John A. Durbin
Mel Norman

Don Karpman
William S. Gilbert
Yang Ho Cho
Dong Han Bae
Sam Choi Bae
Lilia Petrushevsk
Kee Jui Lee
Lyle R. Lindsay
Thomas Walker
Charles Walling
David Hartill
Robert Bishop
C.Y. Huang
K. Kawamura
Mark Chandler
Richard Bismont

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Victor Yakunin	Pete Fefelor	Terry Buholm
Konrad Uri	Peter Allan	Paul MacGregor
Christopher Pace	Vern Hall	Max Chutshall
Saeng Lee	Steve B. Carmen	Werner Muschkeit
Stephen B. Johnson	Donald W. Swisher	Greg Baker
Mick Stevens	Rod Moore	Bruce R. Jenkinson
Rod Armstrong	Kwang Yul Lee	Steve Grabich
John E. Feero	Lonnie Chesnut	Alvin Osterback
Niimi Yuiji	D. Molemkamp	Ron Kutchik
Oliver Holm	Mickey Serwald	Joe McGill
Assen Nicolov	Mike Haggren	Chuck Kekoni
Conan Huong	John Hooper	Jack Knutsen
Peter Allan	Michael B. Jones	Anthony Mercurief
J.Y. Hwang	Paul Gronholdt	Barbara Monkiewicz
Dave Osterback		

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

Jim Campbell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 7, 1983. Mr. Campbell introduced Admiral Jong Yon Hwang, Korean Deepseas Fisheries Assn., Mr. Saito, Special Counsel for the Japan Fisheries Agency, and Commissioner Bill Gilbert of the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Agenda

Agenda item D-2, Tanner Crab, was moved to Thursday afternoon. *Bob Mace moved to approve the agenda; Jeff Stephan seconded the motion which carried with no objection.*

Minutes

Harold Lokken moved to approve the minutes of the September 1983 Council meeting. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson briefly reviewed the Executive Director's report in Council notebooks. Jim Campbell, Harold Lokken and Jim Branson attended the Chairmen's meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi in November. The report of that meeting is not yet complete. The FY/85 budget for operation of the Regional Councils is \$7.3 million, down from \$7.5 million last year.

Terry Buhala	Patricia Seifert	Victor Yasturkin
Paul Morrison	Robert Allen	James Lee
Max Ghera	John Hall	Christopher Lee
Thomas Washburn	Steve S. Turner	David Lee
Greg Baker	Donald W. Walker	Stephen E. Johnson
James R. Johnson	Bob Moore	W. C. Stevens
Steve Grubich	Robert Lee	Bob Armstrong
Alvin Gendron	Lonnie Chasney	John S. Evers
Don Ghera	D. McLaughlin	Michael Yeh
Joe Smith	Mike Serrano	Oliver Hain
John Brown	Mike Haggren	James Hain
Jack Brown	John Hooper	John Hooper
Anthony Mancini	Michael S. Jones	Robert Allen
Barbara Beckwith	Paul Gendron	J. Y. Wang
		Dave Gendron

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

The Council, on recommendation of the Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 1983. Mr. Campbell introduced Anthony Mancini, Mr. Baker, Mr. Brown, Mr. Ghera, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lee, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Seifert, Mr. Smith, Mr. Turner, Mr. Walker, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Yasturkin, and Mr. Wang as special guests for the day. The Executive Director, Mr. Gendron, will chair the meeting.

Agenda item 1-1, "Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983," was moved to agenda item 1-2, "Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983," and approved by the Council. Agenda item 1-2, "Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983," was moved to agenda item 1-3, "Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983," and approved by the Council. Agenda item 1-3, "Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983," was moved to agenda item 1-4, "Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983," and approved by the Council.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983, were approved by the Council. The minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983, were approved by the Council. The minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983, were approved by the Council. The minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 1983, were approved by the Council.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reviewed the Executive Director's report in the Council meeting. The Executive Director, Mr. Gendron, reported that the Council meeting on December 6, 1983, was successful. The report on that meeting is not yet complete. The Executive Director for operations of the Regional Council is \$1.2 million, down from \$1.5 million last year.

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Mr. Branson reported on the Council's participation in the Fish Expo in Seattle in October and recommended the Council participate again in 1985.

Greg Baker has resigned from the Advisory Panel following his appointment by Governor Sheffield as Director of the Office of Commercial Fisheries Development. The AP Nominations Committee, chaired by Sara Hemphill, will review current applications and make their recommendation for a replacement at the February meeting.

Mr. Branson told the Council that the review of Council procedures and policies has not been started because of other pressing business, but that it is a top priority and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

A group is being formed to explore procedures for developing king crab regulations with the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Barry Collier, Joe Kurtz, Bob Alverson, Rudy Petersen and Jesse Foster were recommended as members of the workgroup.

Mr. Branson told the Council that the conflict of interest question is still unresolved. General Counsel for the Dept. of Commerce is working on it. In the meantime, Council members are subject to the statute and may wish to continue to abstain from voting, and perhaps debating, on subjects that may be of direct financial interest to them or their immediate family.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

The statewide domestic catch of Pacific cod through October 1, 1983 was 52,168 mt. By area, 47,788 mt came from the Bering Sea, 4,002 mt came from the Central Gulf of Alaska, and 379 mt came from other areas. The U.S. catch of Pacific cod was 40,804 mt in 1982 and 19,097 mt in 1981.

The statewide domestic catch of pollock totaled 279,978 mt, including 148,515 mt from the Bering Sea, 131,095 mt from the Central Gulf, and 358 mt from the Western Gulf. The U.S. catch was 131,246 mt in 1982 and 59,557 mt in 1981.

Nearly 2,800 mt of sablefish have been caught by U.S. fishermen off Alaska. This includes 2,334 mt from the Eastern Gulf, 238 mt from the Central Gulf, 113 mt from the Western Gulf, and 112 mt from the Bering Sea. The U.S. catch of sablefish off Alaska was 2,187 mt in 1982 and 1,333 mt in 1981.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

Ron Berg, NMFS, reported that by November 19, 1983 foreign fleets in the Gulf of Alaska harvested 128,461 mt of groundfish, or about 52% of the current foreign allocation for that area. The catch included 72,424 mt pollock, 24,586 mt Pacific cod, 10,371 mt Atka mackerel, 5,328 mt Pacific Ocean perch, 8,305 mt flounders, and 3,356 mt sablefish.

Mr. Hansen reported on the Council's participation in the Fish
Days in Seattle in October and recommended the Council partici-
pate again in 1954.

Ray Baker has resigned from the Advisory Panel following his
appointment by Governor Sheffield as Director of the Office of
Commercial Fisheries Development. The AP Fisheries Committee
chaired by Earl Hemphill will review current applications and
make their recommendations for a replacement at the January meeting.

Mr. Hansen told the Council that the review of Council pro-
cesses and policies has not been started because of other
pressing business, but that it is a top priority and will be
dealt with as soon as possible.

A group is being formed to explore procedures for developing fish
and regulations with the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Early
collaboration with the Alaska Board, Rudy Hansen and Jesse Foster
were recommended as members of the committee.

Mr. Hansen told the Council that the Council's list of interests
question is still unresolved. General Counsel for the Dept. of
Commerce is working on it. In the meantime, Council members are
asked to be patient and may wish to continue to discuss their
views and points of view on subjects that may be of mutual
financial interest to them in their immediate vicinity.

1-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by WMS

The statewide domestic catch of Pacific cod through October 1,
1953 was 1,152 mt. By area, 47,088 mt came from the Bering Sea,
4,002 mt came from the Central Gulf of Alaska, and 379 mt came
from other areas. The U.S. catch of Pacific cod was 20,804 mt in
1953 and 17,027 mt in 1952.

The statewide domestic catch of pollock totaled 177,997 mt,
including 150,512 mt from the Bering Sea, 181,027 mt from the
Central Gulf, and 358 mt from the Western Gulf. The U.S. catch
was 191,144 mt in 1953 and 22,887 mt in 1952.

Nearly 2,400 mt of salmon have been caught by U.S. fishermen
off Alaska. This includes 2,232 mt from the Eastern Gulf, 318 mt
from the Central Gulf, 178 mt from the Western Gulf, and 112 mt
from the Bering Sea. The U.S. catch of salmon off Alaska was
2,187 mt in 1953 and 1,923 mt in 1952.

2-2 Foreign Fisheries Report by WMS

Don Ford, WMS, reported that by November 19, 1953 Alaska Har-
bor of Alaska harvested 102,401 mt of groundfish, or
about 5% of the current foreign allocation for that area. The
catch included 73,416 mt pollock, 28,238 mt Pacific cod,
10,271 mt Alaska salmon, 2,908 mt Pacific ocean perch, 2,800 mt
flounder, and 2,066 mt capelin.

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In the Bering Sea and Aleutians they harvested 1,039,738 mt, about 82% of the current foreign allocation. The catch included 849,448 mt pollock, 31,689 mt Pacific cod, 2,375 mt sablefish, 905 mt Pacific ocean perch, and 136,975 mt flatfish. There were 143 foreign vessels off Alaska on November 30, 112 from Japan, 25 from South Korea, two from Taiwan, three from the USSR, and one from West Germany.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard reported 23 infractions by foreign vessels since late September. The Japanese longliner KIYO MARU 55 was seized near Kodiak for underlogging its catch of sablefish by 11.1 mt. In mid-November the Japanese transport NIKKO MARU was seized in the central Bering Sea for gross logging violations. The Coast Guard boarding party found product transfer receipts and cargo stowage plans from 1982 and 1983 which showed the amount of product transferred exceeded the amount listed in transfer logs by more than 2,200 mt over the two-year period. Subsequently, individual reports of violations were issued to seven Japanese stern trawlers for underlogging the amount they had transferred to the NIKKO MARU.

To date, the US. Coast Guard enforcement effort for 1983 has totaled 724 cutter patrol days and 2,872 aircraft patrol hours for a combined trackline coverage of over 380,011 miles. These enforcement efforts have resulted in forty-three reports of violations, thirty-seven citations and seven seizures.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

Ron Berg reported that the total joint venture catch off Alaska through November 19 was 349,027 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, 139,078 mt of pollock and other species were harvested using 24 foreign and 45 U.S. vessels. In the Bering Sea/Aleutians, 18 foreign vessels and 45 U.S. vessels harvested 209,949 mt including 149,013 mt pollock, 34,228 mt flatfish, 14,351 mt Pacific cod, and 10,512 mt Atka mackerel. Four processors and eight U.S. trawlers are currently operating in joint ventures in the Gulf of Alaska.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Halibut Fishery Management

Report of the Halibut Workgroup

Ron Miller reviewed the actions taken by the Halibut Workgroup during their November 17 meeting. The Workgroup had been charged by the Council to consider public comments received on the draft halibut management objectives and to draft a moratorium for Council consideration.

In the Bering Sea and Aleutians they harvested 1,032,738 mt, about 87% of the current foreign allocation. The catch included 449 mt pollock, 31,488 mt Pacific cod, 2,375 mt sablefish, 908 mt Pacific ocean perch, and 138,975 mt flatfish. There were 143 foreign vessels off Alaska in November 80. 113 from Japan, 22 from South Korea, two from Taiwan, three from the USSR, and one from West Germany.

4-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard reported 23 infractions by foreign vessels since late September. The Japanese longliner WINDY HARB was seized near Kotzebue for unauthorized fishing in the Bering Sea. In mid-November the Japanese transport WINDY HARB was seized in the central Bering Sea for gross logging violations. The Coast Guard boarding party found product transfer receipts and cargo storage plans from 1988 and 1989 which showed the amount of product transferred exceeded the amount listed in transfer logs by more than 2,300 mt over the two-year period. Subsequently, individual receipts of violations were issued to seven Japanese vessels for transferring the amount they had transferred to the WINDY HARB.

To date, the U.S. Coast Guard enforcement effort for 1988 has totaled 729 other patrol days and 1,115 aircraft patrol hours for a combined trackline coverage of over 220,000 miles. These enforcement efforts have resulted in forty-three reports of violations, thirty-seven citations and seven seizures.

4-5 Joint Venture Operations

Joint ventures reported that the total joint venture catch off Alaska through November 19 was 344,987 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, 127,078 mt of pollock and other species were harvested using 84 foreign and 45 U.S. vessels. In the Bering Sea/Aleutians, 12 foreign vessels and 42 U.S. vessels harvested 202,249 mt including 140,019 mt pollock, 24,288 mt sablefish, 14,751 mt Pacific cod, and 10,189 mt Alaska mackerel. Four processors and eight U.S. fisheries are currently operating in joint ventures in the Gulf of Alaska.

