

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

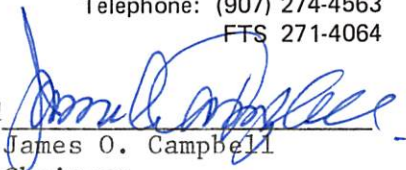
411 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



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

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

Certified

  
James O. Campbell  
Chairman

Date

12/13/85

## MINUTES

68th Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
September 24-26, 1985  
Sheraton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met September 24-26, 1985 at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on Monday and Tuesday, September 23-24. The Advisory Panel met Monday afternoon with the Scientific and Statistical Committee, on Tuesday with the Council, and alone on Wednesday. The Permit Review Committee met on Tuesday evening and the Finance Committee met on Wednesday morning.

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

### Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman  
Rudy Petersen  
Guy Thornburgh\* for Don Collinsworth  
Henry Mitchell  
Oscar Dyson  
Russ Cahill for  
Bill Wilkerson  
CDR Robt. Clark for  
RADM Robt. Lucas

Robert U. Mace for  
John Donaldson  
Robert McVey  
John Peterson  
John Harville  
Sara Hemphill  
John Winther  
Jon Nelson for  
Robert Gilmore

\*Mr. Thornburg was replaced by Fred Gaffney on Thursday, Sept. 26.

### NPFMC Staff

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

Ron Miller  
Ron Rogness  
Terry Smith  
Helen Allen  
Peggy Kircher

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Support Staff

Joe Terry, NMFS-NWAFC  
Ron Berg, NMFS  
Craig Hammond, NMFS  
Pat Travers, NMFS

Gary Stauffer, NMFS-NWAFC  
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC  
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G  
Jim Balsiger, NMFS-NWAFC

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman  
Bill Aron  
Douglas Eggers  
Larry Hreha  
Tom Northup  
Bradley Stevens, NMFS-Kodiak

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman  
Robert Burgner  
Don Bevan  
Scott Marshall  
Steve Langdon

Advisory Panel

Larry Cotter, Chairman  
Bob Alverson, Vice-Chairman  
Thorn Smith  
Tom Stewart  
Ron Hegge  
Robert Hunter  
Nancy Munro  
Al Osterback  
Julie Settle  
Walter Smith  
Dave Woodruff  
Eric Jordan

Terry Baker  
Joseph Chimegalrea  
Al Burch  
Barry Fisher  
Oliver Holm  
Pete Isleib  
Rick Lauber  
Don Rawlinson  
Cameron Sharick  
Richard White  
John Woodruff

General Public

Clem Tillion, Halibut Cove  
Doug Humes, Sen. Murkowski's Staff  
Kathy Kinnear, Kodiak  
Mike Atterbekky, Alyeska Ocean  
Chriss Swaney, Anchorage Times  
Ray Weaver, DSFU  
Annie Burnham, AK Joint Venture Fisheries  
Jon Zurkin, PRVL  
Ron Petersen, New Era Fisheries  
Rick Krueger, MRC  
Steve Kendall, Dutch Harbor  
Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers  
Lois J. Duffy, Seattle  
Elizabeth Hastorf, Juneau  
Greg Baker, AK Dept. of Commerce  
Dan Knight, US Corps of Engineers  
Evan Haynes, NMFS-Auke Bay Lab  
Brian Kelly, AK Pacific Seafoods

Bart Eaton, Seattle  
Ken Wallack, PRVL  
Jeff Hendricks, NPFVOA  
Phillip Chung, Cal-Alaska  
Deborah Pearson, NPFVOA  
John Daly, AK World Trade  
S.T. Grabacki, Anchorage  
Chuck Kekoni, Eagle River  
Steve Hughes, NRC  
Jeff Berliner, UPI  
Larry Linegar, Anchorage  
J. R. Gilbert, Seattle  
James O'Hanlon, Seattle  
Jeff Stephan, UFMA  
Terry Reeve, Anchorage  
Dan Cox, Kodiak  
Harold Jones, Kodiak  
Ted West, Alaskan Fisheries Co.

