

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## MINUTES

Twenty-Seventh Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
Anchorage/Westward/Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska  
August 23-24, 1979

The monthly meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in the Kenai/Aleutian Rooms of the Anchorage/Westward/Hilton Hotel on August 23-24, 1979. The meeting was conducted by Chairman Clement V. Tillion. The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in the Council conference room on August 21-22, 1979. Chairman Steve Pennoyer conducted the meeting. The Advisory Panel met at the Kenai Room of the Anchorage/Westward/Hilton Hotel on August 22, 1979. Chairman Keith Specking conducted the meeting. Council members, SSC, Advisory Panel members, and the general public in attendance are listed in APPENDIX A.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tillion called the meeting to order and explained this meeting inaugurated a new format. SSC, AP, and general public comments would be heard by agenda item and followed by Council discussions and action on that item. A public comment period for items not on the agenda was scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, August 24, 1979.

This meeting was conducted in the same order as listed in the agenda.

Chairman Tillion welcomed the reappointed Council members James O. Campbell and Douglas B. Eaton, and newly appointed member Dr. Donald E. Bevan. At other times during the course of the meeting, Mr. Tillion welcomed and introduced former Alaska Representative Howard Pollock, and Mr. Tatsuo Saito of the Japan Fisheries Agency, Tokyo.

### II. MINUTES OF JUNE 1979 MEETING

The minutes of the June 1979 meeting held in Homer, Alaska, were approved without changes.

### III. AGENDA

Two new items were added to the agenda: (1) The High Seas Salmon Fishery Off the Coast of Alaska East of 175° East Longitude, and (2) a letter from Terry Leitzell asking for comments on the subject of requesting

foreign governments to make payment of fees at the same time they submit permit applications to fish in the FCZ. The agenda was approved with the above additions.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Branson pointed out the Council books close on September 30 and requested all expense claims be submitted promptly to allow payment to take place before the close of the fiscal year.

##### a) New Appointments to Various Council Subcommittees.

Mr. Meacham recommended nominations to the Advisory Panel be received for consideration until the October 4-5, 1979, Council meeting and voting to take place at the November 29-30, 1979 meeting.

##### b) Status of the Department of State, Office of Oceans Funding.

Mr. Ray Arnaudo of the State Department thanked the Council for its support in maintaining the budget level for the Office of Oceans funding.

##### c) DRAFT EIS for the Fur Seal Convention.

At the June Council meeting Carmen Blondin, NMFS, requested Council comments on the draft EIS for the Fur Seal Convention. If action is not taken by the U.S. prior to mid-October 1979 to extend or renegotiate the Convention, it will expire in mid-October 1980. Three alternative actions are discussed in the DEIS:

#### Terminate the Convention

Northern fur seals would then be solely under the jurisdiction of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and subject to pelagic harvesting by other nations outside the U.S. FCZ. The MMPA would not permit a U.S. harvest of northern fur seals except for subsistence and handicraft purposes. Cessation of that harvest would remove the economic base for St. Paul village and would probably terminate most of the funding for research on northern fur seals.

#### Renegotiation

Renegotiating the Convention has been tried once since the Marine Mammal Act was passed in 1972. The United States has proposed incorporating the concept of "optimum sustainable population" as provided by the MMPA rather than the "maximum sustainable productivity" provided in the Convention. Canada, Japan, and the Soviet Union were not receptive to that proposal.

Extending

Extending the Convention would allow the present international management to continue as well as a harvest. No new socioeconomic impacts on the communities of St. Paul and St. George would occur.

The NMFS has scheduled public hearings on the DEIS on August 27 in Anchorage, August 29 on St. Paul Island, and Sept. 6, in Washington, D.C.

H.R. 5033 which provides for the termination of the Convention, and stopping the seal harvest was discussed. Mr. Skoog pointed out that if the Convention was terminated the economic base of the sealing communities would be lost, pelagic harvesting would result in chaos, the fish populations could be adversely impacted without some control over the numbers of seals.

Mr. Meacham pointed out that a research program on seals on St. George Island where no commercial sealing is allowed, indicates reproduction rates fell when commercial harvests were stopped. He feels controlled harvesting is beneficial to the seal population.

Mr. Specking told the Council the Advisory Panel recommended continuation of the Convention and opposed passage of H.R. 5033 and any legislation that would change traditional management. They expressed concern for the economic welfare of the St. Paul Island residents.

Mr. Mace moved that a letter be sent to the NMFS expressing the Council's objections to anything but extending the Convention and include the Advisory Panel's comments. The motion passed.

d) Report on the Working Groups' Meetings in August

Executive Director Branson gave a brief report on the working groups which met during August.

(1) FMP Scheduling: no quorum could be obtained. the meeting was rescheduled for September 10 in the Council's conference room.

(2) The Ecosystem Management Steering Group met on August 6 at the NW&AFC. In attendance were Robert Weeden, Douglas Chapman, Mike Tillman, Dayton Alverson, and Jim Branson. The group recommended three actions: A canvass of agencies and groups to get estimates on the course of fishery development; development of a Request For Proposal to inventory existing marine mammal data; organize a seminar on the DYNUMES and other current population modeling programs to determine if existing programs could be used for this study. The proposed dates for the seminar were January or February 1980.

Mr. Mace asked that man's impact on the ecosystem be considered in all FMP's.

(3) Limited Entry: Meeting on August 7 in Juneau the group developed the following recommendations to the Council: 1. That NOAA and CFEC attorneys take immediate action to close loopholes in the current State and Federal regulations affecting the transfer of power troll permits that might allow Federal permits to be issued for the CFZ after transfers of State limited entry permits were refused by CFEC. 2. Maintain a moratorium on the power troll fishery in the FCZ for 1980 until questions revolving around the west coast salmon problems, Alaska Court cases on limited entry, and U.S./Canadian negotiations were closer to resolution. 3. Develop a Request For Proposal for analysis of existing limited entry access systems with summaries of any critiques available on those systems. 4. Develop a Request For Proposal for a study of limited access as applied to the U.S. halibut fishery to analyze the probable effects on the resource the fishermen, the industry, and supporting social structures of various actions, including maintaining the status quo by allowing unlimited entry. 5. Begin a legal evaluation of how the U.S. can institute limited access in the halibut fishery if it is decided that is desirable.

NOAA Attorney James K. White said the term 'natural person' as defined in the Federal Regulations for the Troll Salmon Plan will be redefined as will other areas regarding permits to fish so that State and Federal Regulations read the same. His office plans to work closely with the Commercial Fishery Entry Commission.

e) Report on FCMA Oversight Hearings.

Mr. Branson and Chairman Tillion testified at the Congressional Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and the Environment oversight hearings held in Washington, D.C. on July 10. Mr. Tillion reported NOAA continues to attempt control of the Councils despite Congress' desire they be autonomous. The testimony presented by Branson and Tillion was well received by the Subcommittee. Chairman Tillion complimented Alaska Regional Director Rietze' cooperation but was distressed with NMFS Central Office unwillingness to allow Mr. Rietze to make timely decisions affecting the local fisheries.

The Council has since received a list of subjects to be heard at the next hearings on October 11 and 12 in Washington, D.C.

The Advisory Panel recommended the following people be appointed to the Council's oversight hearings testimony Working Group: Ray Lewis, Joe Kurtz, and Bud Boddy.

f) Council Handbook.

