

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
James O. Campbell
Chairman

Date

12/12/86

MINUTES

73rd Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
September 24-26, 1986
Anchorage Sheraton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met September 24-26, 1986 at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel began Monday, September 22.

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, Vice Chairman
Don Collinsworth
Mark Pedersen for
 Bill Wilkerson
RADM Edward Nelson
Oscar Dyson
Larry Cotter
Robert Ford, State Department

Robert U. Mace for
 John Donaldson
Robert McVey
Henry Mitchell
John Harville
John Peterson
John Winther
Jon Nelson for
 Robert Gilmore

NPFMC Staff

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

Ron Miller
Ron Rogness
Terry Smith
Helen Allen
Peggy Kircher

Support Staff

Jim Balsiger, NMFS-NWAFC
Jay Ginter, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Pat Travers, NOAA-GC
Jim Brooks, NMFS
Jon Pollard, NOAA-GC

Bob Trumble, IPHC
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Bill Robinson, NMFS
Fritz Funk, ADF&G

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman
Bill Aron
Douglas Eggers
Larry Hreha
Tom Northup

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Terry Quinn
Don Bevan
Bud Burgner

Advisory Panel

Nancy Munro, Chairman
Bob Alverson
Rupe Andrews
Al Burch
Ron Hegge
Oliver Holm
Rick Lauber
John Woodruff
Joseph Chimegalrea
Gregory Favretto
Daniel O'Hara
Don Rawlinson
John Woodruff

Terry Baker
Thorn Smith
Tom Stewart
Barry Fisher
Eric Jordan
Julie Settle
Walter Smith
Richard White
Dave Woodruff
Pete Isleib
Al Osterback
Cameron Sharick

General Public

It was estimated that over 200 people attended the Council meeting during its session, including the following:

Anthony Calio, NOAA Administrator
Jim Brennan, NOAA-GC
Barry D. Collier, PSPA
Paul A. Gilliland, API
Craig Willoya, KEG
Deborah Pearson, NPFVOA
Paul Kelly, FFHMC/ICEG/AHC
K. Nagao, Consulate General/Japan
Emory Washington, Tampa Ship
Li Shanxun, CNMFC
Wayne Lewis, NMFS-Enforcement
T. Taniguchi, NDSF
Greg Baker, AK Dept of Commerce
Chris Blackburn, AGDB

Tom Billy, NOAA
Prudence Fox, NMFS
H. Yamashita, Taiyo
Kathleen Lee, API
Stan Carothers, New Zealand
J.R. Todd, Quest
J. Zuck
R. Anselmi, Tampa Ship
Bart Eaton
Chris Jones, CNMFC
Ray O'Neil, BBHMC/AHC
Y. Niimi, Nippon Suisan
Jim Russell, AK Fisheries
Stephan Johnson

David Harville, Kodiak Western Trawlers
P. Park, CAC
LCDR Roger Mercer, NMFS, Anchorage
Hal Bernton, Daily News
T. Nakamura, Japan Seamen's Union
Kathy Kinnear, Kodiak Longline Assn.
J. Jemewouk
Sharon Gwinn, AFDF
William Sullivan
Joe Kurtz
Jason Bony, NWJVF
Ted Evans, AFTA
Joe Easley, PFMC
M.G. Stevens, ProFish
Mark Royce
Dean Paddock
Frank Kawana
Arni Thomson, A.C.C.
O. Hosoya
Krys Holmes
Alec Brindle
Y.S. Shin, Korea Won Yang
Steve Dickinson, JDSTA/HTA
Tomasz Pintowski
Nancy Davis, Quest
Spike Jones

Madelyn Walker, AVTEC
Lee Daneker, Fish Co/AK
John Sabella, NPFVOA
Howard Braham, NMFS/MML
Norman Staden
John Daly, Voyager Corp.
Jeff Stephan, UFMA
Peter Block, NDSF
Mary Ouellette
Robt. Morgan, PSPA
Phil Chitwood, MRC
Jay Hastings, JFA
Richard Bank, Graham & James
John Bruce, DSFU
Steve Grabacki
Bob Wienhard
Harold Thompson
John Enge
Paul Fuhs
Hugh Reilly
Ken Kobayashi, JDSTA
Myrtle Johnson
Shari Gross
Wally Pereyra, ProFish
Eva Holm
Bill Jacobson

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

Chairman Jim Campbell called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. on Wednesday, September 24. Mr. Campbell announced that Larry Cotter had been appointed to a three-year term on the Council and John Winther was reappointed for another three years. The new Coast Guard representative, RADM Edward Nelson was introduced and it was announced that Mark Pedersen will be the permanent Council representative for the Washington Department of Fisheries. Special guests attending the Council meeting included Dr. Anthony Calio, NOAA Administrator; Jim Brennan, NOAA-GC; Tom Billy, Industry Services, NMFS-DC; and Joe Easley, Chairman of the Pacific Council. Dr. Calio announced that Dr. William Evans is the new Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. Bob McVey introduced Lew Queirolo, NMFS Regional Economist.

The minutes of the June 1986 Council meeting were approved as submitted.

A-1 Election of Officers

Bob Mace nominated Jim Campbell and Rudy Petersen as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. The nominations were seconded by John Peterson who then moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. The vote to elect Jim Campbell and Rudy Petersen was unanimous.

The Council unanimously approved the election of Nancy Munro to serve as Advisory Panel Chairman through December.

The agenda was approved with no changes.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Branson reviewed his report in the Council notebooks. Council members were told that Pat Travers will soon leave his Juneau position for a new one in Washington, DC. Council members asked the Executive Director to draft a letter to the NOAA General Counsel expressing their appreciation for Pat's work and cooperation with the Council.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report

The ADF&G Domestic Fisheries Report was submitted in written form; however, there was no oral presentation because of the full Council agenda.

B-3 NMFS Management Report

(a) Amendment 14 Update

Pat Travers told the Council that on September 2 Judge Vorhees of the U.S. District Court in Seattle entered a judgement in favor of the defendants, the Secretary of Commerce and the longliners. The Court ruled against the plaintiff on all issues raised in their motion for summary judgement. Mr. Travers said that in making his decision the judge relied heavily on the administrative record filed with the Court which could make an appeal more difficult.

(b) DAP Questionnaire

The Council was provided with a copy of the NMFS industry questionnaire used to survey DAP needs.