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Peggy McCalment, Alaska Contact Ltd.	Chris Blackburn, Kodiak Mirror
Larry Dirks, Jr., Atka Fishermen's Assn.	Wm. Sullivan, Homer
Mark Swigaroff, Atka Fishermen's Assn.	H. Park, AVF
Lawrence Prokopeuff, Atka Fishermen's Assn.	Evie Dunkel, Seattle
T. E. Luttrell, Golden Alaska Seafoods	Chris Mitchell, AFDF
Paul MacGregor, N. Pac. Longline Assn.	Richard A. Leslie, Anchorage
Wes Johnsen, N.P. Fisheries Development Inc.	Phil Chitwood, MRCI
Chris Jones, China Nat'l Fisheries Corp.	Dan McGreevy, ASC
Li Shan Xun, China Nat'l Fisheries Corp.	Eric Jensen, Wasilla
Walter Butler, Minnesota	Don Beeson, Anchorage
K.B. O'Leary, Kodial	Fred Buchan, Kodiak
Carol Stolz, Seattle	Becky Gay, RDC, Anchorage
Scot Land, Alaska Pacific Marine Services	Donald Johnson, Kodiak
Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers	Mike Thompson, Alaska Contact
Ozzie Nordheim, Alaska Sea Inc.	Thorne Tasker, AK JV Fisheries
Kris Poulsen, Coalition of Concerned Crab Fishermen	
H. Iwasaki, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	H. Isgihara, JFA
T. Ueno, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	H. Hineno, Japanese Interpreter
T. Nakada, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	K. Jodai, Seattle
M. Tamura, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	N. Muranaga, Seattle
E. Nishimori, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	N. Takagi, Seattle
N. Sato, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	K. Ishida, Seattle
E. Nishihara, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn.	T. Tanikawa, Hokuten Trawlers
Y. Satoh, Hokuten Trawlers Assn.	M. Sakurada, Interpreter
T. Yamamota, Hokuten Trawlers Assn.	Y. Suenaga, Japanese Consulate
S. Takaoka, N.P. Longline Gillnet Assn.	H. Hirai, JFA-Anchorage
Y. Ogata, N.P. Longline Gillnet Assn.	M. Hamaya, NPLGA
H. Sasaki, N.P. Longline Gillnet Assn.	T. Nemoto, NPLGA
Y. Sunaba, Interpreter, NPLGA	Steve Dickinson, Attorney

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

Rudy Petersen, Vice Chairman, convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24. Mr. Branson advised the Council that Chairman Jim Campbell had another commitment and would arrive shortly. Mr. Petersen introduced alternates Russ Cahill (alternate for Bill Wilkerson, Washington Dept. of Fisheries), Barbara Wyman (attending for Ray Arnaudo, State Department), Guy Thornburg (alternate for Don Collinsworth, ADF&G), and CDR Richard Clark (alternate for RADM Robert Lucas).

Jim Branson reviewed the agenda. Mr. Campbell arrived and requested that Clem Tillion be given time to report on recent U.S.-Japanese discussions on salmon interception. Mr. Branson asked that Doug Humes be given time to present a statement from Senator Murkowski. Bob Mace moved to approve the agenda with the suggested additions. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

John Winther moved to accept the minutes of the August 1985 Council meeting. Bob McVey seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

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Jim Branson announced an executive session of the Council for noon on Wednesday to discuss personnel matters and hear a report on fisheries matters from the State Department.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Branson's report was included in Council notebooks. He introduced new staff economist Terry Smith and also Will Barber who is working with the Council while on sabbatical from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Council members were requested to submit travel claims as soon as possible so end-of-the-year reports can be prepared. Mr. Branson requested items for an agenda for a meeting of Council and NMFS representatives to discuss how NMFS could best provide continuing information for FMPs and how the Council could be involved in NMFS program planning. Joseph Angelovic, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science and Technology (NOAA) attended the Council meeting and met with Bob McVey, Bill Aron, Jim Campbell and Jim Branson to discuss these subjects.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

Bob Wilbur, ADF&G, reported that about 23,000 chinook were harvested during the 1985 winter troll season from October 1, 1984 through April 14, 1985. The winter catch was down about 30% from 1984 because of bad weather. The summer troll fishery harvested about 190,000 chinook during three fishing periods between June 3 and August 26. The total chinook harvest by all commercial and recreational fisheries in 1985 is an estimated 268,000 fish including 213,000 by troll, 33,000 by net and 22,000 recreationally.