4-6 NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

4-1 Halibut Fishery Management

Report of the Halibut Workshop

The Halibut Workshop reviewed the actions taken by the Halibut Workshop during their November 14 meeting. The workshop had been charged by the Council to consider public comments received on the draft Halibut management objectives and to develop a recommendation for Council consideration.

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The Workgroup voted unanimously to amend and expand the draft objectives to read as follows:

1. Insure survival of the North Pacific halibut resource.
2. Distribute the halibut fishery in time and place to insure the harvest of the available surplus of all components of the halibut population over all areas of the North Pacific Ocean including the Bering Sea.
3. Continue to limit the harvesting of halibut to hook and line as the best means of utilizing and maintaining the resource at its highest sustained level of abundance.
4. Retain the International Pacific Halibut Commission as the primary management authority over the coast-wide range of the halibut population.
5. Provide high quality fresh, frozen or preserved halibut to the consumer throughout the year.
6. Strive to reduce incidental halibut mortality by gear that is not legal for a directed halibut fishery.

The Workgroup voted to amend the 1983 moratorium proposal as follows and present it to the Council:

1. The term of the moratorium is to be for two fishing seasons, or 24 months, as opposed to 36 months;
2. An appeals procedure should be included in the moratorium;
3. Halibut vessels sold during the moratorium are to be transferred with any rights in any future limited entry system attached to the vessel;
4. The qualifying period for the moratorium should be expanded from 1978-1982 to 1978-1983;
5. The adoption of a moratorium constitutes a commitment by the Council to implement halibut limited entry at the end of the moratorium period.

The staff recommended two alternative courses of action. If the Council wanted to address the decreasing length of the seasons, then the Council should proceed directly with some form of effort control rather than impose a moratorium. If it did not wish to address this problem, the recommendation was for the Council to withdraw from further consideration of halibut management.

The Working Group voted unanimously to send and expand the draft objectives to read as follows:

1. Ensure survival of the North Pacific halibut resource.
2. Distribute the halibut fishery in time and space to assure the harvest of the available surplus of all components of the halibut population over all areas of the North Pacific Ocean including the Bering Sea.
3. Continue to limit the harvesting of halibut to keep the line at the best means of utilizing and maintaining the resource at the highest sustained level of abundance.
4. Retain the International Pacific Halibut Commission as the primary management authority over the coast-wide resource of the halibut population.
5. Provide high quality fish, frozen or processed halibut to the consumer throughout the year.
6. Strive to reduce incidental halibut mortality by gear that is not legal for a directed halibut fishery.

The Working Group voted to amend the 1988 memorandum proposal as follows and present it to the Council:

1. The term of the moratorium is to be for two fishing seasons, or 24 months, as opposed to 36 months.
2. All appeals procedures should be included in the moratorium.
3. Halibut vessels sold during the moratorium are to be transferred with any rights in any future limited entry system attached to the vessel.
4. The moratorium period for the western portion should be expanded from 1988-1991 to 1988-1993.
5. The adoption of a moratorium constitutes a commitment by the Council to implement halibut limited entry as the end of the moratorium period.

The staff recommended two alternative courses of action. If the Council wanted to address the decreasing health of the resource, then the Council should proceed with some form of limited entry control rather than impose a moratorium. If the Council wanted to address the problem, the recommendation was for the Council to address the further consideration of halibut management.

Halibut Management Proposals

The Council also received two specific proposals for halibut management. Harold Lokken submitted a proposal for a two-year trial system utilizing a pre-registration and lottery-type scheme. Fishermen's organizations from St. George, St. Paul and Nelson Islands submitted a proposal requesting an exclusive registration area for Area 4C and limiting vessels in that area to 5 net tons or less. These proposals were provided in writing to Council members.

International Pacific Halibut Commission - Report on 1984 Halibut Management Alternatives

Dr. Donald McCaughran, Executive Director of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), reported that the increased use of circle hooks in 1983 increased actual effort by about 93%. The IPHC will be faced with devising management measures to decrease effort but not discriminate between the small- and large-boat fleets. Earlier openings, outlawing the circle hook, and shorter openings spread over a longer time are some of the management measures which could be considered by IPHC at their meeting in Anchorage January 24-26, 1984. The Commission also is considering increasing quotas for the 1984 season because of the apparently healthy condition of the stocks; however, they will still have to consider methods of spreading the catch over a longer time to enable them to more closely monitor the harvest and avoid overfishing.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted unanimously to recommend approval of the six objectives developed by the Halibut Workgroup. The Panel also discussed the moratorium and voted 11 to 9 against approval. They voted 15 to 3 to recommend that the Council not take up the issue of a moratorium or limited entry for the halibut fishery in the future.

The AP also recommended that the Council and IPHC consider an exclusive fishery management zone in Area 4C in the Bering Sea with a 5 net ton vessel restriction. The vote was 10 to 8 with 1 abstention.

Public testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL ACTION

In a lengthy discussion, some Council members felt that the Council should discontinue any consideration of a moratorium or limited entry, at least for the 1984 season, and concentrate on other possible management measures in the halibut fishery. Don

Public Hearing on the Proposed

The Council also received two specific proposals for public hearing. Harold Walker submitted a proposal for a two-year trial system utilizing a pre-arrangement and letter-type scheme. The Council's organization is on St. George St. Paul and Nelson Islands admitted a proposal requesting an exclusive registration area for Area 40 and limiting vessels to that area to 5 per cent of base. These proposals were provided in writing to Council members.

International Pacific Halibut Commission
Report of 1954 Halibut Management Alternatives

Dr. Connel McGowan, Executive Director of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IHO), reported that the proposed use of circle hooks in 1955 increased annual catch by about 50%. The IHO will be faced with devising management measures to decrease effort but not discriminate between the small and large boat fleets. Earlier openings, including the circle hook and shorter openings appear over a longer time the same of the management measure which could be considered by IHO as their meeting in Anchorage January 24-26, 1955. The Commission also is considering increasing quotas for the 1954 season because of the apparently healthy condition of the stock; however, they will still have to consider methods of increasing the catch over a longer time to enable them to more closely monitor the harvest and avoid overfishing.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted unanimously to recommend approval of the six objectives developed by the Halibut Working Party. The Panel also discussed the resolution and voted 11 to 2 against approval. They voted 10 to 4 to recommend that the Council not take any leave of a resolution of limited entry for the halibut fishery in the future.

The AP also recommended that the Council and IHO consider an exclusive fishery management zone in Area 40 in the Bering Sea with a net ton vessel restriction. The vote was 10 to 2 with 1 abstention.

Public Hearing for the Agency for the Bering Sea
These matters.

COUNCIL ACTION

In a lengthy discussion, some Council members felt that the Council should eliminate any consideration of a moratorium on limited entry at least for the 1955 season, and concentrate on other possible management measures in the halibut fishery. For

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Collinsworth said he felt that the Council needs to erase some of the speculative entry that might occur in 1984 and get on with consideration of other kinds of management regimes to achieve certain objectives. He said the Council needs to continue to evaluate a whole set of possibilities, including limited entry. Harold Lokken suggested that the Council should allow the IPHC to handle the management of the fishery based on recommendations of the Advisory Panel and public testimony and that the Council should make recommendations to the Commission's Conference Board if they wished.

Mr. McVey said that although the IPHC would not comment on limited entry, they feel the U.S. needs to take measures for rational management of the halibut fishery. The U.S. exceeded its catch quotas in four of eight areas off Alaska this year.

In response to Dr. McCoughran's presentation, Admiral Knapp expressed concern for the safety of small-boat operators in adverse weather conditions if the seasons were set too early .

Council members also discussed interacting with the Commission's Conference Board to develop management measures.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council cease all consideration of management alternatives for the commercial halibut fishery for 1984 and allow the IPHC to manage the fishery. The motion was seconded by Gene Didonato and failed by a vote of 7 to 3. Lokken, Didonato and Mace voted in favor of the motion.

Jeff Stephan then moved that the Council cease further consideration of a moratorium or limited entry for halibut, but continue to pursue the consideration of management alternatives other than a moratorium and limited entry for the halibut fishery, and attempt to develop a management regime for halibut through co-operation with the IPHC, but recognizing also that the NPFMC itself may wish to propose regulations to achieve its halibut objectives, if any, through authority granted it by law. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and failed with a vote of 8 to 2. Stephan and Petersen voted for the motion.

Mr. Stephan restated the motion taking out the references to limited entry. This motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and passed, 8 to 2, with Mace and Lokken voting against.

In discussion of the proposed management objectives for the halibut fishery, Don Collinsworth said he felt the objectives were not broad enough and he hope they might be modified in the future. Harold Lokken said he could not support a motion to approve the objectives because the Council was not making a commitment to implement them.

Collinsworth said he felt the Council needs to assess some of the speculative entry that might occur in 1983 and get on with consideration of other kinds of management regimes to achieve certain objectives. He said the Council needs to continue to evaluate a whole set of possibilities, including limited entry. Harold Loken suggested that the Council should allow the TRC to handle the management of the fishery based on recommendations of the advisory panel and public testimony and that the Council should make recommendations to the Commission's Fisheries Board if they wished.

Mr. Wofsy said that although the TRC would not comment on limited entry they feel the U.S. needs to take measures for national management of the halibut fishery. The U.S. exceeded the catch quota in four of eight areas off Alaska this year.

In response to Mr. Macdonald's presentation, Admiral Long expressed concern for the safety of small-boat operators in adverse weather conditions if the season were set too early.

Council members also discussed interacting with the Commission Fisheries Board to develop management measures.

Harold Loken moved that the Council assess all considerations of management alternatives for the commercial halibut fishery for 1983 and allow the TRC to manage the fishery. The motion was seconded by Gene Dickstein and failed by a vote of 7 to 3. Loken, Dickstein and Gene voted in favor of the motion.

Left Stephen then moved that the Council assess further considerations of a restriction on limited entry for halibut, but continue to pursue the consideration of management alternatives other than a restriction and limited entry for the halibut fishery. An attempt to develop a management regime for halibut through cooperation with the TRC, and recognition also that the KWRC itself may wish to propose restrictions to achieve its halibut objectives, if any, through statutory means. It was moved that the motion be seconded by Boby Peterson and failed with a vote of 8 to 2. Stephen and Robert voted for the motion.

Mr. Stephen stated the motion failed and the references to limited entry. This motion was seconded by Boby Peterson and passed 8 to 2, with Gene and Loken voting against.

In discussion of the proposed management objectives for the halibut fishery, Don Collinsworth said he felt the objectives were not broad enough and he hope they might be modified in the future. Harold Loken said he would not support a motion to approve the objectives because the Council was not making a commitment to implement them.

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John Winther moved that the Council accept the objectives for halibut management as presented by the Halibut Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and passed, 7 to 2, with Sara Hemphill abstaining and Lokken and Petersen voting against. Mr. Lokken said he voted against the motion because the Council had not made any plans to implement the objectives.

Council members discussed the proposal for an exclusive registration area in Area 4C at length. The proposal was as follows:

Area 4C will be established as an exclusive registration area, open to small boat, day fishermen. Fishing within Area 4C will be open to all fishermen; however, fishermen who choose to fish in that area can fish only in Area 4C. Vessel size is limited to 5 net tons or less. Halibut caught in Area 4C must be landed on-shore before vessels leave the area. The fishing season for Area 4C will begin on June 1 and end on September 1 or when the quota is reached. Throughout the season, fishing will be open 4 days and closed for one day. If it is biologically healthy for the stock, the quota in Area 4C will be 800,000 pounds.

Although in favor of supporting the developing fishery, some Council members felt the proposal was too restrictive, particularly the provision to require landing of fish in the area. Bob Mace said he felt that the restrictions could work against future expansion of the fishery. Harold Lokken said he felt the IPHC could deal with the situation as they did last season with more restrictions on the larger boats. It was noted that the Commission can only initiate regulations for the health of the fishery and stocks and cannot consider social and economic factors.

Pat Travers was asked whether this action would be legal. Mr. Travers said that if it could be shown that taking this action was in the public interest, it could be considered legal.

Sara Hemphill moved the proposal be adopted without the requirement that halibut caught in Area 4C be landed in that area. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey.

After Council discussion, Ms. Hemphill, at the request of representatives of St. George Island, withdrew the motion and moved to postpone discussion of the subject until the February 1984 Council meeting. McVey seconded the motion which passed, 8 to 2, with Collinsworth and Stephan voting no. Mr. Mace was out of the room during the vote.

During Council discussion it was determined that the proposing organizations wished to resubmit the proposal for the February Council meeting. There was some concern about the time needed

John Wilson moved that the Council accept the objectives for
rational management as presented by the Habitat Workshop. The
motion was seconded by Bob Woley and passed 7 to 2 with 2
members abstaining and 1 member voting against. Mr.
Wilson said he voted against the motion because the Council had
not made any plans to implement the objectives.