Mr. Branson reported on a meeting in Portland of North Pacific, Pacific, and Western Pacific Councils staffs and NMFS Central Office staff on the Council Handbook under development. No completion date has been established.

g) Council Meeting Dates and Places for 1980.

The Council discussed the number and places of Council meetings for 1980. They voted to hold one meeting in Kodiak and one in Sitka with a total of not more than nine meetings during the year. Mr. Branson pointed out it was much easier to cancel a scheduled meeting than to book one with short notice.

A short discussion was held on locations for FMP public hearings with the final decisions to be left to the FMP Scheduling Group and the staff. The Council did vote to hold a hearing on the Troll Salmon plan in Sitka on October 3 prior to the Council meeting.

Chairman Tillion at this point extended thanks to NOAA attorney James K. White for his work with the NPFMC and offered good luck in his next assignment.

h) Need for an Election for Chairman for 1979-80.

Executive Director Branson reminded the Council that the terms of the chairman and vice chairman will expire September 30, before the next meeting. Mr. Mace moved to continue the present Council leadership of Chairman Tillion and Vice Chairman Lokken. After Council approval, Mr. Tillion and Mr. Lokken accepted the appointments.

i) Comments on St. George Basin Lease Sale

Comments on the St. George Basin oil lease sale have been extended to October 5. This will allow response by the Council at the October meeting.

j) FCMA Oversight Hearings

The final oversight hearings will be October 11 and 12, in Washington, D.C. Preliminary Council response to the letter from Congressmen Edwin Forsythe and John Breau requesting Council comments will be prepared by a Council working group for Council consideration at the October meeting.

V. REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL

V - 1. Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Mr. Fred Gafney reported current Bering Sea Tanner crab catches by U.S. fishermen at 14,200 mt. for C. opilio, and 19,200 mt. for C. bairdi.

Catches of groundfish included sablefish, taken primarily off Southeastern, and pollock, mostly from the Kodiak area, with the total 390 mt. during July.

An Emergency Order by the State and NMFS, effective August 7, had closed the part of the coast between Cape Spencer and Cape Fairweather to 15 miles offshore to trolling to protect weak runs of coho salmon bound for northern

Southeastern streams. A later emergency order closed portions of Icy Strait up to Chatham Straits and Lynn Canal to trolling to further protect the silver runs.

Bart Eaton asked if C. bairdi and C. opilio average size, weight, and CPUE records were being kept. Mr. Gaffney said they were and he could get them for this meeting if desired. Mr. Eaton urged continued careful record keeping as more domestic fishermen entered the opilio fishery.

V - 2. National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Foreign Fishing Activity.

Messrs. Craig Hammond and Phillip Chitwood reported for NMFS. The number of foreign fishing vessels off Alaska dropped sharply in August after the departure of the Japanese highseas salmon fleets on July 24. Mr. Hammond said there were 515 Japanese vessels fishing in July and as of August 17, Japan continued to be the predominant nation with 218 vessels of the total 259 foreign ships off Alaska. Poland and Mexico represent a very small percentage of the total, with Soviet vessels second high behind Japan.

Two Taiwanese vessels were still in custody at Kodiak for violations of the reporting requirements (underlogging). The majority of the Japanese effort continued to be in the Bering Sea with 68 vessels in the eastern Bering Sea and 91 vessels in the central Bering Sea area. Seventeen independent stern trawlers and two surimi factory fleets are operating along the 100 fathom curve and one flounder factory fleet operating northeast of the Pribilofs. Eleven independent stern trawlers and three surimi factory fleets were in the central Bering Sea with one crab factory fleet and five independent crab vessels. The second crab factory fleet terminated operations August 10. The remaining independent crab vessels are expected to cease operations in early September. Thirty-four stern trawlers and two longliners were fishing along the Aleutian Chain and 14 stern trawlers and eight longliners were fishing in the Gulf of Alaska.

The number of Soviet vessels off Alaska remained steady with 21 in July and 23 as of August 17. Thirteen stern trawlers were fishing in the eastern Bering Sea and 10 stern trawlers were fishing in the Kodiak area.

The number of South Korean vessels declined from 18 in July to 13 presently, with five stern trawlers fishing north of Unimak Pass, one in the far western Aleutians, three trawlers and two longliners operating in the Gulf.

Two Polish vessels were fishing in the eastern Bering Sea and three Mexican trawlers were operating in the Gulf of Alaska.

Mr. Hammond discussed a chart showing that nearly 90% of the foreign fishing effort in the U.S. CFZ is off the coast of Alaska. He pointed out that foreign catches in the Gulf of Alaska were higher than their combined Washington/Oregon/California or the Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico catches.

Two joint venture operations continued off Alaska this month, Mr. Hammond told the Council; the Korean factoryship BUK NEUNG has been receiving fish in the Kodiak area and the Soviet Vessel KAMYSHIN has been operating in the Gulf from the Chirikof east to the southeastern area.

There were 49 observers on board foreign vessels this week with 38 aboard Japanese vessels, 7 with the Soviets, 3 with South Korea and one aboard a Mexican vessel.

NOAA Attorney James K. White brought the Council up to date on the case of the KAIYO MARU #53 which was seized for under logging its catch earlier in the summer. Two proceedings had been initiated, a civil forfeiture action in District Court and by NOAA to revoke the vessel's permit for the rest of the year with prejudice to issuance of a permit next year. The vessel owners were notified of the revocation and informed of their right to request a hearing within 30 days. They subsequently filed action in Anchorage District Court for a hearing to prevent revocation of the permit but the Court upheld the NOAA position. The next step on the civil forfeiture action will be either a hearing or a trial. The trial was scheduled for August 27 but has been delayed until October 22 or 27. He said it is probable the administrative hearing on the permanent revocation will be held prior to the trial. He told the Council the vessel has left the FCZ and is probably on its way to Japan.

Joint ventures thru August 4 have taken a total of 692 mt in the Gulf of Alaska Mr. Chitwood reported. The Korean venture was in the Kodiak area and took principally pollock. The Marine Resource Co., Inc. (USSR) operations have centered in the Shumagins, he said, and they, too, have taken mostly pollock. The primary secondary species for both companies was Pacific cod.

The central Gulf of Alaska was being closed at 6:00pm August 23, to the Soviet fleet because they have exceeded their catch of 'other rockfish' in that area. The Soviets still have other allocations in the western and eastern areas where they may continue to fish. He pointed out that Amendment #4 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP became effective August 22; the Amendment consolidated the five regulatory fishing areas into three.

Mexican fishing will be closed in the central Gulf at midnight August 22 because they have reached their allocation of Pacific ocean perch Mr. Chitwood reported, but they also have other areas where they may continue to fish.

The release of Reserves was made in two stages, one in early July with the second notification of release now on its way to the Federal Register. The first release was for 64,000 mt retaining 26,000 mt. The second release, probably effective August 23 or 24, was about 18,000 mt retaining 9,000 mt of reserve to enable the joint ventures to continue for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Chitwood compared the 1977 and 1978 catches in the FCZ by foreign fleets. They are about the same, he reported, but the species composition varies because of the restriction on trawling in the Gulf until mid-June; the catch therefore is mostly pollock.

The Soviet catch was lagging a bit compared to last year in the Bering Sea where they were concentrating on pollock but diversifying somewhat on other species. The Soviets were lagging in the Gulf for the same reason as the Japanese: the restriction on bottom trawling until June 1.