DAP Priority Access

NMFS was asked to report on the feasibility of priority access for DAP fishermen. Bill Robinson, NMFS-Juneau, said they have researched the subject with the Central Office and feel that any DAP priority access amendment that is well prepared and justified, shows a real benefit to domestic users, and is consistent with the National Standards, should not encounter any unusual or special obstacles in the regular amendment process.

(c) Groundfish Data Monitoring

Bill Robinson presented a report prepared in cooperation with ADF&G on future groundfish data needs. Both ADF&G and NMFS are facing large budget cuts at a time when the domestic groundfish fisheries are rapidly growing and data gathering capabilities are not. The full written report, given to Council members, pointed out that a fish ticket system, port sampling/interview program, and a full time data coordinator with a full-time assistant are critical needs for obtaining the necessary data. The estimated cost of these three items is \$350,000. In addition, the report recommended a processor survey for use in monitoring catch during the short, intense sablefish seasons

in the Gulf of Alaska, a domestic at-sea observer program, check in/check out procedures for all catcher/processor and motherships, continued and expanded resource surveys by NMFS, and removal of confidentiality restrictions on data sharing between ADF&G and NMFS. Management measures to support an effective data collection program are essential.

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

The written report submitted by the U.S. Coast Guard was available in Council notebooks. CDR Richard Clark briefed the Council on the recent incident when Soviet ships harassed U.S. crab vessels fishing in the portion of the Bering Sea claimed by both countries. Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition, also gave a brief report and asked the Council to support their efforts to obtain a cooperative agreement that will allow U.S. and Soviet fishermen to fish in the portion of the Bering Sea claimed by both countries and an agreement that would provide reciprocal fishery access for U.S. vessel to the Soviet portion of the Bering Sea.

Henry Mitchell moved to endorse the request from the Alaska Crab Coalition and to ask the Executive Director to write a letter to the appropriate officials. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

B-5 Joint Venture Operations

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through August 30 as reported by NMFS was 1,025,735 mt, including 53,319 mt in the Gulf of Alaska and 972,416 mt in the Bering Sea and Aleutians. The catch was made up of about 745,000 mt pollock, 52,000 mt Pacific cod, 32,000 mt Atka mackerel, 54,000 mt flatfish, and 134,000 mt yellowfin sole. The maximum number of U.S. trawlers on the grounds was 102 vessels in August. The annual joint venture catch is expected to reach about 1.2 million metric tons, up 36% over last year's joint venture harvest of 884,000 mt.

B-6 1986 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Survey Results

Brad Stevens, NMFS-Kodiak, reported the following:

Red King Crab. The NMFS summer trawl survey of the Eastern Bering Sea showed legal males to be sparsely distributed in Bristol Bay. Although they were over twice as abundant as last year, the increase was primarily because of growth of pre-recruits and decreased mortalities. Not many juveniles were recruited to the population, so the fishery may not improve in the next few years. Females in Bristol Bay were less abundant than last year and it appears that about half of the mature females reproduced successfully.

Pribilof Islands Blue King Crab. Abundance of legal males increased slightly from last year. However, very few pre-recruits were caught and their abundance decreased by 87%. Almost all segments of the male population have declined over the past three years. Abundance of mature females apparently increased, although it is very difficult to estimate because of their preference for rocky habitat.

St. Matthew Island Blue King Crab. Distribution of legal males was similar to last year, but their abundance declined by 64% from last year. Pre-recruit abundance did not change. Very few adult females were encountered by the survey, probably because they occur almost exclusively in rocky nearshore habitat. No significant changes were evident for any portion of the female population. Size-frequency data show very little recruitment of juvenile crab and indicate that the population probably will continue to decline, although there are indications of successful larval settlement during the past two or three years.

Tanner Crab (C. bairdi). Legal males were distributed sparsely throughout Bristol Bay and the continental slope, with the highest abundance in inner Bristol Bay. The estimated abundance of legal males has been declining since 1975 and is now at an historic low. Over the past year legal males declined by 30%, but pre-recruits increased by 33%. Although large mature females did not change in abundance, immature females increased by about 75% over 1985. Despite increased juvenile abundance, near-term recruitment to the fishery shows no signs of improvement.

Tanner Crab (C. opilio). Large males were concentrated north and west of the Pribilof Islands. The distribution of pre-recruits was similar to that of large males except that their areas of highest abundance were slightly to the north. The estimated mean abundance of both pre-recruit and recruit male C. opilio remained stable over the past year. The estimated abundance of juvenile males and juvenile and adult females increased. Size frequency data indicate that recruitment to the fishery will probably not improve greatly in the near-term.

B-7 Special Reports

Special reports to the Council were given by Lee Alverson, on marine debris; Howard Braham, on the NWAFC Marine Mammal Program; John Sabella of NPFVOA, on their vessel safety program; and Rolly Schmitten, NMFS Northwest Regional Office, on recent Taiwan salmon violations.

Dr. Lee Alverson, Natural Resources Consultants, presented a slide presentation showing the extent of marine debris on beaches and the effects of various debris on marine mammals and seabirds.

Dr. Howard Braham, of the NMFS Marine Mammal Laboratory at the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center, briefly outlined current research at the Marine Mammal Laboratory which, for the past several years, has focused on monitoring populations and determining status of stocks. The lab is also studying the entanglement of fur seals and sea lions in debris, the incidental take of Dall's porpoise in the Japanese North Pacific high seas salmon driftnet fishery, and the incidental take of marine mammals in the high seas squid driftnet fishery.

John Sabella, Safety Program Director for the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn., gave a presentation on the Association's recently developed vessel safety program. There has been high interest in their classes and their safety manual developed in a joint effort with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Rolland Schmitten, Western Regional Director of NMFS, reported on the recent investigation of an alleged multimillion-dollar "fish laundering scheme" involving the sale of Taiwanese-caught salmon to Japan. Taiwanese-caught salmon cannot be legally exported from Taiwan and Japan prohibits its importation. According to the investigation, the fish were shipped first to Singapore and Hong Kong and then shipped to Tacoma, Washington by a California trading company. Mr. Schmitten reported that, in addition to forfeiture of the fish seized in Washington, civil actions against the California trading company, Union, Inc., were expected later in the week.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 Legislative Update

Ron Miller briefed the Council on the current status of the NOAA Fishery Management Study and current fisheries legislation. The Council also discussed the draft MFCMA amendment prepared by Pat Travers and possible agenda items for the Council Chairmen's meeting.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council reviewed the MFCMA amendment at a workshop on Tuesday of Council week. They agreed that if they accept the draft it should then be presented to other Councils, preferably by Pat Travers, before placing it on the Council Chairmen's agenda. The Council's MFCMA Reauthorization Committee will continue to follow up on this subject and will provide Pat with written comments as soon as possible.