The U.S. factory trawler fleet and U.S. catchers delivering to U.S. processors are projected to catch 136,000 mt of groundfish this year off Alaska, more than double the 50,000 mt DAP catches of the last two years. The main growth has been in Pacific cod where catches are projected to hit 85,000 mt by year's end. Pollock harvests may reach 35,000 mt. Sablefish closed in the Gulf of Alaska on July 15 with a catch of about 11,000 mt. About 4,200 mt of sablefish will be taken by U.S. fishermen from the Bering Sea/Aleutians this year.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

Japan has been the only foreign country to fish in the Gulf of Alaska so far this year. Their groundfish catch through September 7 was about 10,000 mt, mostly Pacific cod taken by longliners. Directed groundfish fisheries by Korea and Japan on pollock are expected to start this month. Foreign fleets from Japan, Korea, Poland and the USSR harvested 528,922 mt by September 10 from the Bering Sea and Aleutians. Their catches were 78% pollock, 16% flounders, and 5% Pacific cod. Approximately 73% of the catch was by Japan, 24% by South Korea, 2% by the USSR and less than 2% by Poland.

There were 232 foreign vessels off Alaska in August. This included 170 from Japan, 23 from the Soviet Union, 31 from Korea, 5 from Taiwan, 1 from Greece and 2 from Poland. By September 20 the number of vessels had decreased to 172 including 136 from Japan.

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

Through September 18 Coast Guard enforcement effort totaled 645 cutter days and 1,217 aircraft hours covering over 325,214 miles. They have conducted 439 fishing vessel boardings and 10 percent have resulted in violations or warnings. The Canadian fishing vessel ROGERS PASS was seized in Ketchikan after fishing about five miles north of the A-B Line. The vessel had 400 pounds of salmon in its holds and was released after paying a \$3,000 assessment. In Dutch Harbor the Portuguese side trawler ESTAVO GOMES is still awaiting resolution of crew payment and other financial problems. Apparently Solseca no longer operates the vessel and the Portuguese Consul General from San Francisco has flown to Dutch Harbor to assist in resolving the problems.

Outside the 200-mile zone a Coast Guard C-130 surveillance flight sighted three Taiwanese squid gillnet vessels near 47'30"N, 160'15"E and salmon were being processed on the deck of one. Photographs were forwarded to the American Institute of Taiwan via the State Department. The Institute has agreed to restrict their squid gillnetters to south of 35°N latitude until a final agreement can be reached. Six times during June and July gillnet vessels believed to be from Japan were sighted east of 175°E longitude in violation of International North Pacific Fisheries Commission agreements.

The USCG STORIS conducted a research and enforcement squid patrol in the North Pacific ocean from August 15 to September 19 which provided valuable data concerning the fishing patterns of the Japanese high seas squid fleets as well as marine mammal and bird entanglement in gillnets. Fifteen Japanese gillnet vessels were boarded, but none had incidental catches of salmon. Thirteen surveillance flights in support of STORIS' squid patrol detected up to 24 Japanese squid gillnet vessels operating north of the northernmost boundary as determined by Japanese regulations. Photographs and other pertinent information have been forwarded to the State Department.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through September 7, 1985 was 789,852 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska joint venture trawlers caught 221,000 mt pollock, 1,700 mt Pacific cod and 800 mt flatfish. Joint venture catch in the Bering Sea/Aleutians included 337,000 mt pollock, 107,000 mt yellowfin sole, 39,000 mt flatfish, 37,000 mt Atka mackerel, and 37,000 mt of Pacific cod. By mid-September there were still over 15 different joint venture operations in progress off Alaska using 80 U.S. trawlers compared to 57 last year at this time. From March through July there were 73-92 catchers compared to 42-66 in 1984.

B-6 1985 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Survey Results

Bradley Stevens, NMFS-Kodiak, reported that crab stocks in the Eastern Bering Sea were surveyed between June 6 and September 3 using two charter vessels. There were 358 trawl tows made covering approximately 132,000 square miles. Legal male crabs were sparsely distributed but their abundance appears to have stabilized at low levels. Juvenile crabs decreased significantly, which could cause future adult recruitment to continue the current decline for the next three or four years. Mature females in Bristol Bay decreased significantly,

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by 61% (from 17.6 to 6.8 million crabs) from 1984. Immature females also decreased significantly. Virtually all mature females were carrying full egg clutches, and the decline in overall abundance does not appear to have affected the capacity for full reproduction within the population, although most of the mature females were small.