Council members discussed the proposal for a exclusive regulation
area in Area 40 as follows. The proposal was as follows:

Area 40 will be established as an exclusive regulation
area from the small boat day fishermen fishing within
Area 40 will be open to all fishermen; however, this area
who choose to fish in that area can fish only in Area 40.
Vessel size is limited to 5 net tons or less. Habitat
catch in Area 40 must be landed on-shore before vessels
leave the area. The fishing season for Area 40 will begin
on June 1 and end on September 30 when the quota is
reached. Throughout the season, fishing will be open 9 days
and closed for one day. As it is biologically healthy for
the stock, the quota in Area 40 will be 200,000 pounds.

Although in favor of supporting the developing fishery, some
Council members felt the proposal was too restrictive, particularly
ly the provision to require landing of fish in the area. Don
Wade said he felt that the restrictions could work against future
expansion of the fishery. Harold Johnson said he felt the FMC
could deal with the restriction as they did last season when there
were restrictions on the larger boats. It was noted that the
Commission can only institute regulation for the health of the
fishery and stocks and cannot consider social and economic
factors.

Don Woley then asked whether the action could be taken.
Woley said that if it could be shown that taking this action
was in the public interest, it could be considered legal.

Don Woley moved the proposal as adopted without the restrictive
motion that required catch in Area 40 be landed in that area. The
motion was seconded by Bob Woley.

After Council discussion, Mr. Bergquist, as the request of report
submitted to the Council, withdrew the motion and moved to
reopen discussion of the subject until the February 1989
Council meeting. Woley seconded the motion which passed 8 to 2.
with 2 members voting against. Mr. Woley said that the
Council will vote

During Council discussion it was determined that the proposal
regarding Area 40 would be presented to the Council for the February
Council meeting. There was some concern about the time needed

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for public comment and to develop regulations. Mr. Collinsworth suggested that in order to expedite the process, the staff begin to prepare the necessary paperwork in case the proposal was adopted at the February meeting. Other Council members agreed.

Mr. Campbell asked Jim Branson to reply to Senator Stevens' letter on the proposal.

C-2 Foreign Vessel Permit applications

The Council received foreign vessel permit applications from Japan, South Korea, USSR, Taiwan, Spain and West Germany for joint ventures and/or directed fisheries in 1984. Detailed worksheets giving the details of these operations were provided in Council notebooks.

Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee recommended approving all joint venture requests submitted by Japan; the applications total 86,000 mt of groundfish for 1984 but it is expected those amounts will increase since Japan has committed to purchase 330-360,000 mt in joint ventures in 1984. Applications for directed fishing permits were all recommended for approval except for 11 vessels: four were seized in 1983 and have not settled their cases; the remaining seven made deliveries to the NIKKO MARU which was seized for underlogging fish transfers. The 11 vessels are: KIYO MARU 55, TOMI MARU 83, KURYO (YURYO) MARU 31, NIKKO MARU, AKEBONO 15, AKEBONO 17, AKEBONO 18, AKEBONO 21, SHINNICHI MARU 38, SHUNYO MARU 118, and ZUIYO MARU 28.

The Committee also recommended approval of joint venture permits from South Korea for 78,700 mt, from the USSR for 96,935 mt, and from Spain for 12,000 mt. Two permit applications for directed fishing by South Korea were also reviewed and recommended for approval.

The Committee recommended approving West German permits for joint ventures of 6,000 mt per vessel. The Committee recommended approval of a 14,000 mt direct allocation for 1984 for each of two West German vessels, the MOND and FRIEDRICH BUSSE. However, because of the Nordstern's poor past performance in meeting joint venture commitments, the Committee suggested that 50% of the allocation be withheld until after June 30. The second allocation would be granted to a vessel only if it had purchased at least 3,000 mt in joint ventures by that date and committed to buy 3,000 mt more in joint ventures after June 30.

The Committee recommended approving joint venture applications for Taiwan totaling 19,000 mt. Because of the poor violations record of the Highly Enterprise Company and cases pending against it, the Committee recommended that no direct allocation be given

for public comment and to develop regulations. Mr. Hollibaugh suggested that in order to expedite the process, the staff begin to prepare the necessary paperwork in case the proposal was adopted at the February meeting. Other Council members agreed.

Mr. Campbell asked Jim Hansen to reply to Senator Stevens' letter on the proposal.

C-2 Foreign Vessel Permit Applications

The Council received foreign vessel permit applications from Japan, South Korea, USSR, Taiwan, Spain and West Germany for joint ventures and/or direct fisheries in 1984. Details of these operations were provided in Council memoranda.

Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee recommended approving all joint venture permits submitted by Japan; the applications later than 1980 mt of production for 1984 but it is expected that another 25,000 mt will increase since Japan has committed to purchase 250,000 mt in joint ventures in 1984. Applications for direct fishing permits were all recommended for approval except for 11 vessels: four were seized in 1983 and have not started their cases; the remaining seven were delivered to the NINE MTD which was seized for unrefrigerating fish supplies. The 11 vessels are: KIKYO MARU 25, TONG TANG 28, KUNGS (YUNO) MARU 31, KIKKO MARU, ANDBONG 32, ARKONTO 33, ARKONTO 34, ARKONTO 35, SHINYO MARU 36, SHINYO MARU 37, and KIKYO MARU 38.

The Committee also recommended approval of joint venture permits from South Korea for 18,000 mt, from the USSR for 95,000 mt, and from Spain for 12,000 mt. Two permit applications for direct fishing by South Korea were also reviewed and recommended for approval.

The Committee recommended approving West German permits for joint ventures of 6,000 mt per vessel. The Committee recommended approval of a 14,000 mt direct allocation for 1984 for each of two West German vessels, the WIND and ERICHA FISCH. However, because of the Netherlands' poor past performance in meeting joint venture commitments, the Committee suggested that 50% of the allocation be withheld until after June 30. The second allocation would be granted to a vessel only if it had purchased at least 2,000 mt in joint ventures by that date and committed to buy 2,000 mt more in joint ventures after June 30.

The Committee recommended approving joint venture applications for Taiwan totaling 12,000 mt. Because of the poor past record of the highly subsidized Germany and some pending applications, the Committee recommended that no direct allocation be given

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to Taiwan in the Gulf of Alaska or the Bering Sea/Aleutians until the joint ventures in those areas were at least 80% complete. The Committee also recommended approving directed fishing permits for the GOLDEN DRAGON 1, CHIEF DRAGON 101, the CHIEF DRAGON 737, and CHIEF DRAGON 777, but not for the HIGHLY 303 or HIGHLY 707 until the cases of the HIGHLY 301 and HIGHLY 302 were settled. The Committee received information on prospective operations for vessels by Norway and Poland in 1984 but deferred consideration until February when complete permit applications are expected to be available. The Permit Review Committee report is made part of these minutes in Appendix IV.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended approval of joint venture and direct fishing permit applications for South Korea, USSR and Spain. They concurred with the Permit Review Committee's recommendations for approval of permit applications from Japan with the exception of the 11 Japanese vessels with pending cases for violations. The AP voted approval of the Taiwanese joint venture application for the Gulf of Alaska only, and took no action on the directed fishing applications pending further information.

The AP recommended approval of the permit for the FRIEDRICH BUSSE but recommended denial of the permit application for the MOND. The AP would consider approval if the MOND would participate in a 25% joint venture coupled with their directed fishing operation.

The AP recommended that for future discussions of permit applications they be provided with violations records over several years, the name of the companies of the violating vessels, and that only vessels which have had fines imposed be listed.

Public Testimony

Conan Huang, representing the Taiwan fishing industry. Mr. Huang said that it is very difficult to obtain fishing permits through the bureaucratic process in Taiwan. Last year was the first time since the Magnuson Act was enacted that U.S. officials had come to his country to explain procedures and that it has made a big difference in reducing violations this year. He said his ships are always open to inspection at any time and that prohibited species are returned to the sea promptly. The Taiwanese companies hope that the U.S. will send representatives to his country again to help avoid future violations.

Michael B. Jones, Pribilof-Highly Seaproducts. The purchase of a fishing vessel by St. George Tanaq Corporation is being held up pending receipt of federal funds. However, the St. George/Highly joint venture will go ahead despite this delay. They will contract with two fishing vessels to deliver to the CHIEF DRAGON 737.

to Taiwan in the Gulf of Alaska in the Spring 1954. The joint venture in these areas were at least 50% Japanese. The Committee also recommended approving Japanese fishing permits for the SOUTH BRASSON I, SOUTH BRASSON II, and SOUTH BRASSON III, and for the HIGHLY 201, 202, and 203. The cases of the HIGHLY 201 and HIGHLY 202 were settled. The Committee received information on prospective operations for vessels by Norway and Iceland in 1954 but deferred consideration until February when complete permit applications are expected to be available. The Danish Review Committee report is made part of these minutes in Appendix IV.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended approval of joint ventures and permit fishing permits applications for South Korea, USSR and Spain. They concurred with the Permit Review Committee's recommendations for approval of permit applications from Japan with the exception of the Japanese vessels with pending cases for operations. The Panel approved of the Japanese joint venture application for the Gulf of Alaska only and took no action on the proposed fishing applications pending further information.

The Panel recommended approval of the permit for the FRIBRIDE 2032 but recommended denial of the permit application for the BOND. The Panel considered approval of the BOND would participate in a joint venture coupled with their proposed fishing operations.

The Panel recommended that for future consideration of permit applications they be processed with violations in order to prevent permit, the name of the vessel, and that only vessels which have had their permits be issued.

Public Testimony

Joseph Board, representing the Taiwan Fishing Industry, Mr. Board said that it is very difficult to obtain fishing permits through the bureaucratic process in Taiwan. Last year was the first time since the War when the U.S. officials had come to the country to establish procedures and that it was a big difference in relation to fishing vessels this year. He said the ships are always open to inspection at any time and that prohibited species are returned to the sea promptly. The Taiwanese companies hope that the U.S. will send representatives to the country soon to help avoid future violations.

Michael B. Lopez, Fidelity Agency, San Francisco. The purpose of a fishing vessel by the George Farley Corporation is being held up pending receipt of federal funds. However, the U.S. Government will go ahead despite this delay. They will continue with two fishing vessels to deliver to the FRIBRIDE 2032.

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John Schmiedtke, Nordstern. Mr. Schmiedtke told the Council that the plans for the inclusion of the MOND in the fishing operation are not complete, pending final decisions by management in Germany. He explained that the request for the BUSSE consists of 12,000 mt in the Bering Sea and 16,000 mt in the Aleutian Islands for a directed fishery and a joint venture for 6,000 mt. The rest, 6,000 mt in the Bering Sea and 12,000 mt in the Aleutians, and 3,000 to 4,000 mt of joint venture is for the MOND. Commenting on the Permit Review Committee's recommendation to withhold 50% of their allocation, Mr. Schmiedtke said that 14,000 mt would not keep them going until they get the joint venture.

Steve Johnson, representing the Japanese trawl industry. Mr. Johnson said he does not think the Council should recommend sanctions against vessels with pending violations. He also said that the case against the TOMI MARU has been settled although Council records show it still pending.

Assen Nicolov, Oceantrawl Corporation. Mr. Nicolov submitted a written statement describing a joint venture between Broedrene Saetremyr, Norway, and Oceantrawl Corporation. The Council had not yet received the necessary applications.

End of public testimony.

Admiral Knapp, commenting on the proceedings of the Permit Review Committee, said that the Committee was unaware that the HIGHLY 303 and HIGHLY 707 were simply cargo/transport vessels. He recommended that directed fishing privileges not be granted to the stern trawlers GOLDEN DRAGON 1, CHIEF DRAGON 101, or CHIEF DRAGON 737 until the HIGHLY 301 and 303 cases were settled, rather than sanctioning the two cargo/transporters.

COUNCIL ACTION

Some Council members expressed concern that some joint venture operations were not living up to their agreements to purchase fish and cautioned that they will look very carefully at future application requests because of the declining stocks available for foreign fishing.

Harold Lokken moved to accept the recommendations of the Permit Review Committee with the recommended changes concerning the Taiwanese directed fishing permits. The motion was seconded by Don Collinworth and passed unanimously with Sara Hemphill abstaining.

John Johnson, Chairman, advised that the Council has
received the minutes of the meeting of the Council
held on 15th November 1988. The minutes were
approved and the Council decided to refer the
minutes to the Council for its consideration.
The Council also decided to refer the minutes
to the Council for its consideration.
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End of public meeting.

Mr. Johnson, Chairman, advised that the Council
has received the minutes of the meeting of the
Council held on 15th November 1988. The minutes
were approved and the Council decided to refer
the minutes to the Council for its consideration.
The Council also decided to refer the minutes
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COUNCIL ACTION

Some Council members expressed concern that some joint venture
operations were not living up to their agreements to purchase
fish and concluded that they will look very carefully at future
application requests because of the declining stocks available
for foreign fishing.

