

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

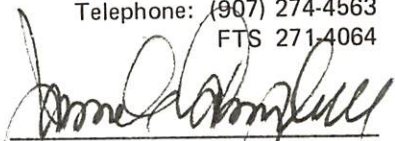
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Certified


James O. Campbell
Chairman

Date:

8/15/85

MINUTES
66th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
May 21-24, 1985
Sheraton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met May 21-24, 1985 at the Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met Sunday through Tuesday, May 19-21 at the Sheraton. The Advisory Panel met alone on Monday, May 20, with the Council on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, and alone again on Wednesday afternoon and evening. The Finance and Permit Review Committees met at the hotel on Monday afternoon.

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
Don Collinsworth
Henry Mitchell
Jeff Stephan
Gene Didonato for
Bill Wilkerson
CDR Choate Budd for
RADM Robt. Lucas

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

NPFMC Staff

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

Doug Larson
Ron Miller
Helen Allen
Peggy Kircher

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Support Staff

Gary Stauffer, NMFS-NWAFC
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Thorn Smith, NMFS
Biing Hwan-Ling, NPFMC
Phil Rigby, ADF&G
Abby Gorham, UAF

Ron Berg, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Pat Travers, NMFS
Greg Baker, CFD
Jim Brooks, NMFS
Fritz Funk, ADF&G
Joe Terry

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Robert Burgner
Don Bevan
Tom Northup
John Burns

Bill Aron
Douglas Eggers
Larry Hreha
Scott Marshall

Advisory Panel

Larry Cotter, Chairman
Terry Baker
Joseph Chimegalrea
Gregory Favretto
Ron Hegge
Robert Hunter
Nancy Munro
Al Osterback
Julie Settle
Walter Smith
Rick Lauber

Bob Alverson, Vice-Chairman
Al Burch
Barry Fisher
Oliver Holm
Dan O'Hara
Don Rawlinson
Cameron Sharick
Richard White
Dave Woodruff
John Woodruff
Tom Stewart

General Public

Governor Bill Sheffield
Randal Henderson
Ken Kobayashi
Mary Brennan
Jim Hubbard
E. Keir
Steve Grabacki
Vern Hall
A. Shibolet
Harold Thompson
Iliodor Philemenof
Richard D. Desantel
Clem Tillion
Jay Hastings
Phil Werdal
Sam Hjelle
Richard Desantel

Richard Thummel
David Wallen
Ted West
Jim Miemela
R.A. Paxson
Dave Harville
A.J. Moritz
Dennis Petersen
James Phillips
Teru & Mark Lundsten
Bennett Carlson
Ted Evans
Li Shan Xun
T.P. Smith
Jack Knutsen
Jon Adams

Ray Weaver
Kevin O'Leary
Danny Graham
Bernie Burkholder
K. Kanefast
Hugh Takagi
Stephen B. Johnson
Chris Blackburn
Tim Longrich
H. Matsui
Rance Morrison
Toshio Ueno
Paul Macgregor
Kent Hilligso
Gordon Jensen
Don Johnson

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m., Tuesday, May 21, by Rudy Petersen, Vice-Chairman, in the temporary absence of Chairman Jim Campbell. Jim Branson reviewed the agenda and schedule. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Bob Mace moved to accept the minutes for the February and March 1985 Council meetings as submitted. John Peterson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Council approved a special Council meeting for the week of August 12 to discuss frameworking the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The Permit Review Committee will meet afterward on August 15-16 to review public comments received on the draft permit review and allocation policy.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson reviewed the Executive Director's Report in the Council notebooks. He announced that staff member Doug Larson is leaving the Council and that offers have been made to two applicants to fill Doug's position and that of Jeff Povolny who left in March.

Mr. Branson told the Council that Ambassador Wolfe has requested that the Council consider paying the expenses of Clem Tillion to the INPFC Bilaterals in Japan the first week in June. Neither the State Department nor NMFS has the funds at this time. The cost would be approximately \$1,500-\$2,000.

Bob Mace said he felt it was important to have a representative there because the main focus of the deliberations at this meeting will be salmon interception.

Bob Mace moved to approve expenses for Clem Tillion to attend the INPFC Bilaterals in Japan in June 1985. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

B-1(a) North Aleutian Shelf Lease Sale

The Council received a letter from United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) requesting support for a delay of the North Aleutian Shelf Lease Sale No. 92 because the potential environmental impacts of oil exploration in this area have not been adequately assessed. UFA, the State of Alaska, and the Minerals Management Service studying the adequacy of biological information associated with the exploration and are meeting to find a solution. The State of Alaska and UFA have requested a ten-year delay in the sale.

Alan Powers, Regional Manager for the Minerals Management Service, said that MMS is reviewing the study by UFA and have agreed to additional consultation. They feel that the data gathered and analyzed in the preparation of their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are the best available. Public hearings were held on the EIS which is now being completed. Mr. Powers said that MMS is making a major effort to ensure the data are adequate and feel that a ten-year delay is unwarranted.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, by Bob
Telser, Vice-President in the temporary absence of Chairman Jim
Lam. Lam reviewed the agenda and objectives. There were no additions or
changes to the agenda.

Bob Mac moved to accept the minutes for the February and March 1982 Council
meetings as submitted. John Larson seconded the motion and there being no
objection, it was so ordered.

The Council approved a special Council meeting for the week of August 23 to
discuss reviewing the bill of Alaska (proposed) Heavy Management Bill.
The Special Review Council will meet afterward on August 23-25 to review
public comments received on the draft permit review and allocation policy.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1) Executive Director's Report

Jim Larson reviewed the Executive Director's report in the Council notebook.
He announced that staff member Bob Larson is leaving the Council and that
others have been made to two applicants to fill Bob's position and that
left leaving who left in April.

Mr. Larson told the Council that Ambassador White has requested that the
Council consider paying the expenses of Glen Miller on the 1982 trip to
Japan the first week in June. Neither the State Department nor DITS has
the funds at this time. The cost would be approximately \$1,500-\$2,000.

Bob Mac said he felt it was important to have a representative there because
the main focus of the deliberations at this meeting will be salmon
interception.

Bob Mac moved to approve expenses for Glen Miller to attend the 1982
Minerals in Japan in June 1982. Sara Hamill seconded the motion and
there being no objection, it was so ordered.

B-1(a) Fourth Alaskan Shell Lease Sale

The Council received a letter from United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) requesting
support for a delay of the Fourth Alaskan Shell Lease Sale No. 92 because the
potential environmental impacts of oil exploration in this area have not been
adequately assessed. UFA, the State of Alaska, and the Minerals Management
Service study of the adequacy of geological information associated with the
application and are seeking to find a solution. The State of Alaska and UFA
have requested a one-year delay in the sale.