South Korea's catches were ahead of last year's, probably because they fished a few more vessels. They, too, are concentrating on pollock but are putting more emphasis on the Bering Sea.

Taiwan's catches are ahead of last year because they were fishing three ships instead of the two used last year. They, too, were concentrating on pollock.

Mr. Chitwood reported the Japanese fishery on Tanner crab has nearly reached its quota of 15,000 mt. The KAIKO MARU had ended operations at about the same time as last year, August 10. Presently there are seven independent vessels plus one factoryship on the grounds.

Mr. Chitwood told the Council that because the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP would expire prior to the Council's Amendment extending it into 1980 could become effective, the FMP is being extended by Secretarial Amendment. No OY's have been changed he reported but some changes were made to the DAH and reserve sections. A separate OY was being established for Sebastolobus sp., removing them from the category 'other rockfish.'

Mr. Arnaudo questioned Mr. Chitwood on the changes made in DAH and Reserve. Mr. Chitwood said the DAH had been reduced from 45,000 mt. to 18,000 mt. to reflect the last processor survey made by NMFS. TALFF was set at about the same as the initial surplus last year. Reserve was set at 20% of OY.

Mr. Arnaudo requested the catch figures of 'other rockfish' for the Soviets and POP for the Mexicans. Mr. Chitwood said the Soviets took an estimated 308 mt. in the Kodiak area; they reported taking .7 mt. and their quota is 106. Observers actually saw 160 tons come aboard five vessels and that sample was expanded to 308 to determine the Soviet total. In the Cherikof area the estimated take from observer samples by the Soviets was 25.9 mt., their quota is 20, and they reported 0.

Mr. Chitwood said the Mexicans took an estimated 369.7 mt. of POP in the central area while their quota was 150 mt. and they reported taking 145.3 mt.

Mr. Rietze pointed out to the Council that small allocations of nontarget species causes problems. In the case of the Mexican and Soviet closures



because they reached their quotas in 'other rockfish' or POP, about 40,000 tons of other species allocated to them will go unharvested. This causes problems in trying to manage the resource. He noted that OY's for many of those species were set on past catch records rather than biological data and would like to have the scientists work on a solution to the problem as quickly as possible.

Dr. Bevan agreed that this was bad management whether it prevented foreign or domestic take of a quota. He said ways must be worked out in which OY's can be set above the MSY for minor species to allow taking all of the allocation of a target species. If we can't work this out now with a foreign fishery we'll have exactly the same problem when it is a domestic fishery. Given the cooperation of the lawyers he believed it could be worked out within the Act.

#### V - 3. U.S.Coast Guard Report

Commander Pete Buscik reported the Coast Guard issued two reports of violations (civil penalty procedure) and four citations (written warnings) since the last Council meeting. In addition two foreign fishing vessels have been seized, the HIGHLY 301 and HIGHLY 302, both Taiwanese, for under logging and under reporting their catches by about 50%. The vessels were recording their catches in processed weight instead of round weight. Both vessels were boarded August 19, seized August 20, and escorted to Kodiak. The cases have been turned over to the U.S. Attorney.

#### V - 4. Advisory Panel and Scientific & Statistical Committee Reports on Non-agenda Items.

##### SSC:

The SSC received a memo from Terry Leitzell regarding review of proposed guidelines on OY determination. They also looked at a letter from the Pacific Council on this subject. Mr. Pennoyer told the Council the SSC feels the guidelines proposed are not very useful in that they do not address the concepts of OY previously suggested by the Pacific and North Pacific Councils. The SSC recommends that the North Pacific Council repeat its support for the concept of OY as a long term modification of MSY and Total Allowable Catch (TAC) as an annual derivation from ABC.

The SSC also felt the section on management options proposed in the memo could lead to so many options in a plan that the public could easily become confused as to areas requiring meaningful comments. Mr. Pennoyer said the SSC felt that management options should only be alternatives considered meaningful by the PDT's and the Council.

The SSC reviewed a report of its King Crab FMP Subcommittee which summarized Committee suggestions to the PDT. The report is being sent to PDT members for their comment. They are being asked to consider the comments

and respond to the Subcommittee in an early September meeting. The meeting will give the PDT an opportunity to clarify any areas of concern and decide on a schedule for submission of the first draft to the Council.

The SSC recommended to the Council that Dave Somerton, with NORFISH at the University of Washington, be appointed to both the King and Tanner Crab PDT's. They felt Mr. Somerton's expertise in crab population dynamics would be valuable to the team.

The SSC received a proposal for a Bering Sea Herring Workshop from the Herring Plan Development Team. The Workshop would draw scientists from Europe, Canada, Asia, and the United States with the object of describing management experience in other areas and relating that experience to Bering Sea herring management. The proposal suggests a 3-day Workshop, probably during February 1980 in Anchorage, and asks the Council for \$7,500 to pay travel and per diem costs. The SSC felt the experiences and perspectives of world wide experts would be a valuable tool to the PDT and the Council in formulating a management regime for this developing herring fishery and recommended the Council fund the Workshop. The Sea Grant Program of the University of Alaska had offered to publish the Proceedings from a Workshop. The SSC Report is APPENDIX B.

AP Report on Non-Agenda Items:

AP Chairman Specking asked that a letter be sent to Shari Gross thanking her for her work on the Panel and wishing her good luck in her new position as head of the Governor's European Office. The full Advisory Panel Report is APPENDIX C.

The Council discussed funding the Herring Workshop and deferred a decision until the Herring FMP was reviewed.

Mr. Dave Somerton was appointed by Chairman Tillion to the King and Tanner Crab FMP management plan development teams.

The Council instructed the Executive Director to draft a letter to Mr. T. L. Leitzell asking NMFS to respond to the OY concepts endorsed by the Pacific and North Pacific Fishery Councils.

VI - 1. Economic Impact Analysis of Bering Sea Crab Regulations  
and Tanner Crab Regulation inconsistencies

Councilman Eaton at the June 1979 meeting had requested the Council sponsor an economic analysis of the regulations supporting FMP's, citing as an example his estimate that approximately one million gallons of diesel fuel would be used unnecessarily carrying crab pots to and from the grounds if fishermen comply with present regulations which require that between the end of the Tanner crab season and the beginning of the king crab season all pots must be stored in either a described pot storage area or shallower than 25 fathoms, or on shore.

Mr. Branson explained the inconsistencies in the State king crab and Federal Tanner crab regulations which now require pots to be off the grounds for a three-day period between the close of the Tanner crab season and the start of the king crab season.

One solution would be to use the field order authority in the Tanner Crab FMP to extend the closing date for the Bering Sea C. opilio Tanner crab season so gear could be left on the grounds until it was legal to put bait and tunnels in for king crab.

The Advisory Panel suggested further study on this problem.

The Council discussed the problem but came to no resolution, finally sending it to the SSC and MPDT for comment and suggestions.

VI - 2. Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) and Council Cooperative Policy.

Mr. Branson brought to the Council's attention a memorandum received from Terry Leitzell (7/17/79) on the involvement of Regional Fishery Management Council members and staff in the operations of industry-sponsored fishery development foundations and similar incorporated nonprofit entities. The memorandum suggested possible conflict of interest situations if Council staff were officially involved in the management of the foundations.

The memo stated that Council administrative staff involvement in a formal capacity with foundations was not acceptable but that individual Council members could serve in an official capacity.