Mr. Johnson, Chairman, advised that the Council
has received the minutes of the meeting of the
Council held on 15th November 1988. The minutes
were approved and the Council decided to refer
the minutes to the Council for its consideration.
The Council also decided to refer the minutes
to the Council for its consideration.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 HERRING FMP

The final Bering Sea FMP package has not yet been submitted for Secretarial review but is expected to be mailed within the next few days.

Jim Glock reported on the workgroup meeting held to review herring research needs and to determine if the experimental/research fishery suggested by the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. could generate the desired data. The report of that meeting was provided to the Council. The group agreed that the goal of the research program was generation of information on the structural makeup of the herring population, its distribution and size in order to allow evaluation of alternative harvesting strategies. Research to obtain basic information should be separated into inshore and offshore components because of differences in the objectives and logistics of the research. The committee considered four methods of accomplishing the objectives: a program using government or chartered vessels, a research program using commercial fishing vessels, an observer program on commercial vessels, or a combination of commercial vessels and a research vessel. The committee reviewed the draft request for proposals submitted by NPFVOA and decided further work was necessary before it would be ready for Council consideration. A Request for Proposals may be ready for Council consideration at the February meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

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

Public Testimony

Joe McGill, Bristol Bay Herring Co-op. Mr. McGill is opposed to any fishing on offshore stocks. He believes the fishery is fully utilized inshore.

Barry Collier, NPFVOA. Mr. Collier said the question is whether there should be an experimental fishery to get information needed on the stocks. With a commercial experimental fishery working with the state, expenditures to the state or a federal regulatory body would be very minimal. It is not known whether the fishery is being fully utilized and an experimental fishery could provide this information.

4-1 FISHING TIME

The final report has not yet been submitted for
Secretary's review but is expected to be mailed within the next
few days.

The Group reported on the workshop meeting held to review
the final report and to discuss in the separate
research strategy suggested by the main fishing vessel
Council. Areas could generate the desired data. The report of
the workshop was provided to the Council. The group agreed that
the goal of the research program was generation of information on
the structure of the fishing population. The distribution
and also in order to allow evaluation of alternative harvesting
strategies. Research on other areas should be
encouraged from industry and other components because of
differences in the objectives and techniques of the research. The
committee considered four methods of conducting the
research: a program using government or private vessels, a
research program using commercial fishing vessels or observer
program on commercial vessels, or a combination of commercial
vessels and a research vessel. The committee reviewed the draft
request for proposals submitted by WFOV and decided further
work was necessary before it would be ready for Council
consideration. A request for proposals was ready for Council
consideration at the February meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed the report from the Council's workshop and
noted that the scientific design and operational plan are not
complete at this time. The SSC will not review the proposed
program at this time.

Public Testimony

The Council, Bureau of Fisheries, and WFOV are opposed to
any fishing on offshore stocks. He believes the fishery is fully
utilized inshore.

HARRY COLLIER, WFOV, Mr. Collier said the question is whether
there should be an experimental fishery to get information needed
on the stocks. With a commercial experimental fishery working
with the state, experiments to the state on a federal regulatory
body would be very minimal. It is not known whether the fishery
is being fully utilized and an experimental fishery would provide
the information.

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Henry Mitchell, Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. BSFA has suggested for two years that a tagging program be instituted to get the information needed on herring stocks, but they do not agree with a commercial experimental fishery offshore.

End of public testimony.

Although Council members acknowledged the need for valid data in the herring fishery, discussion centered on the lack of research funds for new projects. Don Collinsworth suggested a cooperative effort between trawlermen who are interested in research information and NMFS personnel who could do the analyses. Council members agreed that they could not make any decisions until a more detailed proposal is presented.

No action was required. A Request for Proposal should be available for the next Council meeting.

D-2 Tanner Crab FMP

Don Collinsworth had requested that a discussion of the use of pot limits and exclusive registration areas as management tools be put on the agenda. Mr. Collinsworth said he is concerned that by not approving Amendment 10 to the FMP the Council is changing an existing regulatory regime without an analysis of the impact of that change on the fishery. When the Board of Fisheries meets in March there will be proposals for pot limits and exclusive registration areas and the Council will need to act on those proposals based on reports from the state, Council staff, NMFS and enforcement agencies. A uniform approach to management of these fisheries is needed. Bob McVey was asked to clarify NMFS' stand on pot limits and exclusive registration areas.

Mr. McVey said that neither pot limits nor exclusive registration areas are precluded as management measures under the Magnuson Act. Decisions on these measures will have to be made on a case-by-case basis. He feels it is important to work with the state to ensure that fishermen are not victimized by inconsistent management regimes.

Council members discussed ways of working more closely with the Board and the possibility of Council members sitting in at Board meetings when crab management is discussed. A workgroup will be created to meet with the Council and Board staff to prepare an improved review and regulatory procedure. A report from this group should be available at the next meeting.

Henry Widdows, Secretary for Fisheries, said that the Department was aware of the need for a long-term plan for the fishery and that a working group had been set up to look at the long-term plan. He said that the group would be reporting to the Council in the next few months.

and of public assistance

Although Council members acknowledged the need for such data in the long-term plan, discussion centered on the lack of resources for the project. Dr. Collinsworth suggested a cooperative effort between fisheries and the Department in assessing the situation and that research which could be carried out by Council members agreed that they could not make any decision until a more detailed proposal is presented.

No action was required. A request for National should be available for the next Council meeting.

D-2 Technical Staff

Dr. Collinsworth had requested that a discussion of the use of the fishery and extensive vegetation areas as management tools be put on the agenda. Dr. Collinsworth said he is concerned that the Department is not providing adequate support for the fishery. He said that the Department is not providing adequate support for the fishery and that the Council will need to act on those proposals based on reports from the staff, Council staff, and other management agencies. A uniform approach to management of the fishery is needed, and Dr. Collinsworth said he is clearly not standing on your limits and extensive vegetation areas.

Mr. Widdows said that neither the fishery nor extensive vegetation areas are provided as management resources under the Fisheries Act. Decisions on these resources will have to be made on a case-by-case basis. He said that it is important to work with the staff to ensure that fisheries are not restricted by a restrictive management system.

Council members discussed ways of working more closely with the staff and the possibility of Council members sitting in on Council meetings when such management is discussed. A working group will be set up to work with the Council and staff to prepare an improved review and legislative proposals. A report from this group should be available at the next meeting.

Public Testimony

Alvin Osterback, Sand Point Advisory Committee. Super-exclusive registration areas are the main management tool for the control of the crab fisheries around Sand Point. If larger boats are allowed to move from area to area, local fleets will lose out in bad weather conditions. A large influx of boats will overexploit the fishery. He supports joint Board/Council hearings on crab management proposals.

Paul Gronholdt, Peninsula Marketing, Sand Point. There is confusion among fishermen about state and Council procedures on Tanner crab regulatory proposals and they have to deal with inconsistencies between state and federal regulations.

Dave Osterback, Sand Point. Tanner crab in the South Peninsula area is one of the last remaining fisheries for local residents and it needs to be protected. An influx of large boats is frustrating and small-boat fishermen sometimes cannot recover from the loss of large amounts of gear.

End of public testimony.

No Council action was required.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska FMP

D-3A Sablefish Management for 1984

Comments were requested in the October 7 "Dear Reviewer" letter on the levels of optimum yield and apportionments to user groups for all groundfish in the Gulf in 1984, and particularly for sablefish. The Council received a very large response on sablefish indicating that the domestic capacity and intent are available to fully utilize the Gulf's sablefish resource. Many requested the foreign directed fishery in the Gulf be eliminated or drastically reduced. Council members were provided with copies of the comments through a Council mailing prior to the meeting and additional comments were in their notebooks.

In September, the PMT reported that although 1983 analyses showed that the stock condition is improving, the results should be viewed with caution. Abundance of large fish, especially important to the reproductive capacity of the stock and to the U.S. fishery, remains stable but low and does not seem to be increasing.

The staff also provided the Council with an analysis on the allocation of sablefish, which concluded that there was sufficient evidence to warrant the elimination of foreign directed sablefish fishing in the Gulf.

Public Testimony

Alvin Osterman, Sand Point Advisory Committee, paper-examiner
regulation areas and the area management tool for the control
of the crop fisheries around Sand Point. It appears that the
effort to move from area to area, local efforts will have an
ad weather condition. A large influx of boats will overexploit
the fishery. He suggests joint Board/Council hearings on crop
management proposals.

Paul Skonholz, Peninsula Marketing, Sand Point. There is con-
sistent among fishermen about state and Council procedures on
Tanner crab regulatory proposals and they have to deal with
inconsistencies between state and federal regulations.

Have Osterman, Sand Point. Tanner crab in the South Peninsula
and in one of the last remaining fisheries for local residents
and it needs to be protected. An influx of large boats in this
crabbing and small-boat fishermen activities cannot recover from
the loss of large amounts of gear.

End of public testimony.

No Council action was required.

D-3 Bill on Alaska Fish

D-38 Salmon Management for 1984

Comments were requested in the October 7 "Open Review" letter
on the levels of optimum yield and apportionments to user groups
for all groundfish in the Gulf in 1984, and particularly for
salmon. The Council received a very large response on advice
and indicated that the domestic capacity and intent are
available to fully utilize the Gulf's salmon resource. They
requested the foreign directed fishery in the Gulf be eliminated
or drastically reduced. Council members were provided with
copies of the comments through a Council mailing prior to the
meeting and additional comments were in their notebooks.

In September, the RMT reported that although 1983 analyses showed
that the stock condition is improving, the resource should be
viewed with caution. Abundance of large fish, especially
important to the reproductive capacity of the stock and to the
U.S. fishery, remains stable but low and does not seem to be
increasing.

The staff also provided the Council with an analysis on the allo-
cation of salmon, which concluded that there are sufficient
evidence to warrant the elimination of foreign directed salmon
fishery in the Gulf.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

In light of the nature of the staff's recommendation (zero TALFF), the SSC feels that a full and complete analysis needs to be completed. They feel that further review of the benefits and costs of reducing the levels of directed foreign fishing is needed and have assigned the staff's report to the Gulf of Alaska groundfish subcommittee in order to provide a review at the next meeting.

The SSC was unable to support the staff recommendations and recommended that the EY and ABC remain at the current levels.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel suggested that DAH equal OY for sablefish for the entire Gulf. Halibut vessels will be looking to groundfish, which is becoming marginally profitable for the smaller boats, to make a living. The displacement of foreign fishing was envisioned with the creation of the Magnuson Act and it's time to move toward that goal.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes. Representatives of the domestic fishing industry and processors were united in their position that the domestic industry will be able to harvest a large portion, if not all, of the sablefish resource this season and asked the Council to eliminate or reduce the foreign TALFF for sablefish in the Gulf. Representatives of the Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Co-op said elimination of the foreign fishery for sablefish could endanger their herring agreement with the Japanese and negatively impact their local economies. They asked the Council to delay elimination of the sablefish TALFF for at least three years. Representatives of the foreign fishing interests expressed doubt that the U.S. industry is capable of harvesting the entire sablefish resource next season.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members were concerned about completely eliminating the TALFF for sablefish in the Gulf on such short notice and the loss of valuable data when foreign fishing is completely eliminated. Bob Mace also expressed concern for setting a precedent by taking such an action without more adequate notice and discussion.

Paul MacGregor presented an agreement between industry and the Japanese longliners which would reduce foreign fishing for sablefish in the Gulf but not completely eliminate it if indications are that the domestic industry will not take the entire OY. Mr. Winther incorporated Mr. MacGregor's suggestion into a motion.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

In light of the nature of the work's recommendations (see
PART I) the Committee has decided to conduct a review of the
work's recommendations and to report to the Council on the
results of this review. The Committee has decided to conduct
a review of the work's recommendations in order to provide a
review of the work's recommendations.

The Committee was unable to support the work's recommendations and
recommended that the NY and MO remain as the current status.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel suggested that DAF and NY for scientific
and technical reasons will be looking to provide
a review of the work's recommendations for the scientific
and technical reasons. The displacement of foreign
and technical reasons will be looking to provide
a review of the work's recommendations.

Public testimony has been found in Appendix 1 to
these minutes. Representatives of the scientific, technical,
and processor were asked in their position that the
industry will be able to harvest a large portion of the
total harvest and asked the Council to
eliminate or reduce the foreign share in the
industry of the foreign share for scientific and
technical reasons. They asked the Council to delay
the elimination of the foreign share for at least three years.
Representatives of the foreign industry expressed
concern that the U.S. industry is capable of harvesting the entire
share of the harvest.

COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

Committee members were concerned about the elimination of the
share for scientific and technical reasons and the loss
of scientific and technical reasons. The Committee has
expressed concern for the scientific and technical
reasons and has recommended that the Council should
discuss the scientific and technical reasons.

The Committee has recommended an agreement between the industry and the
scientific and technical reasons. The Committee has
recommended that the Council should discuss the scientific
and technical reasons. The Committee has recommended
that the Council should discuss the scientific and
technical reasons.

John Winther moved that the Council set DAH for sablefish in 1984 in the Western Yakutat area at 1,344 mt and reserve at 336 mt. In the Central area set DAH at 1,651 mt and reserve at 612 mt with the understanding that no sablefish TALFF will be used in any directed fishery in that area until October 7. DAP in the Western area will be set at 300 mt. If it appears that not all of the DAH in these areas will be caught by December 31, any projected excess DAH will be transferred to TALFF. Directed foreign longlining for sablefish will not begin until October 7 in the Central and West Yakutat areas.

Any directed foreign fishery for Pacific cod that may be available in the Western Yakutat and Central area will be conducted in waters shallower than 350 meters and may not take more than 5% of sablefish in proportion to all other species in the catch. Gene Didonato seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

POLLOCK

Jeff Povolny told Council members that individual regulatory areas for pollock may need revision because of the rapid growth of the U.S. joint venture fishery in Shelikof Strait and the way in which the pollock OY is apportioned. A draft environmental assessment which discussed and analyzed three alternatives was sent out for public comment on November 14. These alternatives were:

- (a) Status quo, distributing 37% of the OY to the Western Area and 63% of the OY to the Central Area;
- (b) A two-step procedure which accounts for a joint venture fishery in Shelikof Strait during the winter/spring period and distributes the remaining OY to the Western and Central areas according to the percentages in (a) above; and
- (c) Combining the pollock OYs in the Western and Central areas.

The PMT discussed and analyzed the three alternatives and recommended that the Council approve an amendment to combine the pollock OY in the Western and Central areas. They also recommended that the catch of non-target groundfish species in the pollock fishery continue to be regulated by assigning specific OYs for the species to the Western and Central areas.

The environmental assessment also discussed various OY levels, the biological impact on the pollock resource, the needs of the fisheries, and the potential halibut by-catch by foreign bottom trawling for pollock. The PMT report (provided in Council notebooks) provided additional information on the status of the

John Winter noted that the Council had not yet adopted in 1981
in the Western Yalukut area at 1,344 mt and reserve at 333 mt.
in the Central area at 1,051 mt and reserve at 213 mt.
with the understanding that no additional YAFW will be used in
any directed fishery in that area until October 7, 1982 in the
Western area will be set at 100 mt. It is expected that not all
of the DAF in these areas will be caught by December 31, any
projected excess DAF will be transferred to YAFW. Additional
action regarding the Yalukut will not begin until October 7 as
the Council and West Yalukut areas.

Any directed foreign fishery for Pacific cod that may be available
in the Western Yalukut and Central areas will be conducted in
waters shallower than 300 meters and may not take more than 20% of
available in proportion to all other species in the area. Some
actions regarding the action which existed previously.

1982 Policy: Pacific Ocean Fishery Council

POLICY

The Council will continue to monitor the individual regulatory
areas for policy and need revision because of the rapid growth
of the U.S. fishery in the Pacific Ocean and the way
in which the policy of the Council is implemented. A draft environmental
assessment which discussed and analyzed three alternatives was
sent out for public comment on November 14. These alternatives
were:

- (a) Status quo, distributing 57% of the OY to the Western
Area and 43% of the OY to the Central Area.
- (b) A two-step procedure which accounts for a joint venture
fishery in the West and Central areas during the winter/spring period
and distributes the remaining OY to the Western and Central
areas according to the percentages in (a) above and
- (c) Combining the policy OY in the Western and Central
areas.

The YAFW discussed and analyzed the three alternatives and recom-
mended that the Council approve an amendment to combine the
policy OY in the Western and Central areas. They also recom-
mended that the catch of non-target groundfish species in the
Pacific fishery continue to be regulated by existing species
OY for the species in the Western and Central areas.

The environmental assessment also discussed various OY levels,
the biological impact on the policy resource, the needs of the
fisheries, and the potential impact on the bottom
trawling for policy. The YAFW report (provided in Council docu-
ment) provided additional information on the status of the

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pollock stock and concluded that the ABC was at least as high as 400,000 mt and could be as high as 500,000 mt in 1984. The PMT noted, however, that 500,000 mt was probably not a sustainable yield over a number of years and that the status of pollock should be evaluated in the fall of 1984 in order to determine the appropriate ABC for 1985. The PMT recommended only that OY could be higher than the current level of 200,000 mt for both areas.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The Council was asked to consider an amendment for public review to lower the Pacific ocean perch OY in the Western and Central Areas.

Gary Stauffer noted that Pacific ocean perch are depressed below the EY in the FMP (50,000 mt Gulfwide) and may be less than or equal to the average 1980-81 harvests (1,038 mt in the Western Area, and 4,129 mt in the Central Area). Current OYs are 2,700 mt in the Western Area and 7,900 mt in the Central Area. The 1984 estimate of DAH for Pacific ocean perch are 1,770 mt in the Western Area and 2,622 mt in the Central Area. The PMT recommended that if the Council wishes to rebuild the resource as quickly as possible, the OY should equal 400 mt in the Western Area and 1,000 mt in the Central Area. The staff noted that such low OYs would preclude any domestic as well as foreign fishing on Pacific ocean perch and could disrupt other groundfish fisheries if they take a by-catch of Pacific ocean perch. While better information is being developed, the staff recommended that the Pacific ocean perch OY in the Western and Central areas should equal the DAH plus a small percent (0.4% has been suggested) of the TALFF + Reserves of remaining target groundfish species.

PACIFIC COD, ATKA MACKEREL, FLOUNDERS

The Council was asked to consider an amendment for public review to raise the Pacific cod OY.

A projected TALFF of 520 mt in the Central Area could cause operational problems for the foreign bottom trawl fishery and curtail the foreign longline fishery. Considering the availability of Pacific cod for TALFF in the Western Area and the intense interest in Pacific cod by the U.S. fisheries, it was suggested that the Council may wish to raise the OY in the Central Area only enough to provide for some by-catch in the foreign pollock fisheries.

The PMT concluded that there was no need to change the area distribution of the Pacific cod OY. The team also recommended against revising the Atka mackerel OY distribution or the distribution of the flounder OY as requested by the Japanese industry. The PMT noted that the flounder request should be analyzed for biological soundness of the redistribution of the

followed and concluded that the AAC was at least as high as 500,000 mt and could be as high as 600,000 mt in 1984. The FWT, however, that 500,000 mt was probably not a realistic yield over a number of years and that the AAC of 500,000 mt should be evaluated in the fall of 1984 in order to determine the appropriate AAC for 1985. The FWT recommended only that it could be higher than the current level of 300,000 mt for 1984.

PACIFIC COAST SALMON

The Council was asked to consider an amendment for public review to lower the Pacific ocean permit in the Western and Central Areas.

Very recently noted that Pacific ocean permit was depressed below the FY in the WWP (50,000 mt Oulivada) and may be less than or equal to the average 1980-81 harvest of 11,000 mt in the Western Area, and 4,139 mt in the Central Area. Current OYs are 2,700 mt in the Western Area and 7,800 mt in the Central Area. The 1984 estimates of OY for Pacific ocean permit are 1,700 mt in the Western Area and 2,500 mt in the Central Area. The FWT recommended that if the Council wishes to rebuild the resource as quickly as possible, the OY should equal 400 mt in the Western Area and 1,000 mt in the Central Area. The staff noted that such low OYs would preclude any domestic as well as foreign fishing in Pacific ocean permit and could disrupt other non-Pacific fisheries if they were a by-product of Pacific ocean permit. With a better information as being developed, the staff recommended that the Pacific ocean permit OY in the Western and Central areas should equal the OY given a well permit (OYX has been approved) of the WWP - however, of retaining other non-Pacific fisheries.

PACIFIC COAST SALMON, PACIFIC COAST SALMON, FOUNDRIES

The Council was asked to consider an amendment for public review to raise the Pacific OY.

A projected OY of 500 mt in the Central Area could cause operational problems for the foreign bottom trawl fishery and curtail the foreign longline fishery. Concerning the availability of Pacific OY for WWP in the Western Area and the increase in OY for WWP by the U.S. fisheries, it was suggested that the Council may wish to raise the OY in the Central Area only enough to provide for some by-catch in the foreign bottom fisheries.

The FWT concluded that there was no need to raise the OY in the Western Area of the Pacific OY. The FWT also recommended that the FWT should be distributed to the fisheries. The FWT noted that the FWT should be distributed to the fisheries.

harvest and socioeconomic effects on the U.S. fishing industry, particularly the effect on the halibut fishery, before proposing an amendment for public review. The Atka mackerel request, based on information which had not been analyzed by the PMT, will be considered at the next PMT meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pollock OY. The SSC supported the PMT's recommendation to combine the pollock OY for the Western and Central areas.

Pollock ABC/OY Level. The SSC suggested three possible options for OY:

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

The SSC preferred the third option. If the Council decides to set OY at 500,000 mt, the SSC recommends that it should be temporary since the population probably could not sustain catches at this level.

Pacific ocean perch. The SSC recommended that the proposed amendment package for public review include the following three options:

- (1) the status quo;
- (2) $OY = DAH + 0.5 - 1.0\%$ of TALFF and reserves;
- (3) OY set at a level which allows an incidental fishery only.

The SSC noted that the Council should express its intention with regard to rebuilding POP and 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. The SSC supports the PMT's conclusion that sufficient information is not available to justify modification of the distribution of Pacific cod at this time. The SSC recommended that the ABC be set equal to 88,000 mt and noted that deviation from the current OY of 60,000 mt would result in an increase in the incidental catch of halibut.

invest and environmental effects on the U.S. fishing industry, particularly the effect on the fishing industry, before passing on amendment for public review. The data needed to support, based on information which had not been analyzed by the IWT, will be considered at the next IWT meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Lollock OY. The SSC supported the IWT's recommendation to combine the Lollock OY for the Western and Central areas.

Lollock 2500Y level. The SSC supported three possible options for OY:

- (1) 400,000 mt
- (2) 300,000 mt (maintain foreign catch at 200,000 mt level; this would project 200,000 mt)
- (3) 200 OY in the 200,000 to 300,000 mt range with no more than 2,000 mt to be taken outside the specified range.

The SSC preferred the third option. It also decided to set OY at 200,000 mt. The SSC recommended that it should be temporary since the population probably could not sustain catches at this level.

Public open order. The SSC recommended that the proposed management package for public review include the following three options:

- (1) the status quo
- (2) $OY = PAF + 0.5 - 1.0\%$ of TWP and reserves
- (3) OY set at a level which allows an incidental fishery only.

The SSC noted that the Council should explore the intention with respect to rebuilding POP and 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.

Tropic cod. The SSC supports the IWT's conclusion that additional information is not available to justify modification of the allocation of Tropic cod at this time. The SSC recommended that the AAC be set equal to 88,000 mt and noted that deviation from the current OY of 80,000 mt would result in an increase in the incidental catch of halibut.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended adoption of the amendment prepared by the staff that would combine the Central and Western areas of the Gulf of Alaska for purposes of pollock management. The AP also recommended that the OY for this new area be 340,000 mt which takes into account the JVP, DAH and historical TALFF allocation. The AP supported the three options drafted by the SSC for the amendment to consider lowering the Pacific ocean perch OY in the Western and Central Areas. They also recommended that the OY change be incorporated into the three SSC options for the amendment to consider raising the Pacific cod OY in the Gulf.

The AP noted that in order to change a regulation a socioeconomic and biological impact statement should be provided.

Public Testimony

Steve Johnson, Japanese trawl industry. The PMT report seems to indicate that raising the pollock OY to 500,000 mt in the Gulf would not have an adverse biological impact. The Japanese trawl industry would like to see an OY set that would allow the foreign fishery to operate at approximately the same level as it has in the past. The 340,000 mt recommended by staff may not accomplish that. An OY of 400,000 mt seems to be favorable from a biological standpoint and he requested that amount be set. He supported sending out proposed amendments for public review on the Pacific ocean perch and Pacific cod OYs. He said he hopes the Pacific cod OY can be increased and that the PMT will have a favorable report on the requested increase in the OYs for Atka mackerel and flounders.

COUNCIL ACTION

Mr. Didonato suggested that any proposed amendment to lower the Pacific cod OY in the Gulf sent out for public review should include information on a rebuilding schedule if the Council is to address the Team's recommendation to eliminate the directed foreign fishery in order to rebuild the resource.