The fishery opened on September 25, 1985 with a guideline harvest of 3.0-5.0 million pounds relative to an estimated stock of 12.5 million pounds in Bristol Bay.

B-7 Salmon/Crab Interceptions Update

Thorn Smith reported on recent meetings of representatives from the king crab and trawl industries on how to reduce crab bycatch but so far there has been no consensus. There was extensive public testimony on this agenda item (found in Appendix I to these minutes).

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC received reports on the status of Bering Sea crab stocks crab bycatch in joint ventures. Because there were no data available to determine if a conservation problem exists, they made no recommendations.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP conveyed extreme concern with the high incidental catch of king crab in the yellowfin sole fishery and urged the industry to develop long-term solutions to substantially reduce future bycatch. They urged all industry members to participate in the current workgroup on this subject. If a solution is not developed soon by the industry, the AP urged the Council to address the problem. They also encouraged research to identify the impact of trawling on crab populations beyond that seen in the actual bycatch.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council gave the incidental catch industry workgroup until December to develop an action plan to reduce the trawl bycatch of crab. If no consensus can be reached, the Council will develop regulations to be considered at the January 1986 Council meeting.

The Council also discussed using submersibles to observe trawl impacts on crabs and asked the Executive Director to write a letter of support to NMFS for this type of research.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Status Report on Reauthorization

There have been no new developments on reauthorization since the last Council update. The most controversial issue seems to be the foreign phase-out provisions in the bills submitted by Senators Stevens and Gorton.

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C-2 Update on Council Liaison Position

No update was available.

C-3 Review of Joint Venture Policy

Last September the Council approved an interim joint venture policy which was to be used in reviewing permits for 1985. It enabled the Council to selectively allocate groundfish tonnages to companies based on how much they helped develop the U.S. groundfish industry. Shortly before that December meeting NOAA General Counsel concluded that JVP could be allocated among companies only if demand exceeded supply and that the Council's criteria in the policy could be used to deny or condition a permit only if they were incorporated in an FMP or adopted by the Secretary of Commerce through rulemaking procedures. Therefore, the Council did not allocate any target species in 1985 but did recommend placing bycatch limits in permits for fully-DAP species. NMFS never implemented the recommendations because of technical problems with monitoring bycatch rates, so the 1985 fishery was from a common pool for all species. The Council did use the policy criteria to recommend some permit conditions, such as that Taiwan must mitigate the salmon interception problem and one company had to establish a letter of credit because of past payment problems.

In May of this year the Permit Review Committee started public review on a comprehensive document on the types of conditions and restrictions that might be placed in joint venture permits. In August the Committee reviewed the comments received and the policy in light of the latest legal advice which was that last year's advice was still valid and, in addition, OMB must approve all Council requests for information from joint ventures, whether mandatory or voluntary. The opinion also stated that the Magnuson Act does not authorize NOAA to restrict permits to resolve business disputes between foreign and U.S. business partners.

Based on this advice, the Permit Review Committee recommended that the Council, in an advisory capacity, should continue to recommend conditions and restrictions as appropriate; that NMFS should develop formal permit review procedures and criteria that complement the Council's; that Council procedures and criteria should be incorporated into the FMPs; that the criteria in the Council's policy should be used on a nation-by-nation basis only and comments by nations should be voluntary; that joint ventures should fish from a common JVP pool; and that the revised policy proposed by the Committee should be adopted by the Council as a basis for permit review this December.

In September the Council received word that NOAA General Council had changed its opinion and now believed that individual permits could be conditioned with amounts of target catch and bycatch, area or time restrictions if warranted, and conditions oriented toward solving industry problems in addition to conservation and management.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Permit Review Committee met on Tuesday evening, September 24 to discuss the new legal advice. The Committee again recommended that the Council should continue to recommend to the Secretary of Commerce any conditions and

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restrictions deemed appropriate on joint venture permits and requested that NMFS respond in writing if a Council recommendation is turned down. The Committee no longer recommended incorporating permit review policies into the FMPs. For 1986, the Committee recommended that joint venture target species be fished from a common pool whether or not demand exceeds supply. Each company would be allocated an amount of bycatch (PSC and fully-utilized DAP species) based on requested amounts of target species. When that bycatch limit is reached, the company must stop fishing regardless of whether target tonnage has been achieved. The Committee presented the Council with a revised Joint Venture Policy for consideration.