After Larson, Regional Manager for the Minerals Management Service, said that
MMS is reviewing the report by UFA and have agreed to additional consultation.
They feel that the data gathered and analyzed in the preparation of their
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are the best available public data
were held on the EIS which is now being completed. Mr. Larson said that
in making a major effort to ensure the data are adequate and that
one-year delay is unnecessary.

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Lance Trasky, for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, briefed the Council on the State's position, which is the same as that of UFA.

Don Collinsworth said the State of Alaska considers this an important issue affecting the fishery resources off Alaska and asked the Council to consider sending a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Hodel asking that the lease sale be delayed. Council members agreed that it was an important issue but felt that a ten-year delay may not be necessary. They agreed to submit a letter to the Secretary expressing their concern that adequate data be gathered and analyzed before the lease sale goes forward. Don Collinsworth presented a draft letter for Council consideration.

Jeff Stephan moved to postpone action on this issue until the September meeting. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion. The motion failed by a tie vote of 5 to 5, with Bob McVey abstaining. Mace, Hemphill, R. Petersen, J. Peterson, and Stephan voted in favor of the motion; Campbell, Collinsworth, Mitchell, Didonato and Winther voted against. Mr. McVey abstained because of NMFS' involvement in the issue.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council direct the Executive Director to prepare the letter submitted by ADF&G for Council consideration (Appendix I to these minutes) for Chairman Campbell's signature and forward it to the Secretary of Interior. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and passed unanimously with Bob McVey abstaining.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

The winter troll fishery took 22,437 chinook salmon averaging 13.2 pounds each between October 1984 and April 14, 1985. Last year's winter fishery caught 32,645 chinooks, the average size was 14 pounds.

The sablefish fishery east of 140°W closed on March 18 and then reopened from April 16 to 21. Total catch from the area is 2,549 mt, just shy of the 2,570 mt optimum yield. This year 116 vessels fished, down from the 133 vessels in 1984. Effort shifted westward following the closure and the West Yakutat area (140°-147°W) closed on May 15 with the reported catch near the 1,680 mt quota. The Central Area (147-159°W) with an optimum yield of 3,060 mt closed May 23; reported catch is 2,989 mt. The Western Area (159-170°W) has an OY of 1,670 mt and is projected to close by mid-June, only 253 mt have been reported taken so far. The sablefish catch in the Gulf of Alaska has been harvested 68% by longlines, 27% by pots, and 5% by trawls. The top four ports of landing are Sitka (1,265 mt), Seward (1,104 mt), Seattle (900 mt), and Kodiak (898 mt).

U.S. (DAP) groundfish operations off Alaska have harvested 37,668 mt groundfish. In addition to 6,060 mt sablefish, the total includes 29,384 mt Pacific cod taken mainly by U.S. factory trawlers, 1,632 mt pollock, 183 mt rockfish, 126 mt Pacific ocean perch, and 59 mt flatfish.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

Japan has been the only foreign country to fish the Gulf of Alaska so far this year. Their catch by May 10 was 8,933 mt, almost all being Pacific cod taken by longliners.

James Buckley, for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, directed the Council on the State's position, which is the same as that of DPA.

Don Collinsworth, with the State of Alaska, considers this an important issue affecting the fishery resources of Alaska and asked the Council to consider sending a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Holt asking that the large sale be delayed. Council members agreed that it was an important issue but felt that a two-year delay may not be necessary. They agreed to submit a letter to the Secretary expressing their concern that adequate data be gathered and analyzed before the large sale goes forward. Don Collinsworth presented a draft letter to Council consideration.

Bill Sweeney moved to suspend action on this issue until the September meeting. Don Collinsworth seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 5 to 2, with Bob Meyer abstaining. Wade Campbell, Don Peterson, J. Peterson, and Sweeney voted in favor of the motion; Campbell, Collinsworth, Mitchell, Peterson and Sweeney voted against. Mr. Meyer abstained because of DPA's involvement in the matter.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council direct the Executive Director to prepare the letter submitted by ADPAC for Council consideration (Appendix I to these minutes) for Chairman Campbell's signature and forward it to the Secretary of Interior. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and passed unanimously with Bob Meyer abstaining.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADPAC

The winter 1967 fishery took 22,431 chinook salmon averaging 22.8 pounds each between October 1966 and April 1967. Last year's winter fishery caught 22,617 chinook, the average size was 18 pounds.

The Adirondack fishery east of 140°W closed on March 18 and then reopened from April 16 to 21. Total catch from the area is 2,542 mt, just shy of the 2,570 mt optimum yield. This year 116 vessels fished, down from the 122 vessels in 1966. Effort shifted westward following the closure and the West Yakutat area (140°-147°W) closed on 4-15 with the optimum yield of 1,680 mt. The Central Area (147-152°W) with an optimum yield of 2,000 mt closed May 23; reported catch is 2,080 mt. The Eastern Area (152-170°W) has an OY of 1,470 mt and is projected to close by mid-June, only 222 mt have been reported taken so far. The Adirondack catch in the Gulf of Alaska has been harvested 68% by boatmen, 22% by gear, and 28% by trawl. The top four ports of landing are Sitka (1,102 mt), Seward (1,104 mt), Seattle (900 mt), and Sitka (882 mt).

U.S. (DPA) is conducting operations off Alaska have harvested 27,669 mt of salmon. In addition to 6,000 mt of salmon, the total includes 22,384 mt of fish and taken mainly by U.S. factory trawlers, 1,000 mt of salmon, 100 mt of rockfish, 120 mt of Pacific ocean perch, and 20 mt of fish.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by ADPAC

Japan has been the only foreign country to fish the Gulf of Alaska so far this year. Their catch by May 10 was 2,022 mt, almost all being Pacific cod taken by longliners.

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Foreign fleets from Japan, Korea, Poland and the USSR harvested 90,428 mt by May 10 from the Bering Sea and Aleutians. Their catches included 49,427 mt pollock, 21,524 mt yellowfin sole, and 12,530 mt Pacific cod.

There were 74 foreign vessels off Alaska on May 17, 1985, 23 from Japan, 22 from the USSR, 18 from Korea, 6 from Poland, 4 from Taiwan, and one cargo/transport from Greece. Last year at this time there were about 40 foreign vessels off Alaska.

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

The USCG reported that enforcement effort through May 14, 1985, totaled 291 cutter patrol days and 897 aircraft patrol hours covering over 122,870 miles. Since March 24, enforcement efforts have resulted in 11 reports of violation and 26 written warnings being issued to foreign fishing vessels. These included such infractions as failure to submit required activity messages, not monitoring the appropriate radio channel after being hailed for boarding, improper log keeping, for Soviet vessels fishing east of the U.S./U.S.S.R. Convention line of 1867, and failing to properly return prohibited species to the sea.

The Coast Guard also enforced the IPHC halibut opening April 27-29 and conducted 19 boardings. Two vessels were detected by patrol aircraft pulling their gear after the fishery closure.