After discussing the nonvoting ex-officio board member role of the Executive Director on the AFDF, the Council voted to change Mr. Branson's status from that of a nonvoting Board Member to that of an observer/advisor without formal status and directed him to continue to attend the AFDF's Board meetings.

VI - 3. The Socioeconomic Data Needs of Fishery Management Plans - A Report.

Mr. Branson told the Council that the Socioeconomic Data Needs Report developed by the Council Work Group as guidance to the FMP drafting teams and as Council recommendations to the NMFS for their 5-year socioeconomic data collection plan should be formally accepted by the Council so it could be printed and distributed.

SSC Chairman Steve Pennoyer reported that Dr. George Rogers had summarized the report for the SSC and had recommended that it be adopted by the Council, published and provided to Council advisory bodies and plan development teams as a guideline and sent to NMFS, Washington, D.C., as

our partial answer to the proposed Centaur and Associates study. The SSC concurred with these recommendations and commended the Working Group for their efforts in producing a very well written report that is immediately applicable to plan development.

The SSC noted that the Working Group had not addressed methods of rectifying data deficiencies and suggested the Group continue their work to identify who should collect various data and methods of making existing data more available.

Mr. Specking told the Council the Advisory Panel had no objections to the report being used as a policy working paper.

Council member Bart Eaton identified three areas where he thought the report was deficient. He believed more analysis should be done on the conflict between State/Federal policies and felt many of the problems we have difficulty solving are because of the lack of an overall policy for State/Federal, and even interdepartmental agencies. He felt this problem should be addressed in this report. He also thought the report should include material on taxes and tax law, both basic and important to the industry, that without including this material, it would be difficult to understand industry planning. The third area not covered was the effect of inflationary impacts on the industry.

Mr. Chip Thoma, Research Aid to State Senator George Hohman, told the Council that impacts on people and communities are not recognized in the FMP's and that the fishery economy as a whole is based on the Japanese markets, which control our shorebased processing facilities, floating processors, fleet financing and transportation. This 100% market monopoly is a distinct impediment to planning or controlling the resources. He told the Council his committee plans to submit regulatory and legislative proposals addressing these issues.

Hank Ostrosky also testified and commended the NPFMC for looking into the matter of socioeconomic impacts of FMP's.

The Council accepted the Socioeconomic Data Needs Report as submitted noting that it would be subject to change as more information became available

#### VI - 4. Incidental Species Report

Developed by a Council Working Group over the past year this report develops a rationale and policy for handling incidental species in a mixed species fishery. It has been discussed by the Council at previous meetings and needed to be formally adopted as Council policy and made available to PDT's.

The SSC recommended the report be adopted as working policy.

The Advisory Panel did not have any recommendations to the Council.

There was no public input on this subject.

The Council voted to accept the report with the understanding it was subject to change. Mr. Branson told the Council he had sent the SSC a proposal by Mr. H.A. Larkins on economic disincentives for discussion by the working group and possible incorporation in the report. Several questions were asked of Mr. Larkins on disincentives by the Council members.

#### VI - 5. A Reciprocal U.S./U.S.S.R. Fishing Agreement

Mr. Ray Arnaudo of the U.S. State Department discussed the history of this proposed agreement. Late in 1977 or early 1978 the State Department was asked by U.S. businessmen if U.S. fishermen could fish in the Soviet conservation zone. The existing GIFA provides for making such an arrangement. Preliminary talks with the Soviets followed and a draft agreement along the lines of the GIFA allowing the Soviets to fish in the U.S. FCZ was developed. It has been reviewed by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and is currently being redrafted by the U.S.

U.S. fishermen and businessmen have expressed interest in fishing pollock and crab in Soviet waters. Mr. Arnaudo said the most serious questions that have been raised have been what exactly is in it for the United States, how much resource would be available, and does it equal the amount of fish the Soviets are taking from U.S. waters. Mr. Arnaudo said inquiries had been made to the Soviets asking about the probable amount of the resource available but the Soviets have said a completed GIFA was necessary before they would discuss allocations. He promised to keep the Council current on the negotiations.

There was no AP nor SSC input on this subject.

In public testimony, Mr. Joe Ashlock announced it was he who asked the State Department to look into a reciprocal agreement with the U.S.S.R. He said he wanted to bring a broader scope of opportunity to U.S. fishermen and businessmen by opening the western Bering Sea to U.S. fishermen where they will be 3,000 miles closer to the markets for pollock. When asked by Councilman Lokken if he had researched the potential of fish in this area, Mr. Ashlock said he had been in contact with KMIDC Chairman Shim who feels the western Bering Sea waters are richer than off the U.S. coast. Mr. Ashlock said he plans to use U.S. ships and U.S. captains from Texas and Alaska. Mr. Rietze questioned Mr. Ashlock on the nationality of his proposed crew members; he replied they would be foreign from countries having diplomatic relations with Russia. When asked by Councilman Meacham if he was planning to use or apply for U.S. government funds or ask for government research in that area, Mr. Ashlock replied, "Not at this time."

The next person to speak to the subject was Robert A. Davenny. He thanked Mr. Arnaudo for the State Dept. efforts toward a reciprocal agreement with the Soviets. Mr. Davenny said they planned to fish pollock and felt the major market for pollock was 3,000 miles closer to the grounds by fishing in the eastern Bering Sea and a fishery off the U.S.S.R. would cut freight costs. Mr. Rietze noted that the Koreans were cut off from much of their pollock supply when the Soviets declared their 200 mile zone.

VI - 6. Membership on the Scientific & Statistical Committee and the Advisory Panel.

Dr. Donald E. Bevan tendered his resignation from the SSC because of his appointment as a Council member.

With the previous resignation of Dr. James Crutchfield, there were two openings on the SSC. They were filled by Council action in selecting Dr. Richard J. Marasco and Dr. Robert L. (Bud) Burgner to serve on this Committee as recommended by the SSC.

The SSC would like to discuss with the Council at the October meeting an eleventh position on their committee for a scientist with expertise in marine mammals.

The Advisory Panel informed the Council that two members of the Panel, Ms. Carlene Welfelt and Mr. Nick Szabo, had missed more than three consecutive meetings and, according to Council policy, those absences should be considered an automatic resignation.

The Executive Director was asked to send letters of thanks to Ms. Welfelt, Mr. Szabo, and Dr. Bevan.

Councilman Meacham proposed that nominations to the Advisory Panel be solicited and received until the October 4-5 Council meeting, that the Council consider the nominations and make the appointments at the November 29-30 meeting for the three openings on the Advisory Panel. Following discussion of consumer representation and the make up of the Advisory Panel, the Council approved Mr. Meacham's proposal and directed the staff to advertise the openings.

VII - 1. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

The NOAA fishery policy group had recommended disapproval of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP primarily because they felt the DAH estimate of 24,600 mt. was too high, subsequently the Council had asked that the SOC review period be extended while they considered revisions to the FMP to respond to the Policy Group's comments. In addition, they wished to consider a winter closure to trawling northwest of the Pribilof Islands to protect western Alaska chinook salmon stocks.

Mr. Specking reported the Advisory Panel recommended the Council adopt the following revisions to the FMP: set DAP at 24,600 mt. with 1,500 mt for bait and subsistence (DNP), a joint venture allotment (JVP) of 30,000 mt., allow joint venture processors to operate within the 3-12 mile zone on a case-by-case basis with conditions set forth in each permit and establish a salmon savings time/area closure.