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

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

There was concern that under the common JVP pool system it would not be possible to differentially reward companies who give more assistance to U.S. industry than others. Some felt a company-by-company allocation system would be too administratively cumbersome. Some also felt company bycatch allocations may be difficult to implement and monitor. Council members also expressed concern that not enough is being done to help shoreside development.

John Peterson moved to approve the Permit Review Committee's recommendations, including the new Joint Venture Policy. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, with Sara Hemphill objecting, the motion carried. The new joint venture policy is Appendix II to these minutes.

C-4 Permit Review and Review of Allocations for Remainder of 1985

The Council received permit applications for three Chinese factory trawlers to fish in the Gulf of Alaska for 9,000 mt pollock in joint ventures and 1,000 mt in directed fisheries. The GIFA between the U.S. and China probably will not be ratified until mid-November; however the permits have been published in the Federal Register.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Committee decided to leave the review of the allocations and Chinese permits to the full Council after the status of groundfish stocks and industry needs for 1985 and 1986 had been examined.

Public Testimony

Ken Wallack, Pacific Rim Ventures, along with Mr. Li Shanxun of the China National Fisheries Corporation and an interpreter, told the Council they are anxious to begin fishing operations as soon as their GIFA and applications have been approved. Because of recent information on pollock stocks in the Gulf, they reduce their 1985 request to just a 4,500 mt pollock joint venture. They estimated that less than 1/3 of the total product from the joint venture would enter U.S. markets.



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Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers Assn., said their industry is concerned about a new competitor in the market for pollock fillets. With pollock stocks declining in the Gulf the Chinese should not receive an allocation.

Sara Hemphill and Mike Thompson, Alaska Contact Ltd, that the remaining unallocated pollock TALFF in the Gulf should be transferred to JVP for ongoing operations which will benefit U.S. fishermen and shoreside support operations. They also suggested reapportioning unneeded DAP to JVP.

Annie Burnham, Alaskan Joint Ventures, said that about 500 mt pollock will be needed in JVP for bycatch in other target fisheries for the remainder of 1985.

Scot Land, Alaska Marine Services, Homer, advised the Council of their new refueling operation for foreign processors and American catcher boats that allows them to remain at sea longer. He encouraged the Council to support Korean joint venture requests.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Some Council members felt that the pollock remaining in DAP should be saved for U.S. processors and fishermen to use in 1986. Others felt that some DAP pollock should be transferred to JVP to provide domestic fishermen with the opportunity to work when they would otherwise be idle.

Henry Mitchell moved to transfer the remaining 5,129 mt pollock from unallocated TALFF to JVP and to transfer 10,000 mt pollock from DAP to JVP. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and carried 5 to 4 with Cahill, R. Petersen, J. Peterson, and Winther voting against. Sara Hemphill abstained from voting and Mr. Gaffney, sitting in for Guy Thornburg, could not vote because he was not a designated alternate for Don Collinsworth.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve a joint venture allocation of 3,500 mt pollock to PRC; however the motion died for lack of a second.

Russ Cahill moved to allocate 4,500 mt pollock in the Gulf to PRC for joint venture operations. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

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Bob McVey moved to approve the request by Poland for an additional 10,000 mt pollock in the Gulf of Alaska. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

It was noted that because all joint ventures fish from a common JVP pool, there may not be any pollock left in JVP when PRC operations get underway.

C-5 Other Business

The Council discussed the problem of foreign interceptions of U.S. salmon. Recent meetings with the Japanese have not been very successful and Council members stressed the need to voice their strong objections to the Secretary of State. A letter was drafted to Secretary Shultz on both Japanese and Taiwanese interceptions.

Clem Tillion briefed the Council on recent meetings with Japanese representatives to develop a definite plan for reducing salmon interceptions. Mr. Tillion said that not much progress has been made but he could not discuss specifics. Another meeting has been scheduled in November. Mr. Tillion said that the landbased fleet is flagrantly violating INPFC treaties and Japanese law, but the mothership fleet seems to be operating legally. He asked the Council to write to the Secretary of State again strongly objecting to these interceptions.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the draft letters to be signed by Chairman Campbell and sent to Secretary Shultz. John Winther seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. The final copies of the letters are included with these minutes as Appendix III.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Preliminary DAP, JVP and OY Estimates for 1986