B-5 Joint Venture Update

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through May 4, 1985 was 371,047 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, joint venture trawlers caught 219,460 mt pollock, 940 mt Pacific cod, 13 mt Pacific ocean perch, 73 mt flatfish and 1,914 mt other groundfish, for a total of 222,400 mt. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, the joint venture catch was 148,647 mt including 109,393 mt pollock, 14,715 mt Pacific cod, 7,853 mt flatfish, 9,432 mt yellowfin sole, 5,900 mt Atka mackerel, and 1,354 mt of other species. There were about 75 U.S. trawlers involved in these harvests. Last year by early May joint ventures had taken 276,000 mt.

B-6 Report on Winter Pollock Survey by NWAFC

The National Marine Fisheries Service projects fewer pollock in the Gulf of Alaska in 1986 based on year-class strength information developed from recent hydroacoustic surveys and the commercial fisheries in Shelikof Strait. The spawning stock covered an area less than half that observed in 1981, and the schools are in a layer only 20-25 fm thick compared to 40 fm in 1981. One bright spot is high juvenile abundance, the downward trend in harvestable pollock is expected to reverse in 1987 as these juveniles recruit to the fishery. This forecast will be updated in September.

NMFS also reported on Pacific cod stocks in the Bering Sea and Aleutians. Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center scientists earlier had predicted declining cod abundance through 1987 as the strong 1977 year class passed from the fishery. Preliminary fishery data for 1985 show that cod catches per unit effort for U.S. factory trawlers and joint ventures in the southeastern Bering

Worldwide fleet from Japan, Korea, Iceland and the USSR released 40,400 mt by May 10 from the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Total catch included 42,441 mt of halibut, 11,254 mt of other species and 11,500 mt of fish oil.

There were no foreign vessels off Alaska on May 11, 1985, 33 from Japan, 30 from the USSR, 18 from Korea, 6 from Iceland, 1 from Taiwan, and one unidentifiable. Last year at this time there were about 40 foreign vessels off Alaska.

B-6 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

The USCG reports that enforcement effort through May 14, 1985, totaled 201 cutter patrol days and 201 aircraft patrol hours covering over 122,870 miles. Signal Searcher SA enforcement efforts have resulted in 11 reports of violations and 20 violation warnings being issued to foreign fishing vessels. When included such violations as failure to submit required activity messages, not maintaining the appropriate watch during other being held for boarding, improper log keeping, and Soviet vessels fishing east of the U.S. A.S.T. Convention line of 180°, and failing to properly return prohibited species to the sea.

The Coast Guard also enforced the ITM during opening week of 1985 and conducted 19 boardings. Two vessels were boarded by patrol aircraft during their last alert the fishery closure.

B-2 Joint Venture Fisheries

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through May 4, 1985 was 271,047 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska, joint venture vessels caught 219,460 mt of halibut, 940 mt of Pacific ocean perch, 75 mt of flatfish and 1,914 mt of other groundfish, for a total of 222,490 mt. In the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, the joint venture catch was 148,647 mt including 109,309 mt of halibut, 14,712 mt of Pacific cod, 7,852 mt of flatfish, 9,432 mt of yellowtail, 2,900 mt of Alaska mackerel, and 1,354 mt of other species. There were about 75 U.S. trawlers involved in these fisheries. Last year by early May joint ventures had taken 270,000 mt.

B-6 Research Vessel Follow Survey by ITAC

The National Marine Fisheries Service program to monitor the Gulf of Alaska in 1986 used an open-ocean research vessel from recent hydrographic surveys and the commercial fisheries to collect data. The surveying area covered an area less than half that covered in 1985 and the schools are in a layer only 20-25 m thick compared to 40 m in 1985. The decline in age 0 fish juvenile abundance, the downward trend in juvenile fish catch is expected to reverse in 1987 as these juveniles recruit to the fishery. This forecast will be updated in September.

ITAC also reported on halibut and stocks in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. Fisheries Center scientists earlier had predicted declining and abundance through 1985 as the strong 1984 year class passed from the fishery. Fisheries data for 1985 show that cod catches per unit effort for U.S. factory trawlers and joint ventures in the southeastern Bering

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Sea east of 170°W have declined 34-37% from last year. As anticipated, average cod size increased because the catch is composed mainly of the older 1977 year class. The reported decrease in catch per effort is very close to the forecasted population decline of 36%. The status of cod stocks will be reviewed in September after the Bering Sea summer survey is completed.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 AP Officers

The Advisory Panel elected Larry Cotter and Bob Alverson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, for the remainder of the year.

Bob Mace moved to approve the AP nominations. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried unanimously.

C-2 MFCMA Reauthorization

Ron Miller reported that on May 2 the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment held a mark-up session on H.R. 1533, a bill to amend and reauthorize the MFCMA. A full Committee mark-up session was held by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee on May 8. Mr. Miller briefed the Council on amendments to the original bill. A copy of the new bill integrating the Subcommittee and Committee amendments is not yet available.

On May 9 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved S. 958 which provides a straight two-year reauthorization of the MFCMA at funding levels of \$68,555,000 for FY 1986 and \$71,639,975 for FY 1987.

Senator Stevens was expected to introduce a bill containing substantive amendments to the MFCMA during the week of June 3-7. Hearings on this bill are expected to be held in late June. (Ed. Note: S. 1245, a bill to amend the MFCMA, was introduced by Senator Stevens on June 5.)

Mr. Miller summarized a bill introduced on March 26 by Senator Lautenberg (N.J.) which proposes to amend the MFCMA; however no action has been taken in Committee on this bill.

A letter from the USA Coalition requesting a Council resolution supporting Americanization of the fisheries within the FCZ was included in Council notebooks. No representative of the Coalition was on hand to testify at the time the matter came up on the agenda and no Council action was taken.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the Council notify Congress of its discontent with the proposed House amendment that before a Council could implement limited entry in a fishery it would have to get approval of 2/3 of the fishermen in the fishery, and to urge Congress to delete that provision from its reauthorization consideration.

... have declined 34-37% last year. As anticipated, ... also increased because the ratio of ... 1977 year class. The reported decrease in catch per unit effort is very close to the forecasted multiplier decline of 30%. The status of cod stock will be reviewed in September after the Bering Sea survey is completed.

0. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

0-1 Air Pollution

The Advisory Panel elected Larry Gotsch and Bill Alivon as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, for the remainder of the year.

Bill Alivon moved to preserve the ... The motion was carried by John Peterson and carried unanimously.

0-2 WFOA Reauthorization

Mr. Miller reported that on May 7 the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment held a markup session on H.R. 1337, a bill to amend and reauthorize the WFOA. A full Committee markup session was held by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee on May 8. Mr. Miller tabled the Committee amendments to the original bill. A copy of the new bill integrating the Subcommittee and Committee amendments is not yet available.