The SSC said Mr. Pennoyer, did not find any scientific basis for NMFS to request a modification of the DAP portion of the DAH as submitted in the plan. The figures used were the best estimates available and in a

developing fishery, he said, a larger DAH must be allowed to accommodate expansion. He pointed out to the Council that the proposed revision for release of DAH will allow OY to be achieved even if the DAH is set too high initially and that bait and subsistence catch figures were not included in the original DAH figure.

Mr. Pennoyer told the Council the SSC recommended 32,300 mt be allowed for the joint venture processing and that DAH be set at 58,400 mt which would include 24,600 mt for DAP and 1,500 mt for domestic nonprocessed catches (DNP). The SSC also reviewed the proposed increase in OY for "Other Species" and they agreed that the change from 55,500 mt to 72,200 mt would allow achievement of allocations on targeted species. The SSC agreed with the Incidental Species Committee recommendations to establish a fourth category, "Non-Specified Species," giving further relief to the "Other" category. Observer data will indicate any major changes in the species composition of the fourth category, making reporting of catch for those species unnecessary.

The SSC had reviewed the proposed salmon savings time/area closure of INPFC Area II in the Bering Sea and found that the foreign fleets would lose about \$5,000,000 if the closure were established, while the value of the salmon that would be saved was estimated at \$100,000; therefore the SSC recommended the area not be closed. They did propose a study, said Mr. Pennoyer, to determine if closure of a smaller area would make appreciable savings of salmon and herring and still allow the foreign fleets to fish during the winter period. The SSC felt observer data could establish the incidence of salmon in the foreign catches more precisely, particularly if the observer program could be expanded in that area during the winter.

Public testimony included statements from Jesse Foster, who pointed out stocks of salmon and herring are below normal in the Togiak area and fishing for people in his area means a livelihood, whereas for the foreign fishermen it is a matter of profit.

Also testifying was Steve Johnson, legal counsel for Japanese interests, who pointed out the tremendous losses to the Japanese if the proposed winter closure is made for Area II.

Mr. Branson summarized the proposals before the Council on the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP as follows:

Redefine DAH and the processor and fishermen reporting requirements to respond to P. L. 95-354; added a review and release mechanism for DAH during the plan year similar to that now used for Reserves; allowed joint venture processing within 12 miles but outside 3 miles; established a higher ABC for "Other Species" so that the incidental catch of those species will not hamper the attainment of allocations for targeted species; and established a fourth category under OY to be called "Nonspecified Species."

The Council reviewed, discussed and formally approved the following revisions to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands:

1. Sec. 11.0 Optimum Yield (OY)
  - establish a fourth category to be called 'Non-specified Species' of species of no current or foreseeable economic value. OY to be whatever is taken incidental to other fisheries, may be retained or discarded, no record need be kept.
2. Sec. 12.2 Expected Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH)
  - establishes three categories within DAH, (1) to be used by domestic processors (DAP) (2) non-processed fish (DNP) and (3) to be harvested by U.S. fishermen and delivered to foreign processors (JVP).
  - establishes a review and release mechanism for DAH during the plan year so unneeded DAH can be allocated to TALFF.
3. Sec. 13.2 Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing (TALFF)
  - changes language so unneeded DAH can be apportioned to TALFF.
4. Annex I.11.3 Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)
  - changes ABC (and OY) for 'other species' from 55,000 mt. to 74,248 mt. by basing ABC on 5% of total catch of specified species rather than the 4% previously used.
5. Sec. 14.3.1.5 Statistical Reporting Requirements
  - add requirements for processor and fishermen reporting to comply with 'Processor preference' Amendment to the Act.
6. Sec. 14.3.2.3 Area Closures (A) (i)
  - change to enable foreign processors to receive fish from U.S. fishermen to within 3 miles of the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured.



7. Annex II - Derivation of Expected Annual Harvesting Capacity
  - establishes rationale and figures by species for DAP, DNP, and JVP. Total figure for DAH set at 56,100 mt.
8. Annex III - Changes TALFF Table to Reflect increase in ABC of 'others.'
9. Annex I - Changes ABC Value for 'others' in Table I.1.
10. Annex VI - New Annex Establishing Composition of the four species categories established by change in Section 11.0.

#### VII - 2. Tanner Crab FMP

Mr. Branson informed the Council that action was necessary at this meeting to extend the Tanner Crab FMP to October 31, 1980, but that no other changes should be made and no TALFF should be identified until the Council considers the 1979 resource survey figures and new estimates of DAH at the October meeting. The Council approved extending the Tanner Crab FMP as is to October 31, 1980, and will consider further amendments at the October 4-5, 1979 meeting. Mr. Arnaudo said there was no problem with waiting to identify a new TALFF figure, if any, until the October meeting as far as the State Department was concerned.

The SSC did not discuss this FMP at their meeting.

The AP, said Mr. Specking, recommended extending the Tanner Crab FMP to October 31, 1980, and that no tanner crab be allocated to TALFF pending an amendment to be considered in October.

Written comment on the Tanner Crab FMP was presented to the Council by Mr. Shoji Nagata, of the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry, which is attached as APPENDIX D.

#### VIII - 3. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Council discussed and considered similar Amendments to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan extending the FMP into 1980 and implementing the provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment, P.L.95-354. The proposed Secretary of Commerce Amendment to the plan had not been published in the Federal Register and was not available for comment. The draft language, however, in that proposed amendment would have extended the FMP one year and implemented P.L. 95-354. The amendment considered by the Council proposed a change in the OY's for Pacific cod and Atka mackerel; established a separate OY for idiot rockfish, Sebastolobus; proposed a provisional time and area closure policy for joint ventures and proposed different domestic and joint venture reporting requirements.

The Council heard special reports on the Amendment from the DAH Working Group, the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Management Development Team, the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Advisory Panel, and several members from the public. Mark Hutton, on behalf of George Rogers, chairman of the DAH Working Group, told the Council they had met in early August to consider the latest NMFS processor survey. Additionally the Working Group considered new formulas and definitions for DAH, OY, Reserve, and TALFF and a U.S. harvesting intent survey, those areas in the plan which must change to conform with the processor preference amendment. The report of the DAH Working Group is attached as APPENDIX E but can be summarized as follows: DAH remains the expected domestic annual harvest. Within DAH, however, are three subcomponents: domestic annual processing capacity and intent, which is the U.S. harvest utilized by domestic processors, plus domestic nonprocessed fish, which is that portion of the U.S. harvest entering nonprocessed fish markets, plus joint venture processing, which is the portion of the U.S. harvest, if any, delivered to foreign processing vessels. The following formulas were recommended:

$$\text{OY} = \text{DAH} + \text{Reserve} + \text{TALFF}$$

$$\text{DAH} = \text{DAP} + \text{DNP} + \text{JVP}, \text{ if any}$$

$$\text{Reserve} = 20\% \text{ OY}$$

$$\text{TALFF initially} = \text{OY} - \text{Reserve} - \text{DAH}$$

The Working Group also recommended that within DAH, the DAP, DNP, and JVP should be reevaluated periodically and that DAH and Reserve should be reallocated in midyear for possible releases to TALFF, or if appropriate, to DAH from Reserve. The Working Group report concluded that the 1979-80 domestic and joint venture processing estimate for the Gulf of Alaska, of 121,000 mt. probably lacked precision and should be refined downward. The original estimates, however, were 20,000 mt. for domestic processors, 4,000 mt. for nonprocessed fish, and 97,000 mt. for joint venture processors. The group also recommended that the 1979-80 DAH harvesting estimate for the Gulf probably was in a range between 32,800 mt. and 119,000 mt. conceding, however, that the estimate did not include the intent of those fishermen from the west coast (Excluding Seattle or from areas such as the Gulf of Mexico).