The Advisory Panel asked the Council to send a letter to the Alaska, Washington and Oregon Congressional delegations expressing disappointment over the defeat of H.R. 5013, the Commercial Fishing Vessel Liability Act of 1986. The Council agreed to do so.

John Harville mentioned several items in current legislation which should be monitored by Council staff to be sure our Congressmen know the Council's position. Ron Miller is monitoring legislative progress on these issues and assured the Council that Senate staffs are aware of their wishes.

The Council agreed with the three items suggested for the next Chairmen's meeting: the Council liaison position in Washington, DC, the draft MFCMA amendment prepared by Pat Travers, and the NOAA Fishery Management Study. Also, the Council told Mr. Branson that if new issues become apparent he should include them as well.

C-2 Domestic Observer Program

Barry Fisher reported on the September 24 meeting of the Domestic Observer Committee. The Committee recommended that a meeting of industry and agency representatives be convened to discuss the formation of a non-profit foundation to fund fishery research and data gathering, including the placement of observers on domestic vessels. The Advisory Panel agreed with this suggestion.

Public Comments

Harold Sparks, suggested that the meeting involve non-industry participants; he felt it should be accomplished through government entities such as NMFS.

Lee Alverson, said he supported the concept and suggested that the Fisheries Management Foundation may be able to sponsor the meeting.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council agreed with the concept presented by Barry Fisher and committed to provide staff support to help organize the meeting.

John Winther moved to endorse the recommendations of the Domestic Observer Committee and to direct them to explore all avenues of funding a domestic observer program. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Henry Mitchell pointed out that it is important that all segments with interest in this subject be represented at the meeting. It was made clear during Council discussions that participants would be responsible for their own expenses and that Council would provide staff support. Council staff will also pursue funding from the Fisheries Management Foundation.

C-3 Permitting U.S. Transport and Support Vessels

The Council discussed the requirement of permits on U.S. vessels supporting fishing operations in the Alaskan EEZ to aid in tracking the transport of fishery products from foreign processors in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska to U.S. ports. Current groundfish regulations require permits on all U.S. fishing and fishing support vessels in federal waters off Alaska, but NMFS-Alaska Region has not determined which operations are considered "support."

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that, rather than requiring permits for U.S. support vessels, U.S. observers on foreign vessels add transshipment information to their weekly reports. This information would include the type, quantity, and destination of products.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council was unsure of what would be accomplished by taking action on this item. There was also some concern about putting another reporting burden on the U.S. industry. Bob McVey said he will prepare an issues paper on the subject for the December Council meeting.

C-4 Foreign Fees and Permit Conditions

Recommendations on 1987 foreign fees, foreign vessel permit conditions, and a proposal from JAC Creative Foods were discussed by the Council.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

(a) 1987 Foreign Fees

The Permit Review Committee reviewed the new procedures for setting foreign fees and received an overview from Prudence Fox, NMFS Central Office, on the merits of each country with a TALFF allocation off Alaska. The Committee expressed the following concerns:

1. It was noted that NMFS should modify its definition of equity joint ventures to coincide with industry's normal usage of the term, i.e., investment of dollars in a company.
2. The Council should direct its energies to fully reviewing foreign allocations in December making use of the recommendations and information developed by NMFS on each country.
3. The Council should request NMFS to provide them with a copy of its report to Congress and any other information developed between now and December for allocation purposes.
4. NMFS should be strongly urged to allow a Council observer to attend the meetings of the NMFS Allocations Board in Washington, DC.

(b) Foreign Vessel Permit Conditions

The Committee noted that time/area restrictions on joint ventures will be the subject of Amendment 11 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish plan and probably could not be addressed through the permit process alone. After much discussion the Committee recommended that the Council continue its policy of recommending whatever permit conditions they deem necessary to address an identified problem. However, NMFS should do a preliminary legal analysis, explore the attendant policy issues, and set up the appropriate mechanisms to follow through on Council recommendations on industry-related permit conditions.

(c) JAC Creative Foods Proposal

After a review of the proposal for Hoko Fishing Company to custom process 10,000 mt of pollock, delivered by Alyeska Ocean joint venture vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, into surimi and then delivered by U.S. transport directly to the West Coast. The Committee had no objection to Council approval of the venture.

Public Testimony

Frank Kawana, JAC Creative Foods, briefed the Council on the proposed operation and stressed that it would be a one-time, short-term venture. He did not feel that it will take away U.S. jobs. His company will continue to buy from U.S. sources during this time and beyond. He did not feel it would hurt U.S. production but would, in fact, pave the way for total Americanization of the process. Mr. Kawana was accompanied by Mr. T. Suzuki, Richard Bank, Jeff Hendricks, and H.B. Meecham.

Council Minutes
September 1986

Dick Pace, Great Land Seafoods, Dutch Harbor, said this type of venture, if allowed, could be the end of shore-based processors because they could not compete with the lower overhead of foreign at-sea processors.

Alec Brindle, Alyeska Seafoods, Seattle, said his company is building a surimi plant in Dutch Harbor and is concerned that Council approval of this proposal would lead to more such operations and cause serious problems for the shore-based processors.

Wally Pereyra, speaking on behalf of the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn., said the association has been working for several years to expand opportunities for American vessels. They feel the proposed operation is a joint venture operation little different from the current ones and that the Council should support it.

Paul Fuhs, Mayor of Unalaska, was concerned with the precedent that might be set if this operation is approved by the Council. A venture like this directly competes with shore-based processors. He urged the Council to discourage this operation and any like it in the future.

Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers Assn., said his company is operating a surimi line on a vessel. Although JAC has been a leader in the development of analog production, operations like this could hurt the development of the U.S. surimi industry.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

In discussing the JAC proposal, Council members felt they did not have the authority to approve or disapprove the venture and that they should not make a recommendation. The majority of the Council members felt that the U.S. shore-based processing industry is coming on line and that they should foster the most desirable economic environment for development and full utilization of these resources by the U.S.