The Council was provided with reports on the status of stocks and halibut bycatch measures for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, which were reviewed by Gary Stauffer (NWAFC) and Steve Davis (NPFMC). Of particular note was the evidence of declining pollock stocks in the Gulf. The plan team recommended that no further pollock allocations be made for 1985 and that the 1986 pollock ABC be set at zero. If a directed pollock fishery is allowed in 1986, the Team recommended that it be delayed until after the January-March spawning period to maximize egg production.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

After examining estimated exploitable pollock biomass for the next three years, the SSC concluded that a harvest of up to 100,000 mt could be allowed in 1986 without significant risk to the reproductive potential of the stock. However, the succession of weak year classes entering the fishery warrants a conservative management approach. The SSC cautioned that they assumed a strong 1984 year class. If this assumption turns out to be wrong, a fishery in 1986 could further reduce the exploitable biomass. The SSC did not think future recruitment would be adversely affected by a Shelikof Strait fishery.

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The SSC supported the Plan Team's recommendations for Pacific cod, flounder, Pacific ocean perch, Atka mackerel, other rockfish, and all other species.

They also agreed with the Plan Team's overview of the sablefish fishery and recommended the Council adopt the Team's recommended ABC pending a final review of studies now in progress. The SSC did not feel that the restored sablefish stocks could sustain a catch of 25,000 mt over an extended period of time. They also expressed concern with management problems in the sablefish fishery during the past season and urged improved catch monitoring.

Report of the Advisory Panel

AP members expressed concern with the biological condition of the pollock resource and recommended that the Council encourage prospecting for pollock outside the Shelikof Strait area. The AP recommended a 1986 pollock OY of 50,000 mt, all for DAP. There should be no TALFF, and if joint ventures are allowed for pollock, they should be limited to exploration outside Shelikof Strait during the first four months of the year. A minority report of nine AP members noted that scientific data are insufficient to support lowering the OY to 50,000 mt in 1986. The AP also recommended not allocating the remaining TALFF for 1985 and leaving the DAP as is. The AP recommended the status quo for OYs for Pacific cod, flounder, Atka mackerel, other rockfish, thornyhead, squid, and other species and that no TALFF be allowed for these species in the Gulf in 1986.

The AP noted that Pacific ocean perch is mainly a bycatch fishery in the Gulf and recommends the Council provide for as much of a DAP directed fishery as possible while bearing in mind the total OY is a relatively small component of Gulf of Alaska directed fisheries. They recommended the NMFS Regional Director set aside an adequate amount of the OY for bycatch purposes.

The AP felt an increased sablefish OY could be justified and recommended for public comment purposes only, setting an OY range of 9,000 mt to 25,000 mt but noting that the Council does not anticipate setting the OY in the upper range.

Public Testimony

Harold Jones, All Alaska Seafoods, Kodiak. They are planning to begin processing pollock and hope that there will be a winter roe fishery. They feel using more valuable products such as roe is probably the only viable way for them to get into the pollock fishery. He requested 9,000 mt pollock and 4,000 mt cod for the winter fishery.

Don Johnson, F/V MARGARET LYNN, Kodiak. If DAP fishermen cannot use the entire pollock OY in Shelikof Strait in 1985 then joint ventures should have access to it. Also, closing the pot sanctuary in the Bering Sea to domestic trawlers would severely crimp the midwater fishery for roe along the Aleutian Chain and cause severe economic problems. This midwater operation does not conflict with efforts to protect king crab and halibut in that area.

Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Assn. and Hokuten Trawlers. Does not agree with splitting the management areas in the Bering Sea/Aleutians; this will be another management burden. This should be clearly explained to the

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fishermen so they can comment. He feels this action should be done through a plan amendment.

Ed Lottrell, Golden Alaska Seafoods. He was concerned with the suggestion to eliminate the Gulf pollock DAP for the remainder of 1985 and close the winter roe fishery in 1986. Encouraged the Council to give special consideration to the needs of the domestic fishery for 1985-86, within biological boundaries.

Brian Kelly, Alaska Pacific Seafoods. They are involved in surimi production and are processing about 75 mt of pollock per day; year-round access to pollock is essential to their operation. They anticipate processing approximately 18,000 mt of pollock in 1986.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline Assn., told the Council that at this stage of the decisionmaking process it is premature to consider zero TALFF for the whole Gulf for 1986.