Mr. Phil Rigby reported that the Management Plan Drafting Team had considered the increased OY's for Pacific cod and Atka mackerel and the OY for Sebastes rockfish. Rigby told the Council that OY for Pacific cod was recommended increased from 34,800 mt. to 60,000 mt. The increase in the OY of Pacific cod was necessary after an analysis of the results of NMFS trawl surveys for 1977-78 and on the latest 1979 Soviet surveys. Rigby said these surveys combined indicated a range for MSY of 67,600 mt. to 177,000 mt. The drafting team, he said, recommended that the ABC and OY

be set at 60,000 mt. which is biologically very conservative. The change in the OY for Atka mackerel from 26,800 mt. to 28,700 mt. Rigby said, was based on 1979 Soviet trawl surveys conducted in April and May. The previous Soviet estimates had been based on hydroacoustic surveys but Rigby said these new trawl surveys have been judged to be more accurate and the estimates for the available biomass of Atka mackerel in the Gulf can justifiably be increased. Regarding the rockfish, Sebastolobus, Rigby told the Council that it historically had been taken incidental to the Japanese blackcod longline fishery. It had never been recorded as Sebastolobus nor recorded as other rockfish when the historic catches were used to determine the MSY, ABC, and OY for the category 'other rockfish.' As a consequence of new observer information and more recent foreign fishery data, it appears, Rigby said, that 29% of the sablefish catch had been Sebastolobus and that an ABC/OY of 3,750 mt. was appropriate. The management team also recommended that the OY be allocated on a Gulf-wide basis as there were no data to suggest an areal division of OY was necessary. Rigby also said this action would help eliminate a serious problem with the incidental catches by foreign fishermen in the 'other rockfish' quotas.

Mr. Pennoyer, Chairman of the SSC, reported to the Council they had discussed the proposed Secretary of Commerce Amendment and the Council Amendment, and foremost wished to comment only on the portions of the Secretarial Amendment that extended the plan in a timely manner. Regarding the Council's Amendment, the Committee adopted the Amendment to extend the FMP thru October 31, 1980 as an expedient means of not allowing the plan to expire, but noting that this was not the most desirable way of dealing with the plan year and expect that the series of spring amendments will address a multiple year concept.

The Committee reviewed the four subparts to the second part of the Amendment implementing the provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment and recommended the following: Define DAH as the expected domestic annual harvest that will be utilized. Define JVP as that portion of DAH which is available and expected to be delivered to foreign processing vessels by U.S. ships. Recommend that DAH and Reserve be reevaluated bimonthly thru the eighth month to determine whether Reserves would be needed to handle excessive DAH or whether surplus DAH and Reserves would be available to TALFF. The Committee accepted an Advisory Panel recommendation that the JVP estimate be lowered to 25,000 tons and accepted the DNP figure of 4,000 tons, and the DAP estimate of 20,000 tons. Pennoyer told the Council that the Committee had concurred with the recommendations of the Management Plan Development Team for an increase of Atka mackerel OY to 28,700 mt., an increase in the Pacific cod OY to 60,000 tons, and the creation of a separate Gulf-wide OY for the rockfish, Sebastolobus, of 3,750 mt. The Committee also considered Pennoyer said the establishment of a policy statement and as an obvious and very straight-forward expression of the Council's intent to consider the request of any U.S. processor or corporation for some kind of time and/or area protection. Pennoyer said the SSC considered the reporting requirements in the amendment and had the following recommendation, which parallels a recommendation made for the Bering Sea Groundfish FMP as well:

That reports all processors of groundfish and buyers of groundfish whose purchases enter nonprocessed fish markets, except fishermen buying for their own bait needs, and persons delivering U.S.-caught groundfish to foreign processing vessels shall report information required for periodic reassessment of JVP. The regulations implementing this plan specify the information to be reported in the time schedule for reporting. The complete SSC report is attached as Appendix B.

Mr. Keith Specking, Chairman of the Advisory Panel, told the Council that the Panel had reviewed the Amendment and recommended the following:

1. That the plan be extended thru October 31, 1980.
2. That the proposed redefined DAH and Reserve, procedures for determining DAH and Reserve, new estimates for DAH, Reserve, and TALFF, and review of procedures DAP, DNP, JVP, DAH, and Reserve be adopted except JVP should be changed from 97,000 mt. to 25,000 mt. Specking told the Council the Advisory Panel felt that this reduction in the estimated JVP would not diminish the potential for a JVP to fully realize its preseason estimate because the amount in Reserve was adequate to handle the expected JVP catches. The Panel also recommended adopting the increased OY's for Atka mackerel to 28,700 mt. and for Pacific cod to 60,000 mt. They also recommended establishing a new category for the rockfish, Sebastolobus, OY = 3,750 mt. The Panel concurred with the recommendation to establish a policy statement based on future factors which may necessitate consideration of a time and/or area closure to joint ventures to afford a U.S. processor or corporation the opportunity to utilize the boats of an area for DAP. Regarding the reporting requirements, Mr. Specking told the Council, the Panel was concerned about the confidentiality problems inherent in the regulations and did not believe it proper that the processors were the appropriate source for comments on the changes in availability of groundfish by species.

Mr. Specking went on to say the Panel believes that the present method of determining future catches by canvassing processors and fishermen was satisfactory.

Several persons offered comment on the proposed amendment primarily dealing with request for the prompt reevaluation and release of Reserves to TALFF, supporting the establishment of the Gulf-wide OY for Sebastolobus, direct opposition to a policy statement supporting time and/or area closures to joint ventures, domestic blackcod concerns related to DAH off Southeast Alaska, a request to proceed slowly with the domestic bottomfish fishery off Southeastern Alaska, foreign trawling versus domestic blackcod longlining conflicts, and presentations on new bottomfish projects.

In public testimony, Jay Hastings, representing the Japanese Fisheries Association, requested an earlier release of Reserves to TALFF which will allow year round fishing, and also requested a separate category for the rockfish, Sebastolobus.

Mr. Paul MacGregor, representing the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association, requested Gulf-wide OY's be established for Sebastolobus and other rockfish, and would like a reassessment of DAH made bimonthly.

Mr. Ed Naughton and Attorney Greg Hoskus, representing KMIDC, was opposed to time/area closures to joint venture processing saying there is no scientific evidence to support such action. He said KMIDC has new money to purchase boats to use in the bottomfish fishery.

Mr. Jake Phillips and Attorney Scott Stafne informed the Council of a new vessel to fish blackcod was being built. Mr. Stafne asked the Council to consider at the next meeting whether blackcod should be harvested by pots or longline gear. Mr. Phillips told the Council he has data proving CPUE and size of blackcod show a decline. He also said lack of experience prevents new entries into the bottomfish fishery. Mr. Phillips requested an assessment be made of blackcod stocks during the season rather than before fishing begins. He said the Pelican and Sitka Cold Storage Plants indicate blackcod landings are above 1978 despite the lower CPUE and size of fish.