John Peterson moved to adopt the Permit Review Committee's recommendations on foreign fees and permit conditions. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-5 OTHER BUSINESS

Japanese Request for Additional Cod Allocation

Mr. Moriya of the Fishery Agency of Japan requested the Council to approve Japan's request for an additional 10,000 mt of cod in the Bering Sea in accordance with industry agreements made late last year.

Public Testimony

John Jemewak, Andy Golia, KEG Fisheries, supported the request because of their dependence on joint venture activities with the Japanese longliners who would get the codfish.

Paul Kelly, Raymond O'Neill, Bristol Bay Herring Co-op., also supported the request for the same reasons.

Paul MacGregor, Japan Longliners, noted that the domestic processing industry will not fulfill their groundfish projections. In the industry-to-industry negotiations it was agreed that there would be a reassessment of harvests toward the end of the year and if there was an excess available they (the U.S. industry) would support Japan's request for additional allocations.

Lloyd Cannon, All Alaska Seafoods, said that they had been approached by Japanese interests to buy processed groundfish but they are having a hard time fulfilling last year's contracts with them.

Bart Eaton, Trident Seafoods, said that cod production has decreased each year over the past several years. When foreign and joint venture interests fish the same stocks as domestic fishermen prices fall, making it difficult for domestic processors to develop.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners. All of their fisheries are finished for the season and they have the plants in Kodiak to process cod.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council agreed that the Japanese Longliners Association had been very cooperative over the years. However, it was felt that both sides had lived up to the industry-to-industry agreement. They were concerned about whether additional allocations would make it difficult for domestic processors to continue their development.

Henry Mitchell moved to recommend approval of 8,000 mt Pacific cod for Japan. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and failed, 8 to 2, with Mace and Mitchell voting for and Bob McVey abstaining.

Mark Pedersen moved to recommend approval of 6,000 mt Pacific cod for Japan. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and failed, 7 to 3, with Mace, Mitchell and Pedersen voting for and Bob McVey abstaining.

(b) Reflagging of Foreign Vessels

The Council heard from industry representatives that some foreign fishing companies were interested in reflagging foreign processing ships to U.S. registry. Such a vessel processing U.S.-caught fish would be considered a DAP operation and receive priority access even though it may be wholly foreign owned.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP passed a resolution supporting legislation which would ban the reflagging of foreign vessels into the U.S. processing fleet.

Public Testimony

Bob Alverson, Thorn Smith, Bart Eaton, and Ted Evans submitted a draft letter to Washington, Oregon and Alaska Congressmen urging action to prevent reflagging of foreign fishing vessels in the U.S. They asked the Council to

support their position and send a similar letter to the three Congressional delegations.

Paul Fuhs, Southwest Municipal Conference, also urged the Council to take swift action to discourage this practice. It could be devastating to the developing domestic processing industry.

Ralph Anselmi, American Ship Building Co., said that only vessels built in the United States should be allowed to participate in the U.S. fisheries. If allowed, reflagging could hinder the development of domestic processors.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace moved to send a letter to the Congressional delegations for Washington, Oregon and Alaska asking for support in blocking the reflagging of foreign fishing vessels in the U.S. The motion was seconded by Rudy Peterson and was passed unanimously.

The Council also suggested this issue be put on the agenda for the next Council Chairmen's meeting.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Tanner and King Crab FMPs

In March the Council voted to suspend Tanner crab regulations until further notice following a review of continuing problems with federal Tanner crab management. A discussion paper exploring alternatives for Council/federal management presented at the June Council meeting was approved by the Council for public review. The discussion paper focussed on Tanner crab management but was not limited to just that crab species.

The Council also heard a report on the 1986 NMFS trawl survey results and discussed recommendations for the 1986 directed C. bairdi pot fishery.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Although the overall population of C. bairdi Tanner crab has increased slightly, the increase is attributed to an increased abundance of juvenile crab. Based on this information, the SSC recommended no 1986 C. bairdi Tanner crab fishery be allowed.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that the Council adopt Alternative 1, Option 2 in the Tanner Crab Discussion Paper (no FMP, operate under a joint statement of principles with the State of Alaska). The AP requested the Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries to consider the development of an industry workgroup, without regard for residency, to develop a management plan for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries. Composition of the panel should include state and federal biologists, fishermen, processors, a NPFMC member, and ADF&G personnel. The workgroup would be charged to develop a comprehensive management plan that would be responsive to the needs for inseason adjustments in the fisheries.

Regarding a 1986 C. bairdi pot fishery, the AP recommended the Council accept the recommendations of the Tanner Crab Bycatch Committee which were (1) no 1986 fishery; and (2) an annual pot survey by charter vessel under the auspices of the NWAFC.

Public Testimony

Thorn Smith, Wally Pereyra, NPFVOA. Their association favors federal management of crab stocks off Alaska under an FMP administered by the Council. Any acceptable alternative to federal management under the Council would have to provide adequate protection for the interests of nonresident fishermen. Mr. Smith also presented a letter from Arnie Aadland, President of NPFVOA, expressing the same view.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA, said his organization is in favor of withdrawing the FMP and operating under a joint statement of principles with the State of Alaska similar to the one included in the Tanner Crab Discussion Paper.

Arni Thomson, Alaska Crab Coalition, supports the suggestion of the Advisory Panel. He also supports the suggestion of an industry workgroup to develop a comprehensive crab management plan.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Don Collinsworth said he is encouraged that the crab stocks are coming back and that the State and federal agencies should have the opportunity to work together to manage those resources. There should be a way to get the job done efficiently with the resources available. The State is not prepared to do the annual trawl survey in the Bering Sea - the federal government would have to continue to provide the research, but he feels the state has a good management framework, the offices and staff to contribute. The State would be willing to work with a workgroup to develop a framework for crab management.

The Council concurred with the AP's recommendation to form an industry workgroup. Chairman Campbell appointed Larry Cotter, as chairman, John Winther, Arni Thomson, Thorn Smith, Bob McVey, Lloyd Cannon, Bill Woods, Jeff Stephan, Don Collinsworth, and Rudy Petersen. Oscar Dyson moved to endorse the workgroup. Mark Pedersen seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. The Council noted that the workgroup should not have a particular method of management in mind, but should explore all possibilities.