Mike Thompson, Alaska Contact, reviewed their joint venture plans for the remainder of 1985 and requested that the Council not cut off the pollock fishery because of bycatch needed in other fisheries.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council was given a table of estimated DAP, JVP and OY amounts for 1986 for the Gulf groundfish species. Bob Mace suggested that for purposes of public review the table should be approved as presented. There was considerable discussion of how the table should be structured for public review. The Plan Team was given direction on how it should be laid out and a draft table was submitted to the Council for approval.

Bob Mace moved to change the 1986 OY figures to ABC on the Gulf table for public review and pointed out that DAP and JVP are a repeat of this year's projected catches for the purpose of soliciting public comment. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

It was suggested that the columns for DAP and JVP be labeled "estimated actual 1985 DAP, JVP," to clarify what the figures represent.

Henry Mitchell moved to set ABC for pollock in the Central/Western Gulf at 100,000 mt. Oscar Dyson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Sara moved to accept the pollock DAP and JVP figures for pollock based on 1985 catches for public review. Bob Mace seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

The final table to be sent out for public review is included with these minutes as Appendix IV.

The staff was directed to prepare an extensive preamble to the public review document to be published in the Federal Register and that the table be properly footnoted to explain bycatch levels.

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Henry Mitchell moved to set the ABC for Pacific cod at 136,000 mt in the Gulf. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mace moved to accept the Plan Team and SSC recommendations for ABCs levels for flounders, Pacific ocean perch, sablefish, Atka mackerel, other rockfish, thornyhead rockfish, squid and other species. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob McVey moved to delete the column of halibut bycatch figures from the existing table and that those numbers be treated in the text of the preamble explaining that the ABC is a maximum amount and that OYs have not yet been finalized; the preamble should provide the percentage catch rates on which the bycatch figures are based. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. Rudy Petersen said that he would like all gear types to be represented when bycatch figures are being shown.

Remaining Pollock Allocations for 1985

Bill Robinson advised that only about 10,000 mt of the 44,000 mt pollock in DAP will be used by year end, the 221,500 mt JVP is fully used, there is 5,129 mt TALFF still unallocated, and no reserves left. Discussion and Council action on this item are under Agenda C-4. The Council voted to move the 5,129 mt of unallocated TALFF for pollock in the Gulf and 10,000 mt from DAP into JVP.

Status of Gulf Groundfish FMP Rewrite

The Plan Team has begun revising the Gulf Groundfish FMP, however revisions will be slow because some team members have other commitments. The Plan Team will meet next with the Council's Goals Subcommittee to discuss their involvement in the plan revision.

Status of Amendment 14

[Shortly after the Council adjourned on September 26, word was received that Amendment 14 had been approved by the Secretary of Commerce.]

D-2 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands

Review of Preliminary DAP, JVP, TAC estimates for 1986

The Council was given a copy of the Executive Summary to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Resource Assessment Document (RAD). Loh Lee Low, NWAFC, reviewed the status of stocks noting four of particular interest: pollock is declining; Pacific cod is continuing to decline rapidly; yellowfin sole remains high, however there were high bycatches of king crab in 1985; Atka mackerel abundance is declining rapidly, with the EY projected at 30,000 mt in 1986 compared to 37,700 mt this year. There is new information since publication of the RAD which indicates changes in stock status. Jim Glock said the Plan Team would review this new information in November and suggested the Council approve the current recommendations for DAP and JVP and the TAC

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estimates in the RAD for public review. The Council can then adjust them in December after survey results and other new information are in.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC noted that the RAD divides each species into two management areas, a departure from the past. They were unable to evaluate the proposed split at this time but were concerned that this was a major departure from the current management regime. The SSC recommended that an OY of 2 million mt, as recommended by the Plan Team, be sent out for public review. The proposed split in management areas should be clearly identified in the review documents. They also recommended including in the table of proposed TACs an additional column indicating what they would be if calculated the same way as in 1985.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP feels that the team's proposal to divide management areas for species previously managed region-wide should be reviewed more thoroughly to determine the socioeconomic impacts.

The AP recommended a 1986 pollock TAC of 1.1 million mt in the Bering Sea and 100,000 mt in the Aleutians as proposed in the RAD. The AP recommended a TAC of 141,000 mt in the Bering Sea and 24,000 mt in the Aleutians for Pacific cod. However, because of declining catch rates, the public should be advised that the Council anticipates decreasing the TAC for conservation purposes. They also recommended no TALFF for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutians for 1986.