Council members expressed concern that prohibited species may interfere with expansion of fisheries that land greater proportions of those species. Mr. Mace asked whether information could be gathered on the economic costs to other fisheries by prohibiting the catch of halibut. Don Rosenberg noted that the Prohibited Species Workgroup is addressing this question.

Bob Mace moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the FMP which sets the Pacific ocean perch OY equal to the DAH plus 1/2 to 1% of the TALFF and reserves of the remaining species in the Western and Central Areas. The amendment should include the options suggested by the SSC. John Winther seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended adoption of the amendment proposed by the staff that would combine the Central and Western areas of the Gulf of Alaska for purposes of halibut management. The AP also recommended that the OY for this new area be 300,000 mt which would account for the 200,000 mt OY for the Western area. The AP supported the three options listed by the SSC for the amendment to combine the Central and Pacific ocean areas. They also recommended that the OY for the three SSC options for the amendment be increased to the Pacific and OY in the Gulf.

The AP noted that in order to change a regulation a socio-economic and biological impact statement should be provided.

Public Hearing

Steve Johnson, Japanese trawl fisherman, the PWT report seems to indicate that halibut in the Gulf of Alaska are at a level that would not have an adverse biological impact. The Japanese trawl fishery would like to see an OY that would allow the foreign fishery to operate at approximately the same level as it has in the past. The 300,000 mt recommended by staff may not accomplish that. An OY of 300,000 mt seems to be favorable from a biological standpoint and he requested that amount be set. He supported sending out proposed amendments for public review on the Pacific ocean areas and Pacific and OY. He said he hopes the Pacific OY can be increased and that the PWT will have a favorable report on the proposed increases in the OY for Alaska halibut and fisheries.

COUNCIL ACTION

Mr. Dickson proposed that any proposed amendment to lower the Pacific OY in the Gulf be sent out for public review should include information on a rebuilding schedule if the Council is to address the team's recommendation to eliminate the directed foreign fishery in order to rebuild the resource.

Council members expressed concern that prohibited species may increase with expansion of fisheries and greater pressure on those species. Mr. Hans asked whether information could be gathered on the economic costs to other fisheries by prohibiting the catch of halibut. Don Rasmussen noted that the Prohibited Species Workshop is addressing this question.

Don Hans noted that the Council sent out for public review an amendment to the PWT which sets the Pacific ocean OY equal to the OY plus 1% of the TACC and reserves of the Western and Central areas. The amendment also includes the options suggested by the staff. Further amended the action which would be taken.

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Rudy Petersen moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the FMP which sets the Pacific cod OY in the Central Area equal to the DAH plus 4% of the TALFF and reserves of the pollock expected to be caught in the Central Area. The amendment should include the options recommended by the SSC. Bob McVey seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

In discussing the proposed amendment raising the pollock OY to 400,000 in the Central and Western areas of the Gulf, Council members indicated that they did not want the emergency regulation to increase the catch of prohibited species. They suggested that staff should address this concern in the proposed amendment for consideration by the Council in February.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council request the Secretary of Commerce to immediately promulgate an emergency regulation raising the combined pollock OYs in the Central and Western areas of the Gulf of Alaska for 1984 to 400,000 mt with the provision that no more than 100,000 mt can be taken by foreign fisheries using bottom trawls outside the Shelikof Strait area. The emergency regulation should combine the Western and Central areas for the management of pollock. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Bob Mace moved that the Council direct the staff to draft final amendment language to raise the pollock OY to 400,000 mt and combine the Western and Central Areas for pollock OY management to be presented to the Council at the February 1984 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried unanimously.

D-3C Gulf of Alaska DAP and JVP for 1984

Proposed JVPs and DAPs for 1984, based on a survey of the U.S. industry conducted by NMFS, were mailed to the public after the September meeting. Revised estimates based on the most current information were provided by NMFS during the Council meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed the latest recommended values for DAP and JVP from NMFS. They were extremely concerned that these values were only provided at the last minute with no time to fully analyze them and their impact. In view of the past performance of the domestic industry and the potential operational problems, the SSC suggested the Council should examine the projections of DAH carefully. The SSC noted that in some of the figures there were major discrepancies between the projected values and past performance.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted to adopt the NMFS figures presented at to them, except for the sablefish DAH figures which they thought were low.

Both Peterson moved that the Council hold an open public review on amendments to the 200 which were the result of the Central Area study to the 200 and the 200 and reserves of the 200 be carried in the Central Area. The amendments should include the options recommended by the 200. Both moved that the motion which carried unanimously.

In discussing the proposed amendments during the public review in the Central and Western areas of the 200, Council members indicated that they did not want the emergency resolution to increase the amount of prohibited species. They suggested that staff should address this concern in the proposed amendments for consideration by the Council in February.

Staff advised that the Council request the Secretary of Commerce to immediately investigate an emergency resolution regarding the proposed 200 in the Central and Western areas of the 200 for 1984 to 1989 at which time the provisions that no more than 100,000 can be taken of foreign fisheries using bottom trawls outside the 200. The emergency resolution should include the Western and Central areas for the management of bottom trawls. Both Peterson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Staff advised that the Council direct the staff to draft final amendments to the 200 to raise the 200 to 400,000 and to include the Western and Central Areas for public review. The amendments to the Council at the February 1984 meeting. The motion was seconded by Both Peterson and carried unanimously.

3-21 Bill of Alaska DAF and 200 for 1984

Proposed DAF and 200 for 1984, based on a survey of the U.S. industry conducted by WMS, were mailed to the public after the September meeting. Revised estimates based on the most current information were provided by WMS during the Council meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC reviewed the latest recommended values for 200 and 200 from 1983. They were extremely concerned that their values were only provided at the last minute with no time to fully analyze them and their impact. In view of the past performance of the domestic industry and the potential operational problems, the SSC suggested the Council should examine the production of 200 carefully. The SSC noted that in some of the 200s there were major discrepancies between the projected values and past performance.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel voted to adopt the WMS figures presented at the Council meeting for the 200 which they thought were low.

Public Testimony

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Assn. When 1983 domestic catch figures for cod in the Central area of the Gulf are compared to the projected 1984 figures, a tremendous increase over previous years is forecast. It is their position that the DAH plus reserve as they currently exist in the FMP should provide enough fish to provide for the expanding domestic fishery in Kodiak this year without cutting out the foreign directed fishery.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members discussed ways of accommodating the U.S. industry needs without totally cutting foreign fisheries off for the next season. A proposal to ask the Regional Director to release reserves of cod to TALFF at the beginning of the year was discussed. Mr. McVey said that unless there was an increase in the cod OY, there would not be enough in reserves to accommodate this request.

Bob Mace moved to approve the JVP and DAP figures contained in the Gulf of Alaska table dated December 8, 1983 (included with these minutes in Appendix II) with the provision that the Council recommend to the Regional Director that 3,000 mt of Pacific cod reserves in the Central area be apportioned to TALFF on January 1, 1984. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried unanimously with Bob McVey abstaining.

D-3D Incidental Halibut Catch by U.S. Trawlers in the Gulf

Jeff Povolny reported that joint ventures now fishing for flounders and Pacific cod could preclude all U.S. trawling in the Central Gulf of Alaska from sometime in December or early January until June 1, 1984, because their potential halibut by-catch is restricted under current regulations. The FMP limits the incidental halibut catch by U.S. trawlers from December 1 to May 31 to specific quotas (29 mt in the Western area, 52 mt in the Central area, and 31 mt in the Eastern area) which, when caught, cause all U.S. trawling to shut down for the remainder of the period. An emergency regulation seems necessary to safeguard the winter and spring midwater trawl fishery for pollock in Shelikof Strait.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurs that the U.S. pelagic groundfish fishery should be exempt from the halibut quota. The incidental catch of halibut in the Shelikof Strait pollock fishery is very low. The SSC also discussed the alternatives provided for addressing the joint ventures other than those in Shelikof Strait, but were unable to

Public Meeting

Public Meeting. North Pacific halibut and Gulf of Alaska halibut. 1983 forecasts were figures for cod in the central area of the GOM are compared to the projected 1984 figures. A comparison between even previous years is forecast. It is their position that the GOM fishery as they currently exist in the FWB should provide enough fish to provide for the expanding domestic fishery in Kodiak this year without cutting out the foreign fishery.

Council Action

Council members discussed ways of accommodating the U.S. industry needs without totally cutting foreign fisheries off for the next season. A proposal to ask the Regional Director to release reserves of cod to TALK at the beginning of the year was discussed. Mr. Hovey said that unless there was an increase in the cod GOM there would not be enough in reserves to accommodate this request.

Bob Rose moved to approve the IVB and GOM fisheries contained in the draft of Alaska table dated December 1, 1983 (included with these minutes in Appendix II) with the provision that the Council recommend to the Regional Director that the GOM and TALK be managed in the Council area be incorporated to TALK on January 1, 1984. The motion was seconded by John Walker and carried unanimously with Bob Hovey abstaining.

G-35 International Halibut Catch by U.S. Fisheries in the

GOM

Left Hovey reported that joint ventures now fishing for halibut and Pacific cod could provide all U.S. fishing in the Central Gulf of Alaska from sometime in December or early January until June 1, 1984. He stated that the Pacific halibut fishery is restricted under current regulations. The FWB halibut fishery is limited to 100,000 fish per vessel from October 1 to May 31 in the central halibut area (30°N in the western area, 32°N in the eastern area) and 100,000 fish in the eastern area, which was slightly reduced. An emergency regulation was necessary to release the winter and spring fisheries for halibut in the GOM.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC comment that the U.S. halibut production fishery should be exempt from the 100,000 fish limit. The independent catch of halibut in the Central Gulf of Alaska fishery is very low. The SSC also discussed the alternatives provided for addressing the joint ventures other than those in Alaska Strait and were unable to

provide a specific recommendation. The SSC recommended that the prohibited species workgroup's deliberations be completed as soon as possible.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that the Council request an emergency regulation that would exempt pelagic (off bottom) trawls in the Gulf of Alaska so that the incidental catch of halibut in other U.S. trawl fisheries would not shut down the pollock fishery. The AP also recommended that the Council request emergency regulations to set the halibut by-catch quotas for U.S. draggers at 270 mt in the Western Area and 768 mt in the Central Area of the Gulf.

Public Testimony

Arne Lee, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. He doesn't understand why the rate of incidental catch for the foreign fleet is so much lower than the domestic fleet. He's very curious about what the economic cost of the halibut incidental catch is to U.S. halibut fishermen in the Gulf. There are a lot of unanswered questions and he would like more information on the problem. At current figures, approximately 18% of the total allowable halibut catch last year will be allowed to be taken as incidental catch. He would like to see a study group convened to work on some of the unanswered questions about incidental catches and their economic impact. One way to handle incidental catch would be a poundage or number limit.

Ron Kutchick, Kodiak. He is a dragger who participates in joint ventures. It is impossible to stay away from the halibut and sablefish. There's a real problem in staying away from prohibited species. He feels American fishermen should be allowed a longer directed halibut fishery to reduce the number on the grounds.

Oliver Holm, Ouzinkie. A limit of 52 mt of halibut by-catch seems unfair to draggers. There are so many halibut on the grounds that it's going to be a real problem. He would like the Council to increase the amount for joint ventures. Crab is also a problem. He recommended that the Council form a workgroup to work with the draggers on this problem.

Donald McCaughran, IPHC. In response to a request from Bob McVey to indicate the most critical areas for halibut, Dr. McCaughran said the Alitak Bay/Trinity Island area is important. Many halibut stay in that area year-round and provide the harvest for Kodiak small-boat fleets. Halibut that leave the area are found off Yakutat, Southeast, B.C., and Washington and Oregon. The halibut stocks have grown considerably and incidental catch is a real problem. He thinks there are solutions which could be found by fishermen working together on the problem. Draggers will

provide a specific recommendation. The SAC recommended that the
proposed special workshop's deliberations be completed as soon
as possible.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that the Council request an emergency reprieve
from that would exempt pelagic (off bottom) trawls in the Gulf of
Alaska so that the incidental catch of halibut in other U.S.
trawl fisheries would not shut down the pelagic fishery. The AP
also recommended that the Council request emergency regulations
to set the halibut by-catch quotas for U.S. driftnets at 250 mt in
the Western area and 350 mt in the Central area of the Gulf.

Public Testimony

John Lee, Fishing Vessel Council member, in Council testimony
the role of incidental catch for the foreign fleet is as much
lower than the domestic fleet. He's very curious about what the
economic cost of the halibut incidental catch is to U.S. halibut
fishermen in the Gulf. There are a lot of unanswered questions
and he would like more information on the problem. An urgent
figure approximately 15% of the total allowable halibut catch
last year will be allowed to be taken as incidental catch. He
would like to see a study group convened to work on some of the
unanswered questions about incidental catches and their economic
impact. One way to handle incidental catch would be a package
of number limits.