Mike Mayo related his attempt to avoid a gear conflict with the Japanese fishermen. He requested trawling be prohibited in the Southeastern and Yakutat areas and that blackcod be designated a longline fishery.

Mr. Daniel Webster, of Steuart Fisheries, outlined to the Council his company's current and future operations. His company fishes bottomfish with pots. A full transcript of Mr. Webster's testimony is on file at the Council office.

A written report was submitted from the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association which requested a separate OY for Sebastolobus, increasing the OY of Pacific cod to 60,000 mt., and requested releases of blackcod.

Written comments were received from Mr. Daniel R. Cushing, who objected to trawlers using the halibut and blackcod grounds.

The Council, after listening to the reports of the DAH Working Group, the Management Plan Drafting Team, the SSC, and AP, and the public, considered each of the six parts of the Amendment and took the following action:

Subpart 1. The Council recommends the FMP be extended thru October 31, 1980, incorporating the remaining Subparts of this Amendment.

Subpart 2. The Council approved the implementing provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment as recommended by the DAH Working Group and as modified by the SSC and AP. The Council approved the following formulas:

OY = DAH + Reserve + TALFF

DAH = DAP + DNP + if any JVP

Reserve = 20% OY

TALFF, initially, = OY - Reserve - DAH

DAH = the expected domestic annual harvest that will be utilized

DAP = is a portion of the DAH and is the U.S. harvest utilized by domestic processors

DNP = is that portion of DAH entering nonprocessed fish markets

JVP = is that portion of DAH which is available and expected to be delivered to foreign processing vessels by U.S. ships.

Also approved was the procedure for review of DAH and Reserve bimonthly thru the eighth month. Also approved were these estimates for DAH:

DAP = 20,000 mt

DNP = 4,000 mt

DAH = 49,000 mt

JVP = 25,000 mt.

Subpart 3 The Council recommended increasing the OY for Atka mackerel to 28,700 mt. and increasing the Pacific cod OY to 60,000 mt.

Subpart 4. The Council approved the creation of a new category for idiot rockfish with a Gulf-wide OY of 3,750 mt.

Subpart 5. The Council agreed to indicate in the plan that they may wish to consider the possibility of time/area closures to joint ventures to afford a U.S. corporation the opportunity to utilize the boats of an area for DAP.

Subpart 6. The Council approved the reporting requirements as proposed with the suggested changes by the SSC and AP.

The Council unanimously approved Amendment No. 7 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

#### VII - 4. Draft Herring Fishery Management Plan

Executive Director Branson presented a brief history of the draft Herring FMP noting the following issues have not yet been completely explored and discussed by the Council: a new mechanism for determining TALFF by applying a formula based on inseason stock assessment; various proposals for offshore trawling by U.S. fishermen; and the possibility of joint ventures.

A memo was received from Greg Cook, Executive Director of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, which suggested a joint meeting of the Council and the Board to discuss differences between the Herring FMP and the State management system for herring. The Council staff will continue correspondence with Mr. Cook on the subject of a joint Council/Board meeting.

Mr. Vidar Weststad, NW&AFC, and Mr. Louis Barton, ADF&G, reviewed the Herring FMP noting the plan allows only an incidental foreign catch of herring. They felt there would be no conflicts in the Herring FMP with the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area Groundfish FMP.

The MPDT proposed that the fishery during the roe season be managed through aerial surveys, catch and biological data, and adjusted inseason if changes are observed in the stock condition. Stock condition would be evaluated based on age composition and recruitment, primarily on the showing of Age III and IV fish in the fishery, use of prerecruit surveys, abundance in the winter fishery, hydroacoustic surveys, and biological data from the spawning grounds. After determining stock condition consideration will be given to socioeconomic factors. The initial allocation of TALFF will be only enough to provide for herring taken incidentally in other fisheries. In order of priorities the herring OY will be divided between the subsistence fishery, the spring roe fishery by U.S. fishermen, a U.S. food and bait fishery and last to TALFF. Several options for management measures to achieve those objectives are developed in the FMP.

Mr. Pennoyer reported the SSC had reviewed the draft Herring FMP and considered it a very readable document and complimented the PDT for its fine effort. They had suggested some revisions to clarify concepts and formulation of OY, TAC, DAH and TALFF to the PDT. They recommended that the Council approve the plan for public review and feel the SSC does not need to review it again until the public review is complete.

The Advisory Panel reviewed the draft Herring FMP and had no comments on it said AP Chairman Specking.

Mr. Pennoyer told the Council the SSC had reviewed a proposal for a Herring Workshop which would draw scientists from Europe, Canada, and the U.S. to outline management regimes in other areas and focus their experience on Bering Sea management. Mr. Pennoyer said the SSC recommended holding the Workshop and requested the Council fund the Workshop in the amount of \$7,500. Mr. Campbell said the Council had no funds set aside for such a Workshop in fiscal 1980. Later, Council Member Meacham told the Council the Office of the Governor would fund the Workshop for up to \$10,000 if a written proposal was sent to the Governor.

Public testimony on the draft Herring FMP was offered by David Nanalook, Dan Nanalook, Paul Frost, David Hoffman, Pat Wennekens, Steve Langdon, Anthony Vaska, who suggested locales for public hearings on the Herring FMP, Chuck Thoma, and Hank Ostrosky.

The Council approved the draft Herring FMP for public review with the changes suggested by the SSC. Public hearing dates and locations will be decided at the next Council meeting.

#### VIII - NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. High Seas Salmon Fishery Off the Coast of Alaska East of 175° East Longitude FMP.

Executive Director Branson told the Council action to extend this FMP thru 1980 would probably be needed at the October meeting if the Comprehensive Salmon Plan was not completed in time. He suggested the Council approve the concept of amendment now so the material would be ready at the next meeting and suggested extending the moratorium on limiting entry for one year and considering ADF&G staff proposals shortening some seasons and restricting the number of lines allowed. Public hearings on the plan could be scheduled for October 3, 1979, just prior to the Council meeting in Sitka.

The SSC did not consider this FMP at their meeting.

AP Chairman Specking told the Council that the Panel felt the status quo should be maintained in the salmon fishery without permitting any new entry for another year.

Public testimony was by Katherine Brigham of the Columbia Intertribal Fishery Commission, Seattle, and a member of the Pacific Fishery Council's Advisory Panel. Ms. Brigham did not have any comments on the FMP but only wanted to introduce herself to the Council and to tell them she would be attending future Council meetings. Ms. Brigham introduced Jean Edwards, a biologist on the Columbia Intertribal Fishery Council staff.

Mr. Tillion instructed the Council staff to prepare material to update the FMP for the next meeting.

##### 2. Letter from T. L. Leitzell on payment for Permits to Fish when application is initially submitted.

Mr. Branson briefed the Council on Mr. Leitzell's letter of 8/20/79 which requested Council comments on whether fees should accompany the initial permit application to fish in the FCZ.

The Council voted to approve that payment accompany permit applications to fish in the FCZ to reduce the number of applications submitted.