On May 9 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Finance, and Transportation approved S. 322 which provides a two-year reauthorization of the WFOA and funding levels of \$68,555,000 for 1988 and \$71,000,000 for 1987.

Senator Stevens was expected to introduce a bill consisting of amendments amendments amendments to the WFOA during the week of June 7-7. Hearings on the bill are expected to be held in June. (H. W. 1337, a bill to amend the WFOA, was introduced by Senator Stevens on June 2.)

Mr. Miller announced a bill introduced on March 22 by Senator Lautenberg (N.J.) which proposes to amend the WFOA; however, a motion has been taken in Committee on the bill.

A letter from the USA Coalition, requesting a Council resolution supporting Association of the Fisheries within the FOZ was included in an all-nation notebook. A representative of the Coalition was on hand to testify at the time the letter came up on the agenda and a Council action was taken.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the Council modify the Council's position with the proposed House amendment that before a Council could recommend a bill to amend the WFOA it would have to get approval of 2/3 of the fishermen in the fishery, and to urge Congress to delay that provision until the reauthorization amendment.

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C-3 Permit Review

The Permit Review Committee met on May 20-21. Attending were John Peterson (chairing the meeting), Rudy Petersen, John Winther, Henry Mitchell, Bob Mace, Barry Fisher and Al Burch. Following are the items they addressed and their recommendations:

Japanese Yellowfin Sole Joint Venture Requests

The Committee recommends approval of the joint venture requests for yellowfin sole by Whitney-Fidalgo/Ohtori, Alyeska Ocean/Hoko, and Alaska Contact/Japan Small Trawlers. The combined requests are for 5,990 mt yellowfin sole and flounders and 1,520 mt other species.

Portuguese Joint Venture Request for Cod

Profish and Solseca have requested to fish in the Gulf of Alaska on the remaining 4,250 mt of the 5,000 mt cod joint venture originally approved by the Council in February. In April the Permit Committee recommended the joint venture be allowed to harvest up to 1,500 mt in the Central Gulf and that their permit only be extended through May 31.

The Committee reviewed a letter from Mick Stevens and also found there to be little progress on signing purchase agreements for U.S. processed product, establishing import quotas, and resolving financial problems with ship's chandlers. The Committee recommends no further action on this request until these issues are settled. Any documentation provided by Portugal that these problems have been resolved will be sent to the Committee. If there are no further questions, the permits can be approved without reconvening the Committee.

Self-regulation of Bycatch of U.S.-Fully Utilized Species

The Committee recommends that a warning be sent to all foreign vessels operating in joint ventures concerning the need to avoid areas of high abundance of species fully utilized by domestic fishermen. The warning should convey industry and Council concerns over bycatch, indicate that instructional materials are available from the ad hoc industry workgroup addressing the prohibited species problem, and encourage each vessel or fleet to establish and monitor bycatch rates. This warning should also reference the Council's bycatch criteria used in its annual review of joint venture requests.

Permit Conditions and Policy Review

The Committee reviewed and revised a draft public review document that will be used to solicit comment on conditions and restrictions on foreign vessels operating in joint ventures, joint venture allocations to individual companies, and proposed changes to the Council's Interim Policy on Joint Ventures. The revised draft was available for Council review and the Committee recommended it be sent out for public comment.

Foreign Allocations for the Rest of 1985

The Committee concluded that foreign allocations questions were best left to the full Council.

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Processing of Joint Venture Requests for TALFF Species

The Committee recommends that during the summer break the approval authority for joint venture requests on TALFF species such as yellowfin sole be delegated to the Executive Director. If there are any unusual aspects of the request, they should be brought to the Committee and/or Council's attention.

Bob Mace moved to approve the joint venture request by Whitney-Fidalgo/Ohtori for yellowfin sole. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen, and there being no objection, it was so ordered. Sara Hemphill abstained.

John Peterson moved to approve the Permit Committee's recommendation on the Portuguese joint venture request for cod - that no action be taken on this request until the issues cited in the Committee's report be resolved. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. It was the understanding of the Council that if the problems were solved in the immediate future, the Council would be willing to act on the permit request.

Bob Mace moved to send the draft Permit Review Policy out for public comment. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. The Permit Review Committee will meet in August, immediately following the special Council meeting on the Gulf of Alaska FMP, to review public comment and prepare a final document for Council review in September.

The Council agreed that the Executive Director should have the authority to approve routine joint venture requests on TALFF species between now and the next Council meeting.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon FMP

Jim Branson asked the Council to defer action on the revision of the Salmon Plan until after the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty Commission goes into operation.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel requested that the Council revise the salmon plan similar to the King Crab plan where the State would be the lead agency and the Council would be a monitoring agency.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC felt that action on the FMP at this time would be premature. Since Council participation will be required under the Treaty, it would be best to wait until more guidance is provided before taking action.

Processing of Joint Venture Requests for TAPL Species

The Committee recommended that during the summer break the approval authority for joint venture requests on TAPL species such as yellowfin sole be delegated to the Executive Director. If there are any unusual aspects of the request, they should be brought to the Committee and a special situation report prepared.

It was moved to approve the joint venture request for Halibut-Flathead for yellowfin sole. The motion was seconded by Andy Patterson and the following motion was seconded by Andy Patterson and the following motion was seconded by Andy Patterson.

Andy Patterson moved to approve the joint venture request for Halibut-Flathead for yellowfin sole. The motion was seconded by Andy Patterson and the following motion was seconded by Andy Patterson. The Committee will the issues raised in the Committee's report be reviewed. The motion was seconded by Andy Patterson and the following motion was seconded by Andy Patterson. It was the understanding of the Council that if the problems were solved in the immediate future, the Council would be willing to set the permit request.

Bob Pace moved to send the draft Permit Review Policy out for public comment. The motion was seconded by John Wheeler. The Permit Review Policy will be reviewed. The Permit Review Committee will meet in August. Following the special Council meeting of the Gulf of Alaska TAPL to review public comment and prepare a final document on Council review in December.

The Council agreed that the Executive Director should have the authority to approve joint venture requests on TAPL species based on now and the next Council meeting.

U. S. FISHERY MANAGEMENT BOARD

D-1 Salmon TAP

Mr. Hanson asked the Council to defer action on the revision of the Salmon Plan until after the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty Committee's second meeting.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel requested that the Council review the Salmon Plan similar to the King Crab plan where the State would be the lead agency and the Council would be a monitoring agency.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC felt that action on the TAPL on other fish would be premature. Since Council participation will be required under the Treaty, it would be best to wait until more guidance is provided before taking action.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council agreed to defer action on the Salmon Plan until after the Salmon Commission is in operation and the role and obligations of the Council are more clearly defined.