For yellowfin sole, the AP recommended setting TAC at 339,780 mt in the Bering Sea and Aleutians as proposed in the RAD. For all remaining species the AP recommended sending out the TACs as proposed in the Bering Sea Resource Assessment Document.

The AP recommended the Council send out for public review the DAPs and JVPs proposed by the plan team.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the table of TAC, JVP and DAP apportionments presented by the Plan Team (see Appendix V to these minutes). The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Council members directed staff to prepare tables for the Gulf and Bering Sea/Aleutians that are consistent and carry the same type of information with the same captions. Jim Glock pointed out that bycatch in the Bering Sea is dealt with under the frameworked plan and bycatch tables will not be necessary.

Status of Amendment 9

Secretarial review of Amendment 9 is scheduled to end on October 17.

The "Fletcher Report"

The Council was advised of a recent report on the Bering Sea pollock resource by Ian Fletcher, Great Salt Bay Experimental Station, for the Tanadgusix Corporation which concludes that the pollock resource is being severely overfished and is in danger of a population crash. Scientists at the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center responded to the report saying that Dr. Fletcher's analysis was sound but they did not agree with his conclusions. Dr. Richard Deriso and Dr. William Aron of the Center also responded to Dr. Fletcher indicating their concern with the conclusions.

D-3 Salmon FMP

The Council was asked to consider approval of a contract for revising the Salmon FMP. Mike Fraidenburg, Washington Dept. of Fisheries, has submitted a proposal for the project while on educational leave.

The Finance Committee recommended the Council authorize Jim Branson to negotiate a contract with Mr. Fraidenburg not to exceed \$25,000.

Some Council members felt the amount was excessive and the term of 20 months too long. It was pointed out that \$25,000 was the maximum and that Mr. Branson plans to try to contract for a lesser amount.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the Finance Committee's recommendation. Russ Cahill seconded the motion which carried with Henry Mitchell objecting.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council was advised of a minor change in the contract for administrative funds to support a central groundfish coordinator. The contract, as approved by the Council, stated the \$15,000 was to be pooled with \$30,000 from NMFS to fund salary and travel. It now appears that it's most expeditious for NMFS to separately fund the data coordinator's salary through CFEC and the Council's \$15,000 would be used, through a contract with PMFC, to provide \$3,500 for the coordinator's travel and \$10,000 to offset Will Daspit's salary for his work in providing groundfish data via PacFIN; the remainder would go to PMFC for overhead. Council members did not object to this change.

Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee approved the changes in the contract for the Groundfish Central Base Coordinator.

The Finance Committee reviewed the status of funding for FY86. Funding for FY86 will be late and in order to pay regular expenses FY85 money will have to be used which is a violation of the grant award. The Finance Committee approved a motion to use FY85 funds until the FY86 Letter of Credit is received, realizing that the auditors will question these expenditures. The Finance Committee also recommended that NOAA/NMFS develop procedures to award grants under a different time frame, thus eliminating the late award problem. The Finance Committee instructed staff to continue to push for the initial

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FY86 funding request of \$1,254,000 although NMFS has said that the Council will be level funded at \$1,057,200.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposal to rewrite the Salmon FMP submitted by Mike Fraidenburg and recommended the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate a contract with Mr. Fraidenburg, not to exceed \$25,000.

Proposals for a contract for the 1986 audit were reviewed. The Finance Committee, using a point system that considered experience, expertise and price, recommended awarding the contract to Price Waterhouse, the second lowest bid.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace moved to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Russ Cahill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Mr. Mace asked that the minutes clearly reflect the reasons for not accepting the lowest bid for the audit contract. Discussion on the contract for the rewrite of the Salmon FMP is under Agenda D-3.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Hume, representing Senator Frank Murkowski, read a statement into the record from the Senator. The Senator asked the Council to consider three points when making allocation decisions: (1) the foreign country's willingness to assist with U.S. shoreside development; (2) foreign trade barriers impeding development of U.S. seafood export trade; and the country's willingness to cooperate in eliminating the interception of U.S. salmon. He also stressed the need for fishery regulations which allow NMFS to fully prosecute violators and said he would support Council efforts to insulate the decision review process in Washington, DC from lobbying efforts by special interest groups.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26.