Regarding the 1986 C. bairdi pot fishery in the Bering Sea, Larry Cotter reported that the Tanner Crab Bycatch Subcommittee recommends no 1986 directed fishery. In order to better assess the population for 1987 and beyond, they suggested a charter survey boat be employed under the auspices of the NWAFC. This survey should be continued annually. The subcommittee also expressed an interest to continue their activities on crab bycatch.

Larry Cotter moved to adopt the recommendations of the Tanner Crab Bycatch Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Council reviewed the status of Gulf groundfish stocks, discussed preliminary estimates of TAC, DAP, JVP, TALFF and halibut PSC for 1987 for release to public review, and reviewed Amendment 15 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP for final approval.

(a) Amendment 15

Amendment 15 contained five issues and their management alternatives:

1. Revised management goals and objectives.
2. Established an administrative framework procedure for setting annual harvest levels without plan amendment.
3. Revised catch reporting requirements for at-sea processor vessels.
4. Established four time/area closures effective for three years for nonpelagic trawling to protect king crab around Kodiak Island.
5. Expands the field order authority for making inseason adjustments.

Public comments received on these management measures were mailed to Council members prior to the Council meeting and a summary of comments was provided in Council notebooks.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC made the following comments on Amendment 15:

Goals and Objectives. The SSC developed and approved a set of definitions for the various terms used by the Council and recommended the Council adopt them for use in the future. In light of these definitions the SSC recommended Objective 7 be changed to read "Population threshold will be established for each major species or species complex under Council management on the basis of the best scientific information." The SSC also recommended that the Council coordinate the use of common terms with the Pacific Council.

Problem 1 - Inability to Efficiently Adjust Harvest Guidelines

The SSC was unable to recommend either Alternative 1 or 2. Their specific concerns are outlined in the SSC Minutes, Appendix I to these minutes. The SSC proposed a third alternative for Council consideration (contained in SSC minutes). Their recommended alternative establishes an OY range for the groundfish complex and establishes quotas on a species-by-species basis. No further plan amendment would be required as long as the sum of the quotas is within the OY range.

Problem 2 - Inadequate Reporting Requirements

The SSC supported Alternative 1, to redefine domestic catcher/processor and domestic mothership/processor vessels and clarify reporting requirements for those vessels, as submitted in the amendment package.

Problem 3 - Inadequate Protection of King Crab in the Vicinity of Kodiak Island

The SSC did not support the status quo; however, they questioned the degree of protection offered red king crab by Alternatives 1 and 2. They had no specific recommendation.

Problem 4 - Inadequate Inseason Management Authority

The SSC supported Alternative 1, which was to authorize the NMFS Regional Director to open/close fisheries on the basis of all relevant information to promote fishery conservation.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Goals and Objectives

The AP recommended the Council approve the Goals and Objectives with the following exceptions:

(1) Objective 5 should be deleted; the AP felt this was a policy statement rather than an objective.

(2) Objective 6 should be reworded, deleting "only if benefits to the United States can be predicted." The revised objective would read as follows:

"The decision to rebuild stocks to commercial or historical levels will be undertaken after evaluating the associated costs and benefits and the impacts on related fisheries."

(3) Objective 7 should be reworded to replace "major species" in the first line with "economically viable species" and the last sentence reworded to delete an automatic ABC of zero.

Problem 1 - The AP recommended approval of Alternative 1, to establish an overall harvest framework procedure which accounts for total fishing mortality of the groundfish resource and provides a procedure for adjusting individual quotas (TAC) on an annual basis.

Problem 2 - The AP recommended approval of Alternative 1, which was to redefine domestic catcher/processor and domestic mothership/processor vessels and clarify reporting requirements for those vessels, as submitted in the amendment package.

Problem 3 - The AP recommended the Council adopt a variation on Alternative 1, by expanding the Marmot Flats area to encompass areas of reported crab concentrations. (A chart showing these areas was in the written AP report.)

Problem 4 - The AP recommended the Council adopt Alternative 1, which was to authorize the NMFS Regional Director to open/close fisheries on the basis of all relevant information to promote fishery conservation.

Public Testimony

Don McCaughran, IPHC, is concerned about moving the bottom trawl fleet into areas of halibut importance by displacing the fleet with closed areas solely based on the need to protect king crab. The IPHC submitted written comments on the total amendment package.

Ted Evans, AFTA; Thorn Smith, NPFOVA; Chris Blackburn, Groundfish Databank; and Al Burch, ADA: Ted Evans said they essentially support the recommendations of the SSC and the AP minority report with regard to Problem 1. Frameworking is needed but the vagueness in the RIR leads them to believe public comment would be less than [GET TAPE 11:30, 9/25] Thorn Smith - said they could support Alternative 1, Problem 4 (expanded field order authority) after Bill Robinson's explanation. Chris Blackburn said they support the workgroup's recommendations with regard to trawl closures - more data and observers. Al Burch also urged the Council to adopt the report of the workgroup with regard to trawl closures.

Bob Alverson, FVOA, agreed with the AP recommendation that Objective 5 should be removed from the Goals and Objectives section. He supports the AP recommendations.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners Assn., favors Alternative 1 for Problem 1; also favors dropping Objective 5 from the Goals & Objectives and agrees with the AP's recommendations on Objectives 6 and 7. On Problem 3, he favors Alternative 2, but the scope of the bycatch problem should include halibut and Tanner crab, not just king crab.

Lee Daneker, Fishing Company of Alaska, felt that the framework concept proposed in Problem 1 is difficult to understand; once a clear concept is developed there is still a long way to go to develop the operational aspects. Prefers Alternative 3 - draft the procedures and go out for public review and not take action until the December meeting.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA, prefers Alternative 2 for Problem 3 - the emergency regulation developed by the Council earlier this year.

Eric Jordan, had general comments on enforcement problems in the Gulf of Alaska. Many of these problems are related to funding. There is a definite need for adequate funds for research and enforcement - without them there will be serious conservation problems. Conservation of the resources for future generations is important. Regarding the Goals & Objectives, he agrees with the AP's recommendations.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace moved to amend Objective 7 of the Goals and Objectives to read as follows:

"Population levels will be established for economically viable species or species complexes under Council management on the basis of the best scientific information and ABCs will be established as defined in this document. If populations drop below established thresholds, ABCs will be set to reflect rebuilding as reflected in Objective 6,"
and to approve the Goals and Objectives as amended.