Bob McVey supported this recommendation, but expressed the need for action as soon as practicable because the plan is so out of date.

D-2 Gulf of Alaska FMP

D-2(a) Amendment 14

Steve Davis briefed the Council on changes made to the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) documents as a result of public and agency comments received during the 30-day comment period which ended May 3, 1985. The Council was also provided with a summary of comments. Jim Wilson reviewed changes to the RIR, Part I, which dealt with the sablefish issues, and Doug Larson presented a report on the employment impacts of changing sablefish harvest methods. Daphne White, NMFS, reviewed changes made to the habitat document as a result of Council, SSC and AP discussions at the March Council meeting.

The Council was asked to identify their preferred alternative for each of the seven amendment issues:

1. Establish a gear and/or area restriction in the sablefish fishery.
2. Establish rockfish areas and quotas.
3. Implement new optimum yields for pollock, Pacific ocean perch, rockfish, Atka mackerel and other species.
4. Implement reporting requirements for catcher/processors.
5. Establish measures to control the Pacific halibut bycatch.
6. Implement the NMFS habitat policy.
7. Sablefish fishing seasons.

Public Testimony - All public testimony on groundfish items is found in Appendix II to these minutes.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel had the following recommendations for each of the issues listed above.

ISSUE 1 - Establish a gear and/or area restriction in the sablefish fishery. The AP recommended that the Eastern Gulf be designated longline only, the Central and Western Gulf sablefish allocation be split among the three gear types as follows: 50% to longline; 25% to trawls; and 25% to pots. At the same time, in the Central Gulf, a one-year phase out of pot fishing would begin with that 25% allocation going to longline gear in 1987, and in the Western Gulf, there would be a three-year phase out. At the end of three years, the pot allocation would go to the longliners. The 25% trawl allocation would cover bycatch, directed, JV, etc.

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ISSUE 2 - Establish rockfish areas and quotas. The AP recommended Alternative 2, setting a Southeast District shelf demersal rockfish OY at 600 mt between 56°N latitude and 57°30'N latitude with the remainder of the 5,000 mt OY (4,400 mt) to be taken elsewhere in the Gulf.

ISSUE 3 - Implement new OYs for pollock, POP, rockfish, Atka mackerel, and other species.

Pollock - Alternative 1, reduce optimum yield to 305,000 mt in the Western/Central Area.

POP - Alternative 1, reduce the optimum yield for POP to 1,302 mt and 3,906 mt in the Western and Central areas, respectively.

Atka mackerel - Alternative 1, reduce the OYs in the Central and Eastern areas to bycatch amounts only.

Other Species - Alternative 1, set "Other Species" OY equal to 5% of the total OYs for each of the other groundfish categories on the basis of an equation contained in the FMP.

Other Rockfish - Alternative 1, reduce the Gulfwide Other Rockfish OY to 5,000 mt.

ISSUE 4 - Implement reporting requirements for catcher/processors. The AP recommended maintaining status quo. They agreed with the need for some sort of reporting system but felt that the other alternatives were not fully developed and contained too many unknowns. They suggested this issue be more fully developed for the next amendment cycle.

ISSUE 5 - Establish measures to control the Pacific halibut bycatch. The AP recommended Alternative 3, develop a framework procedure for the annual adjustment of PSC limits.

ISSUE 6 - Implement NMFS habitat policy. The AP recommended Alternative 1b, which would include a habitat goal in the FMP but not specific sections and detailed text. Detailed habitat discussion would be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the FMP.

ISSUE 7 - Sablefish fishing seasons. The AP recommended an April 1 Gulfwide opening for longline and pot sablefish fisheries and a January 1 opening date for trawl fisheries.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC had the following recommendations on Amendment 14:

ISSUE 1 - Establish a gear and/or area restriction in the sablefish fishery. The SSC felt that none of the alternatives under consideration would yield long-term benefits and therefore had no recommendation on this issue. They felt that rational management of the sablefish fishery must consider effort limitation.

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ISSUE 2 - Establish rockfish areas and quotas. The SSC recommended Alternative 2, setting a Southeast District shelf demersal rockfish OY at 600 mt between 56°N latitude and 57°30'N latitude with the remainder of the 5,000 mt OY (4,400 mt) to be taken elsewhere in the Gulf.

ISSUE 3 - Implement new OYs for pollock, POP, rockfish, Atka mackerel, and other species.

Pollock - Alternative 1, reduce optimum yield to 305,000 mt in the Western/Central Area.

POP - The SSC did not recommend any of the alternatives listed; they felt that harvest levels should be set at bycatch levels only in the Central and Eastern areas.

Atka mackerel - Alternative 1, reduce the OYs in the Central and Eastern areas to bycatch amounts only.

Other Species - The SSC recommended that the Council look into a framework approach for the Other Species OY in the Gulf.

Other Rockfish - Alternative 1, reduce the Gulfwide Other Rockfish OY to 5,000 mt.

ISSUE 4 - Implement reporting requirements for catcher/processors. The SSC preferred alternatives that use observers because of the desire to monitor bycatch and prohibited species catches. However, since funds are not currently available for this type of program, they recommended Alternative 2, which would require catcher/processor vessels to obtain FCZ processing permits, notify NMFS via U.S. Coast Guard radio each time they enter or leave an FMP management area, and submit a report to NMFS by mail or telex for each fishing week documenting the haul weight estimates of catch by FMP species group in each FMP area. They also suggested the Council explore methods of funding an observer program.

ISSUE 5 - Establish measures to control the Pacific halibut bycatch. The SSC recommended Alternative 3, develop a framework procedure for the annual adjustment of PSC limits.

ISSUE 6 - Implement NMFS habitat policy. The SSC recommended Alternative 1b, which would include a habitat goal in the FMP but not specific sections and detailed text. Detailed habitat discussion would be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the FMP.

ISSUE 7 - Sablefish fishing seasons. The SSC did not find major biological issues in this measure and felt that there was no compelling reason to either accept or reject the proposed alternatives.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

ISSUE 1 - Sablefish gear and/or areas restrictions. The Council discussed the alternatives at length. They recognized the need to take action to minimize gear conflicts and respond to the needs of the longline fishermen who have a history in the fishery, however were also aware of the problems of the pot fishermen. They also were concerned about providing for the bycatch needs of the trawl industry without encouraging them to target on sablefish.

ISSUE 2 - Washfish rookfish areas and quotas. The SSC recommended Alternative 2, setting a Southeast Hatteras shelf rookfish OY at 800 mt between 65° latitude and 75° 0'N latitude with the restriction of the 2,000 mt OY (4,000 mt) to be taken elsewhere in the Gulf.

ISSUE 3 - Impose a new OY for pellock, HBT, rockfish, Atka mackerel, and other species.

Pellock - Alternative 1, reduce optimum yield to 200,000 mt in the Southeast/Central Area.