Ken Kottick, Kottick. He is a drifter who participated in joint
ventures. It is impossible to stay away from the halibut and
admittedly, there's a real problem in staying away from pro-
hibited species. He feels American fishermen should be allowed a
larger directed halibut fishery to reduce the number of the
prohibited.

Alvin Holt, Ouzinkie. A limit of 250 mt of halibut by-catch
seems realistic to drifters. There are no way halibut on the
grounds that it's going to be a real problem. He would like the
Council to increase the ground for joint ventures. Chad is also
a problem. He recommended that the Council form a working group to
work with the drifters on this problem.

Donald McCann, TREC. In response to a request from Bob Mavey
to indicate the most critical areas for halibut on Washington
and the Alaska Territory Island area is important. Many
believe that there are four-ton and would like the harvest for
Kottick small-coast fleet. Halibut that leave the area are found
off Vancouver, Seattle, B.C., and Washington and Oregon. The
halibut stocks have grown considerably and incidental catch is a
real problem. He thinks there are solutions which could be found
by fishermen working together on the problem. Programs will

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never avoid some halibut by-catch; they just hope that it never gets so high that it hurts the domestic halibut fishery which is so important to Kodiak and other small-boat fisheries. IPHC has done some study of gear modifications to reduce the incidental catch and will be continuing this research this year.

Mickey Serwald, President, Alaska Draggers Assn. The 52 mt incidental catch in the Gulf is based on obsolete information. The draggers are doing everything possible to keep the incidental catch low, but the bottomfish operation in the Gulf may be terminated within days. There are more halibut now than ever before. From the fisherman's point of view, an incidental catch based on a percentage of the total catch would be helpful.

Al Burch, Mgr., Alaska Draggers Assn. Mr. Burch read a letter into the record from five Alaska draggers asking the Council to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of the FMP. Mr. Burch said they are working with other associations to come up with answers to the incidental catch problem. It is very important to them to have the 52 mt limit raised.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. The Council should be aware that there is a lot of demographic transition in the fleets at this time when making any changes. The nursery grounds in Bristol Bay are entirely justified and the resource should be considered first. He is involved in the industry workgroup studying the incidental catch problem.

COUNCIL ACTION

There was a consensus among Council members that an emergency regulation was needed to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from provisions of the FMP which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska. The figures contained in the FMP were established in 1978 and were based primarily on a Pacific cod fishery. It was also determined that an extension of the 90-day emergency regulation period would be needed in order to protect the winter & spring midwater trawl fishery in Shelikof Strait.

Gene Didonato moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and 50 CFR Section 672.20(e) which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska by U.S. trawlers because without immediate action current regulations could shut down the U.S. 1984 Shelikof Strait pelagic trawl fishery for Alaska pollock. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried unanimously.

never avoid some habitat loss. They just hope that it never
gets so high that it forces the decision to build. They're
so important to habitat and other small-scale fisheries. I think
some kind of gear modification to reduce the incidental
catch and still be continuing this research this year.

Richard Smith, President, Alaska Fisheries Board. The 25th
incident is on the basis of specific information.
The programs are being everything possible to keep the incidental
catch low but the bottom-line question is the only way to
reduce it is to reduce the effort. There are more halibut now than ever
before. From the fishermen's point of view, an incidental catch
based on a percentage of the total catch would be helpful.

Al Smith, Alaska Fisheries Board. Mr. Smith read a letter
into the record from the Alaska Department asking the Council to
exempt U.S. vessels from the provisions of the 1978 Act. Mr.
Smith said they are working with other associations to come up
with answers to the incidental catch problem. It is very
important to them to have the 25th limit raised.

Richard Smith, President, Alaska Fisheries Board. The Council should be
aware that there is a lot of geographic variation in the fishery
at this time when making any changes. The necessary grounds in
British Columbia are currently protected and the resource should be
considered first. He is involved in the industry working
study on the incidental catch problem.

EMERGENCY ACTION

There was a consensus among Council members that an emergency
regulation was needed to exempt U.S. vessels from the
provisions of the 1978 Act which limit the amount of halibut
that can be taken in the 25th zone. The 1978 Act
was passed primarily on a Pacific and
Alaska. It was also determined that an extension of the 25th
emergency regulation would be needed in order to protect
the water and spring wherever new fisheries in British Columbia.

Some discussion moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated
by the Secretary of Commerce to exempt U.S. vessels from the
provisions of 25th zone of the 1978 Act and 25th zone
of the 1978 Act which limit the amount of halibut that can be taken
in the 25th zone. Immediate action was taken to exempt U.S. vessels
from the provisions of the 1978 Act which limit the amount of halibut
that can be taken in the 25th zone. The action was seconded by Mr.
Smith and carried unanimously.

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Bob Mace moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to raise the halibut by-catch limits in Section 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and in 50CFR Section 672-20(e) to 270 mt in the Western Gulf and 768 mt in the Central Gulf of Alaska because without immediate action current regulations could shut down U.S. joint venture and shore-based fisheries using bottom trawls. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken and carried unanimously with Sara Hemphill abstaining.

Several Council members were concerned with the amount of tonnages and while supporting the emergency regulation, said they could not support them in the FMP.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska FMP to control the halibut and crab by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska. The objective of the amendment shall be to hold the total halibut and crab by-catch in all trawl fisheries at approximately the 1981-82 average levels of the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, but with as few impediments as possible to the developing U.S. fisheries in that area. The amendment package shall contain at least the following options:

- 1. Allow the domestic halibut and crab by-catch to rise and reduce the foreign by-catch by allowing pelagic gear only in the foreign trawl fishery year-round West of 140°W longitude.*
- 2. Establish halibut and crab by-catch rates in the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.*
- 3. A combination of closing halibut nursery areas to foreign and domestic trawling and/or limits and/or by-catch rates on the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.*
- 4. Establish halibut and crab by-catch limits for the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.*

As part of the motion, the Council directs the staff to work with the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup to prepare an analysis of these options which can be included in the amendment package. John Winther seconded the motion which carried, 7 to 2, with Bob Mace and Rudy Petersen voting against.

Sara Hemphill moved that the current restriction on joint venture vessel permits, which limits the amount of sablefish which can be delivered to a foreign processing vessel be removed until such time as there is no foreign TALFF on sablefish. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion.

Bob Wade moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated in the
Department of Commerce to allow the limited bycatch limits in
section 3.1.1.3 of the FFA and to allow section 3.1.1.3.1 to
370 m in the western Gulf and 300 m in the central Gulf of
Alaska because without immediate action current regulations could
allow U.S. fishery vessels and shore-based fisheries using
bottom trawls. The motion was seconded by Harold Johnson and
carried unanimously with the following explanation:

Several Council members were concerned with the amount of
bycatch and while supporting the emergency regulation, said they
could not support them in the long run.

John Johnson moved that the Council send out for public review an
amendment to the Gulf of Alaska FFA to control the bycatch and
area bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska. The objective of the amend-
ment shall be to hold the total bycatch and area bycatch to all
fisheries at approximately the 1981-82 average levels of
the Gulf of Alaska total fisheries, but with no net reduction
as possible to the developing U.S. fisheries in that area.
The amendment package shall contain at least the following
options:

1. Allow the domestic bycatch and area bycatch to rise and
reduce the foreign bycatch by allowing bycatch gear only in
the foreign vessel gear-ward west of 150°W
longitude.
2. Domestic bycatch and area bycatch limits in the foreign and
domestic total fisheries.
3. A combination of closing bycatch nursery areas to foreign
and domestic fishing and/or limits and/or bycatch rates to
the foreign and domestic total fisheries.
4. Partially bycatch and area bycatch limits for the foreign
and domestic total fisheries.

In case of the motion, the Council directed the staff to work with
the Gulf of Alaska fisheries advisory committee to prepare an
analysis of these options which can be included in the amendment
package. John Johnson seconded the motion which carried 7 to 3.
with Bob Wade and Kelly Johnson voting against.

Gene Hamilton moved that the current regulation on gear vessels
vessel permits, which limits the amount of bycatch which can be
delivered to a port or processing vessel be removed with the
time as there is no foreign limit on bycatch. Gene Hamilton
seconded the motion.

After Council discussion, the motion was withdrawn to allow adequate notice to the public. Jim Branson noted that if it is to be discussed at the next Council meeting, the staff should be directed to do as much analysis as they can before then.

Don Collinsworth suggested the staff look at the geographic distribution of the catch in the foreign fleet and the potential geographic distribution of the catch in joint ventures and find out if the fish are coming out of the same areas or different areas and explore some of the marketing implications of increasing sablefish incidental catch levels and lowering the TALFF.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council direct the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup to include in the scope of their work a complete evaluation of the by-catch of non-target and prohibited species by all fishermen, both domestic and foreign. The prohibited species workgroup is requested to produce information and data detailing species composition of by-catch, an analysis of areas of by-catch, and an analysis of the proportional distribution of by-catch between the pelagic and on-bottom trawl fisheries. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried, 5 to 4, with Campbell, Lokken, Petersen, and Winther voting against.

Some Council members felt that the prohibited species workgroup will deal with these issues where adequate information is available. Jim Branson noted that there is poor information available on domestic catches.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

D-4A 1984 TACs, DAPs, JVPs

Council members were provided with the most recent estimates of industry needs for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands based on a recent NMFS survey. Estimates had been mailed to the public for review and Council members received copies of comments in a recent Council mailing.

Loh-Lee Low told the Council that the PMT report provided was based on the Team's evaluation of the status of the stocks and on the needs of the fishery. Since the September meeting, the Team reviewed information received from INPFC and Japanese and Korean scientists and provided an updated report on status of stocks.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended EY values suggested in the supplement to the Resource Assessment Document (RAD) [2,248,345 mt total groundfish] and concurred with the Team's recommendations for the TAC values.

After Council discussion, the motion was withdrawn so that adequate notice to the public. The Council noted that it is to be discussed at the next Council meeting, the staff should be directed to do as much analysis as they can before then.

For information suggested the staff look at the geographic distribution of the catch in the foreign fleet and the potential geographic distribution of the catch in joint ventures and find out if the fish are coming out of the same areas or different areas and explore some of the marketing implications of increasing potential potential catch levels and lowering the

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council direct the staff of Alaska Wildlife Species Working Group to include in the scope of their work a complete evaluation of the impact of non-target and prohibited species by all fisheries. Park, Douglas and Jensen. The prohibited species working group is requested to produce information and data detailing species composition of by-catch in areas of size of by-catch, and to analyze of the proper vessel distribution of by-catch between the pelagic and on-bottom trawl fisheries. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried, 5 to 0 with Campbell, Jensen, Peterson, and Winter voting against.

Some Council members felt that the Wildlife Species Working Group will deal with these issues where adequate information is available. Jim Hanson noted that there is poor information available on domestic catches.

1-4 Final Scientific Issues Committee

1-4A 1983 Report, Data, 1983

Council members were provided with the most recent estimates of industry needs for the Bering Sea/Alaskan halibut based on a recent NMFS survey. Information has been called for the public for review and Council members received copies of comments in a recent Council meeting.

James Low said the Council that the 1983 report provided was based on the Team's evaluation of the status of the stock and on the needs of the fishery. Since the September meeting, the Team reviewed information received from NMFS and Japanese and other scientists and provided an updated report on status of stocks.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The 1983 recommendations by James suggested in the application to the Research - Assessment Element (RAE) (1983, 1984 and 1985) provided and concurred with the team's recommendations for the 1983 season.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP heard testimony from several industry representatives who feel the codfish populations are greatly diminished. Therefore, the AP recommended that the PMT harvest recommendations be accepted, except that of codfish. For codfish, they recommended that TAC be allowed to equal DAH, plus an amount for an incidental catch for the foreign fishery, to be determined by the SSC.

Public Testimony

Konrad Uri, TransPacific Inc. The cod harvest is down this year. Abundance of large fish is increasing, but abundance of small fish is diminishing. He would like to see the directed foreign fishery kept at the status quo and very carefully monitored. If the stock goes down, U.S. fishermen should have priority in the fishery.

Adm. Jon Yong Hwang, Korea Deepseas Fisheries Assn. Korean joint venture purchases in 1983 totalled about 60,000 mt. On the whole, their record was good and will improve. He projects a 30% increase in the purchase of codfish based on favorable performance by the American partner, and hopes the Council will keep in mind the need to keep the foreign fisheries viable although he understands the U.S. concern for domestic fisheries. He is concerned that the full realization of the Magnuson Act be preserved--to fully utilize stocks--and feels pollock may go underharvested this year because of allocation problems.

Dennis Petersen, Barry Collier, NPFVOA. Fishermen involved in the fishery see a decline in catches of cod in the Bering Sea. With declining stocks and the domestic industry growing, directed foreign fishing for cod should be precluded for 1984.