John Peterson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Problem 1: Inability to efficiently adjust harvest guidelines. Rudy Petersen moved to accept the SSC's recommended alternative (3). (See SSC Minutes, Appendix I for complete text). Bob Mace seconded the motion. Some Council members wanted clarification on the PSC aspect of the alternative and asked the Plan Team to prepare it for approval of the final document. This motion carried 10 to 1, with Henry Mitchell objecting.

Problem 2: Inadequate reporting requirements. Rudy Petersen moved to approve Alternative 1 (redefine domestic catcher/processor and domestic mothership/processor vessels and clarify reporting requirements for those vessels). The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. It was noted that the intent of this action is to have all vessels report once a week.

Problem 3: King crab bycatch in Kodiak bottom trawl groundfish fisheries. Larry Cotter moved to adopt the Advisory Panel's recommendation which was Alternative 1 (establish a time/area closure scheme for bottom trawling to help rebuild the Kodiak king crab resource. Type I areas would be closed to bottom trawling year-round. Type II areas are closed to bottom trawling during the February 15 through June 15 softshell period) with an enlarged closed area around Marmot Flats. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Problem 4: Inadequate inseason management authority. Bob Mace moved to adopt Alternative 1 (authorize the NMFS Regional Director to close/open fisheries on the basis of all relevant information to promote fishery conservation). The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Proposed Regulations for Amendment 15:

Draft regulations were prepared by Jon Pollard, NOAA General Counsel-Alaska Region, for Council review.

The regulations contained two options under gear limitations and under the reporting requirements section. The Council was asked to decide whether to approve the regulations with or without the requirement for trawlers fishing with pelagic gear in the closed areas around Kodiak to use net sonde devices. Mr. McVey said that the requirement is important for enforcement of the closures. There was also an option under the catcher/processor reporting requirements; it was explained that the second option was a more comprehensive one and would apply to all at-sea processing vessels.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the draft regulations. The motion was seconded by Larry Cotter and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the reporting requirement definition on page 8 of the draft regulations, inserting "or use" after the words "human consumption" and striking the word "cleaning". The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and,

there being no objection, it was so ordered. For a full text of the regulation, see Appendix II.

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the net sonde requirement as outlined in pages 12-14 of the draft regulations. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. (See Appendix II for full text)

Larry Cotter moved to adopt the draft regulations, as amended. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the FMP - Amendment 15:

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the Changes to the FMP document in the Amendment 15 package as follows: Under Section 2.2, Operational Definitions, to amend the definition of ABC to read: "The Council can set the ABC for individual species anywhere between zero and the maximum possible removal based on the best scientific information presented by the plan team and/or SSC." The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried 6 to 5, with Jim Campbell, Oscar Dyson, Bob Mace, Rudy Petersen and John Peterson voting against.

John Peterson moved to approve the entire Amendment 15 package, as amended. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2(b) Status of Stocks

Jim Balsiger, NWAFC, briefly reviewed the Resource Assessment Document (RAD) for the Gulf of Alaska.

D-2(c) Initial Apportionments for 1987

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Based on the RAD, the SSC recommended the following ABCs be adopted for public review. The SSC made these recommendations using their revised definition of ABC (see SSC Minutes, Appendix I).

<u>Species</u>	<u>Preliminary ABCs</u>
Pollock	113,600
Pacific cod	125,000
Flounder	340,000
Pacific ocean perch	10,500
Sablefish	20,000
Atka mackerel	-0-
Other rockfish	2,700
Thornyhead rockfish	3,750
Squid	5,000

The SSC recommended the team reanalyze the ABC for Pacific ocean perch, Atka mackerel, Other rockfish, Thornyhead rockfish and Squid prior to the next Council meeting. The SSC also encouraged the Council to continue the pollock fishery outside of Shelikof Strait during the January-April period.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Referring to Table 1 on page 3 of the Resource Assessment Document, the AP recommended that the proposed TACs be equal to the Fishing Mortality Guideline (FMG) for pollock, Pacific ocean perch, sablefish, Atka mackerel, other rockfish, thornyheads, squid, and other species.

For Pacific cod the AP recommended a TAC of 75,000 mt, equal to the 1986 OY.

For flounders, the AP recommended a TAC of 30,000 mt.

The AP recommended that the Council retain the 2,000 PSC limit on halibut in the Gulf, that the Council leave DAP and JVP unspecified for 1987 until further public comment is reviewed before the December meeting, and that no TALFF be allocated for 1987.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Don Collinsworth moved to adopt the ABCs recommended by the SSC to be sent out for public review. The motion was seconded by Mark Pedersen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the Initial Target Quotas on the table provided by the Plan Team (final table is Appendix III to these minutes). The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

John Petersen moved to set the DAP amount for pollock at 28,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Larry Cotter and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

John Winther moved to keep the halibut bycatch rate at 2,000 mt. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried 10 to 1, with Bob Mace objecting.

The Council discussed sending out the table with a narrative explaining that these are the initial quotas suggested by the AP and that the Council will be better able to divide them between DAP and JVP after the NMFS industry survey in November and further public comments. The narrative should also stress that the Council doesn't want the halibut PSC to be more than 2,000 mt and would like recommendations on where the initial quotas should be reduced to keep it at that level.

Henry Mitchell moved to send out for public review the table of proposed harvest quotas (Appendix III), as amended, with the appropriate narrative as discussed above. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

(a) Status Report on Eastern Bering Sea Trawl Restrictions

Bill Robinson, NMFS-Juneau, briefed the Council on the emergency rule trawl restrictions to protect Tanner and king crab in the Bering Sea. The bycatch of red king crab was low until the week of May 17; bycatch up until that time

was less than half a crab per metric ton. The week of May 17 there was a dramatic increase and the catch went to over 5 crabs per metric ton. Within a two-week period the red king crab catch almost reached the 135,000 PSC limit. The bairdi crab incidental catch rose at the same rate and exceeded the PSC limit the week of May 17. All of the observer data have not been analyzed yet, but there is some indication that when the flounders disbursed tow lengths increased and the catch of groundfish went down. The incidental catch of halibut during this period was 95,000.