HBT - The SSC did not recommend any of the alternatives listed. They felt that harvest levels should be set at harvest levels of the Central and Eastern areas.

Atka mackerel - Alternative 1, reduce the OY to the Central and Eastern areas to harvest amounts only.

Other Species - The SSC recommended that the Council look into a framework approach for the Other Species OY in the Gulf.

Other Rookfish - Alternative 1, reduce the Other Rookfish OY to 2,000 mt.

ISSUE 4 - Impose reporting requirements for catch/processors. The SSC preferred alternatives that use observers because of the desire to monitor harvest on prohibited species catches. However, since funds are not currently available for this type of program, they recommended Alternative 1, which would require catch/processors to obtain FOX processor numbers weekly from the U.S. Coast Guard each time they enter or leave an HBT management area, and submit a report to HBT by mail or telex for each fishing week documenting the total weight estimates of each HBT species group in each HBT area. They also suggested the Council explore methods of further observer program.

ISSUE 5 - Washfish measures to control the Pacific halibut harvest. The SSC recommended Alternative 2, develop a framework procedure for the annual adjustment of HBT limits.

ISSUE 6 - Impose HBT harvest policy. The SSC recommended Alternative 1, which would include a harvest goal in the HBT but not specific conditions or detailed level. Detailed harvest discussion could be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the HBT.

ISSUE 7 - Sublet fishery seasons. The SSC did not find major biological reasons in this measure and felt that there was no compelling reason for either accept or reject the proposed alternatives.

COUNCIL RESPONSE AND ACTION

ISSUE 1 - Sublet fishery gear and/or mesh restrictions. The Council discussed the alternatives at length. They recognized the need to take action to minimize gear conflicts and respond to the needs of the longer fishermen who have a history in the fishery, however were also aware of the progress of the gear reduction. They also were concerned about providing for the harvest needs of the new fishery without encountering them as target or bycatch.

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Henry Mitchell moved to designate the Eastern Gulf of Alaska longline only for sablefish and to allocate the resource in the Central Gulf as follows: 60% longline, 15% trawl for both directed and bycatch, 25% to pot with a one-year phase out of pots; in the Western Gulf the allocation would be 60% longline, 15% trawl for both directed and bycatch, and 25% to pots with a two-year phase out of pot gear. The motion was seconded by Collinsworth, but later withdrawn by Mr. Mitchell with the second's concurrence.

Gene Didonato moved that the Council accept the AP recommendation: The Eastern Gulf would be longline only. In the Central and Western Gulf, the sablefish resource would be allocated as follows: 50% longline, 25% trawl, 25% pot. At the same time, in the Central Gulf there would be a one-year phase out of pot fishing with the 25% pot allocation reverting to longline gear. In the Western Gulf, there would be a three-year phase out of pot gear with their 25% allocation reverting to longline gear. The 25% trawl allocation would cover bycatch, directed and joint venture needs. The motion was seconded by John Peterson.

Don Collinsworth moved to amend the motion to change the percentages in the Central and Western Gulf to 55% for longline gear, 25% for pots, 20% for trawlers. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried 6 to 5, with Mace, McVey, R. Petersen, J. Peterson, and Gene Didonato voting against the motion.

Jeff Stephan moved to amend the motion to increase the phase-out period to four years in both areas. The motion died for lack of a second.

Bob McVey moved to amend the motion to provide 5% within the OY limit in the Eastern area as a trawl bycatch allowance. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried, 9 to 2, with Collinsworth and Winther voting against.

Jeff Stephan moved to amend the percentages in the original motion as follows: 80% to longline and pot gear in the Central Gulf and 20% to trawl gear and that a cap be put on those six vessels that are participating in the fishery as of March 31, 1985. The motion died for lack of a second.

Henry Mitchell moved to amend the main motion to phase-out pot gear in the Central area would be phased out in one year as proposed, but those vessels resident to the Central area would be allowed a five-year phase out period. The motion died for lack of a second.

The main motion, as amended by Don Collinsworth and Bob McVey, carried 7 to 4, with Mace, Hemphill, R. Petersen, and Stephan voting against.

Jim Branson asked for verification that the catch amount for trawlers (in the current motion), 20% in the Central and Western areas and 5% in the Eastern area, is not prohibited species but can all be kept and sold, but when that amount is caught, all trawling would cease in those respective districts. Council members were in agreement.

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John Harville was concerned that the Council had not done enough with the trawl allocation. He felt it is important to make it clear that the intent of the Council is to allow for bycatch and to avoid a targeted fishery on sablefish which could close the whole fishery down within a few months. Bob McVey said he thinks the regulatory amendment proposed to handle the single-species OY problem will take care of this problem. The aim of the regulatory amendment is to give the NMFS Regional Director authority to close down the fishery and leave a bycatch amount and allow other fisheries that don't take the species to continue, to allow certain gear types to continue, and even to consider a series of criteria to allow, after closure, reentry of certain elements of the fishery.

Henry Mitchell moved that the Council limit all sablefish vessels in the Gulf of Alaska, longline, pot and trawl, to those currently in the fishery. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill but subsequently withdrawn.

There was concern that this issue had not been adequately advertised as an agenda item for this meeting. Henry Mitchell withdrew the motion with the concurrence of the second but said that he feels there is a need to stabilize the fishery in the long term and it should be addressed sometime in the near future.

Changes to the FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the Changes to the FMP prepared to reflect their decision on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell move to approve Section 1 of the changes to FMP (included as Appendix III to these minutes), dealing with sablefish amendments, as presented by the Plan Team. The motion was seconded by John Peterson. The motion carried with Jeff Stephan objecting. The Council clarified that gillnets are not legal in this fishery as a result of this motion.

Don Collinsworth moved to bring back to the floor the motion addressing the bycatch level for the sablefish fishery in the Eastern Regulatory Area. The motion was seconded by John Winther and failed, 6 to 5, with Collinsworth, McVey, Mitchell, Stephan and Winther voting yes.

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt all of the sablefish regulations as presented (included as Appendix IV to these minutes). The motion was seconded by Collinsworth and carried with Jeff Stephan and Rudy Peterson objecting.

ISSUE 2 - rockfish areas and quotas. The Council discussed the suggestion that shelf rockfish be removed from federal management and allow the State of Alaska to manage the fishery. Pat Travers said that, after researching the subject, giving full control to the State would not be permissible but the plan could be amended to provide that State regulations, in addition to the federal regulations, would not be presumed to be in conflict. If that were done, the State could come up with its own regulations and they would not automatically be presumed to be in conflict with Council and NMFS regulations and could affect vessels registered under the laws of the State. NMFS has draft language for this action and John Harville suggested that it could be considered when the Council reviews the Gulf FMP in August.