Messrs. Jim Brooks and Bob McVey, of NMFS, Juneau, described a recently discovered problem in the foreign fisheries. The U.S.S.R. fleet had to stop fishing in the Central Gulf of Alaska because they had exceeded their allocation of 'Other Rockfish' by 200 tons as indicated by observer data. In closing them out of the area, they are unable to take 40,000 tons of their allocated catch, mainly Atka mackerel and pollock. The Soviets had been incorrectly identifying some species of 'other rockfish' as Pacific ocean perch in the past, reporting them as POP. Mr. McVey asked the Council to consider combining 'other rockfish' with POP quotas for the U.S.S.R. this year to enable them to take their allocation of Atka mackerel and pollock. After much discussion the Council decided to ask the SSC to look into the subject and report their findings at the next Council meeting. They chided NMFS for bringing up this complicated issue to the Council at the last minute.

#### IX - CONTRACT REPORTS

1. Contract 78-9: The Pilot Troll Salmon Observer Program.

The SSC and Finance Committee recommended approval of payment.

The Council voted to approve the final report of this contract and authorized payment.

2. Contract 78-7: The Salmon Tag Recovery Program.

The SSC noted there was still a need, not adequately addressed in the contract language or funding and therefore not in the report for an analysis of tag recovery data to develop actual exploitation rates of various stocks. The SSC also felt that the question of the importance and pertinence of logbooks, fish ticket, and observer data to management needs should be the subject of further research. The Council voted to approve the final report of this contract and authorized payment.

3. A Proposal: To Assess Troll Salmon Fishery Data

Mr. Hutton told the Council the SSC felt the proposal had some merit and although the objectives and deliverables sections needed more work, they approved the concept for funding with 1979 monies. The SSC appointed a subcommittee, Mr. Hutton said, of Drs. Burgner, and Balsiger, and Mr. Rosenberg to work on the objectives and deliverables sections and report at the next Council meeting.

The Council voted to have the final report on the agenda at the next meeting for action, meanwhile giving the proposal tentative approval and authorized expending the FY 79 funds for it.

4. A Proposal: To Analyze Leasing Alternatives for the Eastern Bering Sea Clam FMP

Mr. Hutton told the Council the SSC recommended the renegotiation of a proposal from the U. of Washington in combination with a study by ADF&G and NMFS. The Finance Committee, he said, recommended asking ADF&G and NMFS to analyze the subject for the Council, rather than contracting to an outside law firm. The request for Council funding is no longer appropriate, said Mr. Hutton, and the proposal and working paper will be on the next Council meeting agenda for action.

The Advisory Panel recommended no funding to study the leasing alternatives said Mr. Specking and further recommended that leasing alternatives not even be considered in the Clam FMP.

Chairman Tillion said he felt the study should be done and that no information or options should be overlooked when developing an FMP.

The Council directed the study on the legal aspects of leasing fishing areas for the clam fishery be done by ADF&G and NMFS legal staffs.

5. A Proposal: To Key punch Halibut Fish Ticket Data for 1975-78.

The SSC asked withdrawal of this proposal until they could get more information from the IPHC and the CFEC. They would bring it to the Council again at the next meeting.

The Council directed that it be an agenda item for the next meeting.

X. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Campbell reported the Finance Committee reviewed the contracts and proposals and the position description for the staff economist. They approved the staff economist position and included monies for it in the FY-80 budget with the condition that a screening committee be appointed to approve the candidate. The Committee also discussed staff leave policy and will review this subject again at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Campbell told the Council that Regional Director Rietze presented a detailed program development report for NMFS FY-82 activities to the Committee and they generally agreed with the priorities he had developed.

#### XI. GENERAL COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments offered by the general public.

#### XII. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Chairman Tillion appointed Jack Lechner of the SSC and Dr. Don Bevan of the Council to the Plan Scheduling Group.

Mr. Tillion appointed Dr. Frank Fukuhara of the SSC, and Council Member Dr. Donald Bevan to the Incidental Species Committee.

Mr. Tillion appointed Charles Jensen of the Advisory Panel to the DAH Working Group.

Mr. Tillion appointed Jack Robinson, Don Rosenberg, and Jim Balsiger of the SSC and Ray Lewis and Don Rawlinson of the AP, and Bob Mace and Bart Eaton from the Council to the Clam Plan Review Group.

Chairman Tillion appointed Steve Pennoyer and Don Rosenberg of the SSC, Ray Lewis, Joe Kurtz, Bud Boddy, and Jeff Stephan of the AP, and Harold Lokken and himself to the FCMA Oversight Hearing Testimony Committee.

Mr. Dave Somerton of the NORFISH Program at the University of Washington was appointed by Chairman Tillion to the King and Tanner Crab FMP Development Teams.

Drs. Richard Marasco, of NW&AFC, and Robert L. Burgner, of FRI, University of Washington, were appointed by Chairman Tillion to the SSC.

Dr. Donald Bevan was appointed to the Council's Finance Committee by Chairman Tillion.

#### MEETINGS:

Chairman Tillion announced the next Council meeting will be October 4 and 5, 1979, in Sitka at the Centennial Building.

He also announced there would be a public hearing October 3, in Sitka at the Centennial Building on the Troll Salmon FMP, Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP, Tanner Crab FMP, and limited access to the halibut fishery.

Mr. Campbell asked the Council to send suggestions for agenda items to the Executive Director. He thanked the Chairman on the execution of the meeting and thought the meeting had gone smoothly using the new format.

The Advisory Panel members present decided to schedule their meeting for October 2 to enable them to attend the public hearing on October 3.

#### XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

State of New York

County of ...

In the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ...

before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace for the County of ...

did appear ...

and he acknowledged to me that he was the author of the ...

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Witness my hand and seal this ... day of ... 19...

and he acknowledged to me that he was the author of the ...

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman  
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue  
Post Office Mall Building

Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 265-5435



*Minutes*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA - AUGUST 1979

### I. CONTRACTS:

#### A. Final payment approval:

- a. "The Pilot Troll Salmon Observer Program"
- b. "1978 Salmon Tag Recovery Program"

*- approved  
approved 7/22/79  
10/9/79*

#### B. New contract proposals (need approval)

- a. "Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Data" (Biometrician)  
ADF&G - \$53,528 *Proceed with funding request - Oct for final review*
- b. "Halibut fish ticket keypunching" - State of Alaska  
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission - \$6,000 *Defer to Oct meeting - Passed*  
(this item could be paid from the FY79 administrative grant under "Special Consultants")
- c. "Analyze Leasing Alternatives for the Eastern Bering Sea Clam FMP" - University of Washington Law School - funding maximum \$20,000.

*1. accept -  
2. negotiate  
B. Pursue ADF&G & NOAA at no cost -  
motivi made + passed*

### II. Personnel Items:

- A. Economist - Staff Position - ~~OK~~
- B. Staff leave policy review.

### III. Review of Council Administrative and Programmatic FY80 Budgets and request for funds as submitted to NMFS/NOAA.

### IV. Alaska Region NMFS program emphasis for 1980.

### V. Other business.

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Campbell  
Branon  
Wilkens  
The Way  
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Stephen  
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Glover  
Gordon  
Bever  
Forkin  
Brent  
Huller

15  
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182

ATTENDANCE AT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

(16 )

August 22, 1979 Tea Leaf Restaurant

James Campbell

Jim Branson

Judy Willoughby

Mr. McVey

Guy Thornburg

Ron Skoog

Harry Reitze

Mr. Brentigner (?)

Mr. ~~Stycher~~ <sup>Steph</sup> (?)

Clem Tillion

Gordon Jensen

Charles Meacham

Don Bevan

Harold Lokken

Pete Busick

Mark Hutton