Joint venture companies were issued individual company guidelines for incidental catches before the fishery started. Most of the companies voluntarily left Zone 1 when they approached their guidelines and began fishing in Zone 2, where the red king crab bycatch was 3,000 crab; the bairdi Tanner crab bycatch was 92,000, and the opilio Tanner crab bycatch was approximately 3 million.

In Zone 3, which had no PSC limits, about the same amount of groundfish was taken as in Zones 1 and 2. The red king crab bycatch was 2,800 crabs, the bairdi catch was 13,000 crabs, and the opilio Tanner crab catch was 1.5 million. The opilio crab were very small, predominantly juveniles.

(b) Report on Halibut Stock Status

Don McCaughran, Director of IPHC, reported that halibut catches for the 1986 season totaled about 68.9 million pounds, worth about \$100 million, ex-vessel. He said the IPHC would like to see more growth in the Bering Sea stocks and that whether this occurs is up to the Council and how they handle halibut bycatch. He estimated total halibut bycatch this year at approximately 10 million pounds.

He also told the Council that the effort in the U.S. halibut fishery has become so large that it is now interfering with their ability to manage the species. Seasons have to be continually shortened increasing safety hazards to fishermen. There is also a problem with bycatch in the halibut fishery now because fishermen are setting far more gear than they can retrieve, causing high mortality when gear that can't be hauled is cut and left on the grounds. He pointed out that the IPHC will have to take this into consideration when setting the quotas next year.

Another major problem that has been brought to their attention is that some fishermen are setting gear before the season, fishing at night, etc. Fishermen are reporting catches in a one-day fishery that they couldn't possibly physically accomplish. Something has to be done with enforcement of the one-day fisheries.

It is critical that effort be reduced so that control of the fishery can be regained. If the Council can't do anything to aid this effort, then the IPHC will have to.

(c) Amendment 10

Amendment 10 addressed four issues:

- (1) Inadequate control of bycatch of crabs and halibut by domestic fishermen.
- (2) Inadequate catcher/processor reporting requirements.
- (3) Inadequate authority for inseason reapportionment among domestic fishermen.
- (4) Inadequate authority to manage inseason biological emergencies.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The full text of the SSC's comments on Amendment 10 are in Appendix I. Following are their recommendations.

Problem 1 - Inadequate control of bycatch of crabs and halibut by domestic fishermen.

The SSC felt that Alternatives 1 (status quo), 4 (the emergency rule as implemented by NMFS) and 5 (complete closure of the Pot Sanctuary to groundfish fishing) were not viable. They had several comments on Alternatives 2 and 3, but did not specifically recommend one or the other.

Problem 2 - Inadequate catcher/processor reporting requirements.

The SSC supported Alternative 2, requiring any catcher/processor or mothership/processor vessel that freezes or dry-salts any part of its catch on board to submit weekly catch reports regardless of time between landings. The SSC noted, however, that this amendment only partially addresses the data collection problems.

Problem 3 - Inadequate authority for inseason reapportionment among domestic fishermen.

The SSC supported Alternative 2, to give the Regional Director authority to make reapportionments between DAP and JVP, as already provided for in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish FMP.

Problem 4 - Inadequate authority to manage inseason biological emergencies.

The SSC supported Alternative 2, to authorize the Regional Director to open or close fisheries, or change any previously specified TAC or PSC limit as a means of conserving the resource.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Problem 1 - The AP recommended the Council adopt Alternative 2 (the emergency rule as implemented by NMFS) for a two-year period. During this time they recommended an annual review of the issue be conducted by the Council, including reports from the AP Tanner Crab Bycatch Subcommittee. They also

recommended that the frameworking concept in Alternative 4 be further developed by the plan team for the next amendment cycle.

Problem 2 - The AP recommended Alternative 2 (requiring any catcher/processor or mothership/processor vessel that freezes or dry-salts any part of its catch on board would be required to submit weekly catch reports regardless of time time between landings) with some minor editorial changes.

Problem 3 - The AP rejected any change in NMFS authority, supporting status quo.

Problem 4 - The AP supported Alternative 2, to authorize the Regional Director to open or close fisheries, or change any previously specified TAC or PSC limit for the purpose of conserving the resource.

Report of the AP Tanner Crab Bycatch Subcommittee

The Subcommittee found that there are methods of controlling bycatch which would provide greater flexibility to the trawl fishermen and still protect crab stocks that were not included in the Amendment 10 package. They recommended the Council continue with implementation of the amendment, however, requested that the the Subcommittee be allowed to continue to meet to prepare and submit a more comprehensive bycatch proposal for the 1987 management cycle.

Public Testimony

Bert Larkins, MRCI; Steve Hughes, NRC; Ted Evans, AFTA; Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Databank. For Problem 1, they preferred Alternative 2 in the short term, but are concerned that when crab stocks improve they would be locked into the same PSC caps making it more difficult to take groundfish catches. For the long term, a more definitive system, similar to Alternative 4, should be developed. Mr. Larkins also addressed the closed area of Zone 1, saying that they had no problem with the intent of the closed area, but question whether that is the best regulatory process. Crab stocks may not always have the same distribution as shown by current data and may shift thereby "requiring" them to fish in areas of higher crab abundance and prevent them from going into an area that may have less. A cap would do the same thing except that it puts more of a burden on the industry.

Steve Hughes essentially agreed with Mr. Larkins' testimony, and suggested that the frameworking concept be further developed.

Ted Evans said that they had four vessels involved in the Port Moller cod fishery and he thinks they've come a long way since last year in terms of their knowledge of the bycatch in those fisheries and coordination among the groups participating. Information obtained from observers on board indicate the bycatch of crab was under half a crab per ton, which substantiates the information they have previously provided. They feel Alternative 2 would be the better measure to adopt as an interim measure with a sunset clause. They also suggested a groundfish cap of approximately 40,000 tons which would relieve them of the burden of having to carry an observer when there is no domestic observer program.

Chris Blackburn agreed with Ted Evans on the observer problems for industry, particularly smaller operations.