John Henry was concerned that the Council had not done enough with the
travel allowance. He felt it was important to make it clear that the Council
the Council to allow for budget and to avoid a targeted fishing
adviser which could cause the whole fishing board within a month. John
Henry said he didn't think the regulatory board was prepared to handle the
change-over of program will take care of this problem. The idea of the
regulatory assessment is to give the WFFS financial information to allow
down the fishery and leave a budget amount and allow other to budget that
don't take the species to continue, to allow certain gear types to continue,
and even to consider a series of criteria to allow other license regulatory
certain elements of the fishery.

Henry Mitchell moved that the Council limit all advisory reports to the Gulf
of Alaska, including, but not limited to those currently in the fishery. The
motion was seconded by Gary Berglund but subsequently withdrawn.

There was concern that the issue had not been adequately discussed as an
agenda item for this meeting. Henry Mitchell withdrew the motion with the
consensus of the board but said that he felt there was a need to establish
the fishery in the long term and it should be addressed sometime in the near
future.

Changes to the WFFS

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the WFFS prepared to reflect
their decision on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Section 1 of the changes to WFFS including an
Appendix III to those changes (including with advisory management, as
presented by Bill Tabor. The motion was seconded by John T. Tabor. The
motion carried with 10-0 support. The Council decided that
changes are not legal in this fishery as a result of this motion.

For Collinsworth moved to bring back to the floor the motion regarding the
bycatch level in the advisory fishery in the Eastern Regulatory Area. The
motion was seconded by John Tabor and failed 6-5 with Collinsworth,
McVey, Mitchell, Stearn and Winter voting yes.

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to amend all of the advisory regulations as presented
(included in Appendix IV to those changes). The motion was seconded by
Collinsworth and carried with 10-0 support and 10-0 support.

ISSUE 2 - Advisory areas and quotas. The Council discussed the suggestion
that advisory areas be removed from federal management and allow the State of
Alaska to manage the fishery. Pat Tabor said that, after researching the
subject, giving full control to the State would not be desirable but the
plan could be amended to provide that State regulation, in addition to the
federal regulation, would not be presented to be in conflict. If that were
done, the State could come up with its own regulations and they would not
necessarily be presented to be in conflict with Council and WFFS regulations
and could affect various regulations under the form of the State. WFFS has
been in charge for this matter and John Tabor like suggested that it could be
considered when the Council reviews the WFFS in August.

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Don Collinsworth moved to adopt Alternative 2, to set the Southeast District shelf demersal rockfish OY at 60 mt between 56°N latitude and 57°30'N latitude with the remainder of the 5,000 mt OY (4,400 mt) to be taken elsewhere in the Gulf. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the FMP

Bob Mace moved to approve Section 2 of the Changes to the FMP, "Other Rockfish," as presented by the Plan Team (see Appendix III). The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Regulations

The regulations for this portion of the amendment are included in the revised Table 1 (See Appendix IV) approved by the Council in a previous motion.

ISSUE 3 - new optimum yields for pollock, POP, Atka mackerel and other species.

Bob Mace moved that the OY for POLLOCK in the Western and Central areas of the Gulf of Alaska be set at 305,000 mt. John Peterson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

For PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH, Henry Mitchell moved to adopt Alternative 1, reduce the optimum yield to 1,302 mt and 3,906 mt in the Western and Central areas, respectively. The motion was seconded by John Winther and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

For ATKA MACKEREL, Bob Mace moved to adopt Alternative 1, to reduce the OYs in the Eastern and Central areas to bycatch amounts only, or 500 mt and 100 mt, respectively. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

For OTHER SPECIES, John Peterson moved to adopt Alternative 1, to set the OY equal to 5% of the total OYs for each of the other groundfish categories on the basis of an equation contained in the FMP. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

For OTHER ROCKFISH, Don Collinsworth moved to adopt Alternative 1, to reduce the Gulfwide OY for rockfish to 5,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the FMP

Bob Mace moved to approve the changes to the FMP relating to this portion of the amendment (see Appendix III). The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Don Collinsworth suggested the following language be included under the "Other Rockfish" section of the Changes to the FMP: "The State of Alaska's management regime for demersal shelf rockfish is directed at managing these rockfish stocks within smaller management units than are provided for by the

Don Coltham moved to adopt Alternative I to set the South-east District shell harvest quota at 100 mt between 1/1/86 and 1/31/86. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the Bill

Bob Mac moved to approve Section 1 of the Changes to the Bill. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Resolutions

The resolutions for this portion of the meeting are included in the enclosed Table I (see Appendix IV) approved by the Board at its previous meeting.

1985-86 - new optimum yields for pollock, DWF, Alaska pollock and other species.

Bob Mac moved that the OY for POLLOCK in the Western and Central areas of the Gulf of Alaska be set at 300,000 mt. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Don Coltham moved to adopt Alternative I to set the optimum yield for the Western and Central areas, respectively. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

For ATKA POLLOCK, Bob Mac moved to adopt Alternative I to reduce the OY to the Western and Central areas to 100 mt and 100 mt, respectively. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

For OTHER SPECIES, Don Coltham moved to adopt Alternative I to set the OY equal to 50 of the total OY for each of the other specified categories on the basis of a resolution contained in the Bill. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Don Coltham moved to adopt Alternative I to reduce the OY for POLLOCK to 500 mt. The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the Bill

Bob Mac moved to approve the changes to the Bill relating to the portion of the Amendment (see Appendix III). The motion was seconded by Don Coltham and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Don Coltham suggested the following language be included under the "Other Species" section of the Changes to the Bill: "The State of Alaska's management policy for demersal shell fisheries is directed at ensuring that fisheries with smaller management units than those provided for by the

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FMP. Such State regulations are in addition to and stricter than federal regulations. They are not in conflict with the FMP as long as they are: (1) consistent with the specific provisions of the FMP; (2) limited to establishing smaller areas and quotas which would result in a harvest of demersal shelf rockfish in each FMP management area at levels no greater than provided for in the FMP. Such State regulations may apply only to those vessels registered under the laws of the State of Alaska." It has been recommended that the original wording in that last sentence be changed to read "vessels licensed under the laws of the State of Alaska" since the State does not register any vessels under its current groundfish regulations but they do require licensing of vessels to commercially fish. Pat Travers suggested that the last sentence be changed back to "registered" because it is language taken right out of the Magnuson Act and vessels that are licensed under the laws of Alaska would be considered registered. The Council agreed that the sentence would read "registered/licensed".

The Advisory Panel voted unanimously not to include this language. They are concerned that there are some legal questions in implementing this type of regulation in the event that it becomes necessary to close rockfish fishing in some areas and Alaska-licensed vessels would be the only ones required to shut down. Pat Travers said that if NMFS agrees with State action then the Regional Director would have authority to impose the same requirements on non-registered vessels if they existed; at this time none exist.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council approve this language to be added to the amendment changes to the FMP. Henry Mitchell seconded the motion which passed, 10 to 1, with Rudy Petersen objecting.