Barry Collier. An industry group has been established to study the crab incidental catch problem and the Council may want to have representation on the group.

Barry Fisher. He feels the numbers set too high for cod and that industry experience was not taken into account when estimates were made.

Donald Swisher, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn/Hokuten Trawlers Assn. The foreign trawlers' most serious operational problem in 1983 has been to avoid sablefish as an incidental catch in the trawl fishery. They would like the Council to take a serious look at 1983 industry DAH figures and the projected 1984 figures. They feel the projected figures are much too high. The Japanese trawl industry would need about 1,250 mt TALFF to be available to allow them to continue fishing. They would need at least

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP being basically from several industry representatives who feel the existing regulations are greatly diminished. Therefore, the AP recommended that the PWT harvest recommendations be accepted, except that of codling. For codling, they recommended that SAC be allowed to set a limit, plus an amount for an individual vessel for the foreign fishery, to be determined by the SAC.

Public Testimony

Harvey E. Wrenschmidt Inc. The cod harvest is down this year. A number of large fish is increasing but a number of small fish is declining. He would like to see the directed foreign fishery kept at the status quo and very carefully monitored. If the stock goes down, U.S. fishermen should have priority in the fishery.

Adm. for Fishery Korea Fisheries Agency, Korea
Joint venture companies in 1982 totalled about \$2,000,000. On the whole, their record was good and will improve. He projects a 30% increase in the purchase of codling based on favorable government by the American partner and hopes the Council will keep in mind the need to keep the foreign fisheries viable. Although he understands the U.S. concern for domestic fisheries, he is concerned that the full realization of the Magnuson Act be preserved to fully utilize stocks and fishery resources. He understands the need because of allocation problems.

Genie Johnson, Barry Collier, MFWA Fishermen involved in the fishery see a decline in number of cod in the North Sea. With declining stocks and the domestic industry growing, directed foreign fishing for cod should be prohibited for 1984.

Barry Collier An industry group has been established to study the dual incidental catch problem and the Council may want to have representation on the group.

Barry Fisher He feels the numbers are too high for cod and that industry experience see not take into account when estimates were made.

Donald Smith Japan Dept. of Fisheries Administration
Japan's foreign fisheries sector is a very important program in 1983. He would like to avoid a similar as an incident which in the past has occurred. They would like the Council to take a serious look at 1983 industry and the projected 1984 figures. They feel the projected figures are much too high. The Japanese government would need about 1,300 net GRT to be available to allow them to continue fishing. They would need at least

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1,000 mt of Pacific ocean perch as an allowable incidental catch. Raising the TAC to about 50% of the OY would still allow for rebuilding of stocks. They asked the Regional Director to make some immediate releases to TALFF to deal with the incidental catch problems.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline & Gillnet Assn. The cod TAC of 210,000 mt suggested by the PMT was designed to accommodate the foreign fisheries to allow them to continue to fish at the current level without expansion. The lower figures being discussed will shrink the TALFF and cause problems for their fleet. He asked the Council to adjust the TAC upward by approximately 15,000 mt or re-examine the projected DAHs, or that serious consideration be given to remedying this problem by the use of the reserve mechanism by the Regional Director.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members discussed ways of providing a minimum amount of cod for the Japanese at the beginning of the year. Lowering the TAC for cod would also cause the TALFF to shrink causing problems for the Japanese fleets. It was noted that the Regional Director, through amendment to the FMP, has the authority to make adjustments if necessary. Mr. McVey said that he would need direction from the Council on how they want to approach the situation. The Regional Director also has field order authority for closures if conservation problems occur. Mr. McVey also noted that withholding TALFF until later in the year could be a problem because it is almost entirely an incidental catch. Releasing only minimal amounts until July 1 would be a better way to handle it. Council members agreed with Mr. McVey's suggestion.

John Winther moved that the Council recommend to the Regional Director that he do everything possible to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Japanese longliners by releasing 2,000 mt of cod until there is better information on the codfish stocks in the Bering Sea. Jeff Stephan seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Harold Lokken moved that the Council establish the 1984 TACs, DAPs and JVPs based on current NMFS estimates, as submitted on Table 1 of December 9, 1983, 9:30 a.m. (Included here at Appendix III). The motion was seconded by John Winther and passed unanimously with Bob McVey abstaining.

Bob McVey said that zero TALFFs should be avoided because they become prohibited species and are tossed over the side and valuable information is lost. Jim Branson noted that the Regional Director has the authority to shift some amounts out of reserve to avoid this situation.

1,000 mt of Pacific ocean permit as an eligible industrial catch.
During the TAC of about 100 mt of the OY would still allow for
rebuilding of stocks. They asked the Regional Director to make
some minor adjustments to TAC to deal with the industrial
catch.

Mr. Mowbray, North Pacific Fisheries & Oceans Branch, the
TAC of 100,000 mt suggested by the RFR was designed to accom-
modate the foreign fisheries to allow them to continue to fish at
the current level without expansion. The lower TAC was being
discussed with the TAC and some problems for that
level. He asked the Council to adjust the TAC to allow for approx-
imately 10,000 mt of re-examination the given to re-examine the problem by the
use of the reserve mechanism by the Regional Director.

GENERAL ACTION

Council members discussed ways of providing a minimum amount of
and for the Japanese at the beginning of the year. Looking at
TAC for cod would also cause the TAC to think current problems
for the Japanese TAC. It was noted that the Japanese
Director, through agreement to the RFR, has the authority to make
adjustments if necessary. Mr. Mowbray said that he would need
direction from the Council on how they want to approach the
situation. The Regional Director also has field order authority
for closure if conservation problems occur. Mr. Mowbray also
noted that without TAC will later in the year could be a
problem because it is almost entirely an industrial catch
leaving only a small amount until July. It would be a better way
to handle it. Council members agreed with Mr. Mowbray's sugges-
tion.

John Mowbray moved that the Council recommend to the Regional
Director that he be authorized to assist the minimum
requirements of the Japanese fisheries by releasing 8,000 mt of
cod until there is better information on the cod fish stocks in
the Bering Sea. This step was recommended and motion which carried
unanimously.

John Mowbray moved that the Council authorize the 1984 TAC
of 100,000 mt as a minimum TAC estimate, as submitted in
Table 1 of December 9, 1983, 9:30 a.m. included here as Appendix
(VI). The motion was seconded by John Mowbray and passed unani-
mously with Bob Mowbray abstaining.

Bob Mowbray said that since TAC's should be avoided because they
remove prohibited species and are covered over the side and
valuable information is lost. The Director noted that the
Regional Director has the authority to shift some amounts out of
reserve to avoid this situation.

D-4B Incidental Catch of Prohibited Species

Incidental catches by U.S. trawlers in joint ventures of king crab and Tanner crab in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary have increased considerably in 1983. The Council received letters from NPFVOA and the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union asking the Council to reconsider their policy on the by-catch of prohibited species by U.S. trawlers in that area. Current Council policy is to not impose restrictions on the developing groundfish fishery. In addition, U.S. trawling in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary has been designated an experimental fishery in order to gather data on by-catches. A report by Dr. Jerry Reeves evaluating the impact of incidental crab catches on Bristol Bay crab in 1983 concluded that incidental catches were not a significant factor in the observed decline in stock abundance of king and Tanner crabs.

It was the concensus of the Council that the PMT should address the problem of the incidental catch of prohibited species in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary and recommend possible action by the Council.

Amendment 6 to the BSAI FMP

The Council received a letter on December 9 from Bill Gordon disapproving Amendment 6 to the BSAI FMP because it was determined that the amendment is not consistent with the criteria set forth in paragraph (1)(A) of Subsection 304(a) of the Magnuson Act. The letter stated that there was support for the concept involved to promote and expand both the harvesting and the processing sectors of our commercial fishery while providing for conservation and other needs, but that all reasonable alternatives were not considered. Council staff will analyze the conclusions in the letter and report to the Council in February.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

E-1 Status of Contracts and Proposals

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

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 February meeting.

D-4b Proposed Cancellation of Species

Incidental catches by U.S. fishermen in joint ventures of king
trawls and Tanner crab in the Bristol Bay for Sanctuary have
increased considerably in 1988. The Council received letters
from WPTCO and the King Sea Fishermen's Union asking the Council
to reconsider their policy on the by-catch of prohibited species
by U.S. trawlers in that area. Current Council policy is to not
impose restrictions on the vessel's groundfish fishery. In
addition, U.S. trawling in the Bristol Bay for Sanctuary has been
designated an experimental fishery in order to gather data on
by-catches. A report by Dr. Jerry Reeves evaluating the impact
of incidental catch on Bristol Bay crab in 1988 concluded
that incidental catches were not a significant factor in the
observed decline in stock abundance of king and Tanner crabs.

It was the consensus of the Council that the WPTCO should continue
the problem of the incidental catch of prohibited species in the
Bristol Bay for Sanctuary and recommend possible action by the
Council.

Amendment 6 to the BSA 1985

The Council received a letter on December 9 from Bill Gordon
disapproving Amendment 6 to the BSA 1985 because it was deter-
mined that the amendment is not consistent with the criteria set
forth in paragraph 1(a) of Subpart 101.11 of the Magnuson
Act. The letter stated that there was support for the concept
involved to provide and expand both the harvesting and the
processing sectors of our commercial fishery while providing for
conservation and other needs, but that all reasonable alterna-
tives were not considered. Council staff will analyze the con-
clusions in the letter and report to the Council in February.

E. COASTAL, FISHERIES, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

4-1 Status of Licenses and Permits

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC received draft final reports for Council BS-2 (Crab
Observer Program) and Council BS-1 (Local and Global Species
of the Pacific Halibut Fishery) for review and will give final
recommendations on their adequacy at the February meeting.

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

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Domestic Groundfish Monitoring | \$145,000 |
| 2. | Chinook Salmon Incidental Catch -
Part II | 40,000 |
| 3. | Bering Sea Herring Scale
Analysis - Part II | 60,000 |
| 4. | Fisheries Mgmt. Conference | 10,000 |
| 5. | ADF&G FMP Development | 15,000 |

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee concurred with the SSC's recommendations. The SSC and Finance Committee recommended these studies be sole-sourced, either because they are extensions of ongoing work where necessary expertise has been accumulated or, as with item 4, the Council is simply a co-sponsor.

The Finance Committee reviewed current contracts and found no action necessary other than to withhold final payment on Contract 82-2 and Contract 82-1 until final reports are approved.

The Committee recommended that a summary of current king crab research projects being conducted be provided to them at the February meeting.

COUNCIL ACTION

Bob Mace moved to approve the Finance Committee's recommendations. John Winther seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

In an impromptu speech before the Council, Bill Sheffield, Governor of Alaska, congratulated members on their efforts on behalf of the Alaska fishing industry. He also thanked the Council for approving an Alaska/Korea joint venture and underscored the importance of bottomfish to the Alaskan fishing industry. He told Council members that diversification is important as well as finding new, innovative methods of fishing.

Although the Governor is in favor of a U.S.-Canada salmon interception treaty, he is not prepared to endorse one which is not equitable for Alaskans.

The SSC also reviewed and discussed research priorities and funding. It noted that a domestic research monitoring program should be given highest priority. The SSC established the following list of research projects to be submitted for programmatic funding:

- 1. Domestic Research Monitoring \$150,000
- 2. Alaska Salmon Industrial Catch - Part II \$50,000
- 3. Setting the Pricing Scale Alaska - Part II \$50,000
- 4. Fisheries Mgmt. Conference \$10,000
- 5. Alaska RFP Development \$5,000

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee reported with the 1983 recommendations. The SSC and Finance Committee recommended that studies be solicited, either because they are extensions of ongoing work there necessary expenses has been committed or, as with item 4, the Council is already a co-sponsor.

The Finance Committee reviewed current contracts and found no action necessary other than to withhold final payment on contract 82-2 and contract 82-1 until final reports are approved.

The Committee recommended that a summary of current and past research projects being conducted be provided to them at the February meeting.

COUNCIL ACTION

It was moved to approve the Finance Committee's recommendations. John White seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In an impromptu speech before the Council, Bill Sheffield, Governor of Alaska, congratulated members of your efforts on behalf of the Alaska fishing industry. He also thanked the Council for approving an Alaskan joint venture and underscored the importance of continued support to the Alaska fishing industry. He told Council members that diversification is important as well as finding new, innovative methods of fishing.

Although the Governor is in favor of a U.S.-Canada salmon trade agreement treaty, he is not prepared to endorse one which is not equitable for Alaska.

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Chairman Jim Campbell announced that there is an opening on the Advisory Panel and that the nominating committee will be looking at resumes and will have a recommendation before the next Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 1983.