Arni Thomson, Ron Peterson, and Kris Poulsen, Alaska Crab Coalition. Ron Peterson said they were originally in favor of closing the Pot Sanctuary to all trawling, however at this time they feel some sort of compromise should be worked out. While they still support closing the Sanctuary, they will support Alternative 2 as a compromise. He is concerned, however, that once a compromise has been worked out, the parties seem to begin chipping away at the agreed upon alternative. He is also still concerned with the problem of fishing inside 25 fathoms without observers.

Arni Thompson briefly summarized the economic value of crab fisheries in Alaska in 1986. Kris Poulsen gave a brief history of the Pot Sanctuary since it was reopened.

Don McCaughran, IPHC. IPHC staff disagrees with most of Amendment 10 and thinks the Council should instruct the plan team to go back and develop a comprehensive package for bycatches which addresses conservation issues. Fishermen will find ways to stay within a cap by modifying their operations.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Problem 1: Inadequate control of bycatch of crabs and halibut in DAH fisheries. Bob Mace moved to adopt Alternative 2 as proposed by the Advisory Panel, including a cap of 828,000 halibut for the flatfish- only fishery in the Bering Sea, and that the plan team be instructed to prepare language for Alternative 4 to be incorporated in the next amendment cycle. The motion was seconded by Oscar Dyson.

Pat Travers pointed out that the proposal on halibut bycatch appears to cover only joint venture fishing vessels which might cause legal objections that DAP vessels are not covered, too. For the record, Council members stressed that the DAP fishery was already taken into account by deducting 10% for halibut bycatch in that fishery.

There was some discussion about the high halibut bycatch limit. Henry Mitchell suggested that it be set in line with their performance last year.

John Peterson moved to amend the main motion to reduce the halibut cap to 570,000. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and failed, 6 to 5, with Collinsworth, Dyson, Pedersen, J. Peterson, and Winther voting in favor. The main motion carried unanimously.

Problem 2: Inadequate catch reporting requirements in DAP fisheries. Mark Pedersen moved to adopt Alternative 2, requiring weekly reporting from vessels which process at sea, using the AP's suggested wording (substituting "freezes or salts" for "freezes or dry-salts"). The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Problem 3: Inadequate authority for inseason reapportionment among domestic fisheries. Bob McVey moved to approve Alternative 2, using the language from the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP and implementing regulations giving the

Regional Director explicit authority to reapportion unneeded DAP to JVP. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and carried with John Peterson objecting.

Problem 4: Inadequate authority to manage inseason biological emergencies. Don Collinsworth moved to approve Alternative 2, giving the Regional Director inseason management authority to open/close fisheries for the purpose of conserving the resource. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion which carried with John Winther, Henry Mitchell, and Larry Cotter objecting.

Regulations for Amendment 10:

The Council decided to insert the same definitions regarding catcher/processors discussed in the Gulf regulations into the Bering Sea regulations.

Oscar Dyson moved to adopt the draft regulations for Amendment 10 as presented, with the definitions approved under the Gulf regulations (see Appendix IV). John Peterson seconded and the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the FMP

Bob Mace moved to approve the Changes to the FMP document and the total amendment package as amended. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob McVey asked the Council's advice on the level of observer coverage on vessels fishing in the 25-fathom cod fishery. He feels that the appropriate data gathering goals can be achieved with less than 100% coverage. The consensus of the Council was that 100% coverage is no longer needed and that the Regional Director should use his discretion.

(d-e) 1987 TAC, DAP and JVP Recommendations

Dr. Low, NWAFC, reviewed the 1987 Bering Sea Resource Assessment Document for the Council.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended EY/ABC values in Table 1 of the SSC Minutes (Appendix I). New data or new analysis could result in changes in the EY/ABC for pollock, Pacific cod and Greenland turbot. The SSC recommended the public review document make it clear that these changes could be made. The SSC did not have any suggested modifications to the team's recommendation on preliminary TACs.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council send the TACs proposed in the RAD out for public review with a notation on the species which may change. The AP also recommended the Council send out for public comment the idea of subdividing the Bering Sea for purposes of sablefish management between a northern area and a southern area. They recommended an overall OY for the Bering Sea of 2 million mt. They also recommended that the provisional DAP and JVP apportionments proposed by the plan team be sent out for public review with

the provision that DAP equal TAC for POP, rockfish, sablefish and Greenland turbot.

Public Testimony

Ralph Anselmi, Tampa Shipyards. They are in the process of developing a barge-like floating processor that could move with the migration of the fish. They plan to be in the area by late 1987 and requested a 10,000 mt pollock allocation. They will be using the pollock for fillets and surimi.

Satoshi Moriya, Fishery Agency of Japan. Reviewed Japanese/U.S. industry agreement for 1986 and the progress made in fulfillment of that agreement. They have not received their total allocation and are suffering economic hardships as a consequence. Urged the Council to support further allocations.

Paul MacGregor, Japan Longline Association. Requested Council support of an allocation release of 10,000 mt of Pacific cod.

Tadahiko Nakamura, All Japan Seamen's Union read a prepared statement stressing the importance of cooperation among American and Japanese fishermen so that both industries can remain viable.

Harold Sparks spoke for the United Villages of Nelson Island the Kokechik Fishermen's Association of Hooper Bay-Chevak area. The residents of these areas are trying to revitalize a commercial fishery for Arctic cod. It is essential to their success that the cod biomass is very large so that the population spread into their area in commercial densities. Allowing only domestic harvest would help this to happen.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace moved to send out the TACs in Table 1 as proposed by the SSC (final table is Appendix V to these minutes), including the stipulation that the total OY will be 2 million metric tons and the AP suggestion to request comments on dividing the Bering Sea area for sablefish management. John Peterson seconded the motion. Also to be included in the public review package is a request for comments from industry on information regarding the pollock fishery in the "donut hole." The Council felt this information might have a bearing on final TAC decisions in December. The motion carried with no objection.

Henry Mitchell moved to send out the DAP and JVP apportionments recommended by the Advisory Panel (final Table is Appendix IV to these minutes). The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Final Approval of Groundfish Data Monitoring Contract

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended approval of the final report.

Council Minutes
September 1986

(b) RFP for Survey on Groundfish Management Alternatives

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended approval of the RFP with some editorial comments (included in the SSC minutes).

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Don Collinsworth moved to accept the SSC's recommendations on the Groundfish Data Monitoring Contract and RFP. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no further public comments.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m. on Friday, September 26.