Regulations

Bob Mace moved to approve the revised Table 1 which reflects the OY changes made by the Council and would be part of the federal regulations for managing groundfish in the FCZ. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

ISSUE 4 - reporting requirements for catchers/processors. The Council discussed voluntary reporting arrangements as an interim measure, but there was concern about getting information in a timely manner. There was also some concern that there was no description of a "catcher/processor" included in the analysis. Staff suggested that vessels holding any portion of their catch for over two weeks would be regulated under this amendment. The Coast Guard said that they do not have the manpower necessary to handle additional weekly reports but they could probably deal with check-in and check-out regulations.

Rudy Petersen moved to approve Alternative 1, maintain the status quo. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill but was subsequently withdrawn.

John Peterson moved to approve Alternative 2, which would require a FCZ processing permit with check-in/check-out and weekly catch reporting. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

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Changes to the FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the FMP prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Bob Mace moved to approve the changes to the FMP for this portion of the amendment, as prepared by the plan team and contained on pages 10-19 in the draft Changes to the FMP document. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. (Final document included as Appendix III to these minutes.)

Regulations

Pat Travers presented the regulations prepared to implement this portion of the amendment. Craig Hammond also reviewed NMFS suggestions for the regulations.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the regulations for catcher/processor reporting contained in CFR Part 672, 672.5, and 672.4 as presented to the Council, with minor editorial changes proposed by the Council and that the same regulations be applied to the Bering Sea document. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen, and there being no objection it was so ordered. It was the understanding of the Council that the staff would coordinate with NMFS in preparing the final document and would follow the process through to be sure Council concerns are recognized in Washington, DC.

John Winther moved to amend Section (3)(A)(i), in the first paragraph to insert "upon" between the words "and stopping", to insert "and" after GMT in the third sentence, and to delete "and position" of that sentence. In Section (3)(A)(ii) to delete "and the position of the new fishing activity" from the third sentence. The same changes would be made in Section (3)(B)(i) and (3)(B)(ii). The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Sara Hemphill moved to amend the main motion to delete the last sentence in paragraphs (3)(A)(i) and (3)(B)(i), "No such operator may retain any part of that vessel's catch on board that vessel for a period of more than 14 days from the time it is caught unless the Regional Director received all notifications required under this paragraph during that period." The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen. Some Council members felt that this change would take the "teeth" out of the regulation and would defeat the purposes of gathering data. It was suggested that NMFS could deal with the regulation to allow for problems arising, storms, mechanical failures, etc., which might prevent them from complying. Sara restated the motion with the concurrence of the second to move that the Council ask the drafters of the regulations to take the suggestions and concerns of the Council on this particular paragraph under consideration when they are finalizing the document and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

The main motion carried as amended (see final language in Appendix IV).

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ISSUE 5 - measures to control Pacific halibut bycatch.

John Winther moved to approve Alternative 3, to develop a framework procedure for the annual adjustment of PSC limits, including items a-e listed under the Alternative on pages 26-27 of the RIR. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

There was some discussion about the feasibility of getting the amendment language and regulations prepared on this alternative in time for Council review and approval at this meeting. The Plan Team said they felt they could accomplish this; however, if there were any problems with the amendment, a possible alternative would be to go with Alternative 2 (raise the Western and Central Gulf PSC limits to 270 mt and 768 mt, respectively) as an interim measure and then Alternative 3 could be included in the frameworked plan. The Council agreed that this would be the plan of action if the Council could not come to an agreement on Alternative 3.

Changes to the FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the FMP prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the framework Alternative 3 in the Changes to the FMP document presented by the Plan Team, with the additions of the flexibility given to the Regional Director as shown under Alternative 3'. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. (Final document included as Appendix III to these minutes.)

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the regulations for the framework provision adopted in the Changes to the FMP, including the provisions to allow the Council Regional Director the most flexibility in setting PSC limits. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

ISSUE 6 - habitat policy. Bob McVey said he was disappointed by the AP and SSC recommendations not to include the habitat section in the FMP. Much work has been done on the document since the March Council meeting to address comments and concerns of the SSC, AP and Council and they are willing to change the document to reflect the SSC's comments at this meeting. Pat Travers said that an alternative that did not include the document into the FMP would not be consistent with the NMFS Habitat Policy and would be rejected by NMFS.

Bob McVey moved to incorporate the habitat section in the FMP and that NMFS would redraft the document in accordance with the comments and advice received by the SSC at this meeting for Council review on Friday, May 24. Don Collinsworth seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Henry Mitchell suggested NMFS consider the AP minority opinion when revising the document because it seems to most closely follow the habitat policy that NMFS has come up with.

ITEM 2 - presented to Council for their review.

John Mitchell moved to approve Alternative 2, to develop a framework proposal for the annual adjustment of SSC limits, including items set forth in the Alternative on pages 26-27 of the WMP. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

There was some discussion about the feasibility of getting the amendments language and regulations prepared on this alternative in time for Council review and approval at this meeting. The Board has said they felt they could accomplish this; however, if there were any problems with the amendments, possible alternatives would be to go with Alternative 2 (which the Western and General and the Eastern and 200 and 200 (1), respectively) as an interim measure and the Alternative 2 could be included in the framework plan. The Council agreed that this would be the plan of action if the Council could not come to an agreement on Alternative 2.

Changes to the WMP

On Friday, the Council received the changes to the WMP prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the framework Alternative 2 in the Changes to the WMP document presented by the WMP team, with the addition of the Mitchell plan to the regulatory division as shown in Alternative 2. The motion was seconded by Bob Moyer and there being no objection, it was so ordered. (Final document included Appendix III to the amendment.)

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the regulations for the framework proposal adopted in the Changes to the WMP, including the proposal to allow the Council Regional Director the most flexibility in setting limits. The motion was seconded by Bob Moyer and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

ITEM 6 - Habitat policy. Bob Moyer said he was disappointed by the AR and SSC recommendations not to include the habitat section in the WMP. Much work has been done on the document since the March Council meeting to address comments and concerns of the SSC, AP and Council and they are willing to change the document to reflect the SSC's comments at this meeting. The mover said that an alternative that did not include the document into the WMP would not be consistent with the WMP Habitat Policy and would be rejected by WMP.

Bob Moyer moved to incorporate the habitat section in the WMP and that WMP would reflect the document in accordance with the comments and concerns received by the SSC at this meeting for Council review on Friday, May 20, 1977. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Henry Mitchell suggested WMP consider the AI priority option when revising the document because it seems to most closely follow the habitat policy that WMP has come up with.

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Bob McVey suggested that since they are so close to a document that would be satisfactory to the SSC, they should try to complete it at this meeting. If the Council is not satisfied with the product on Friday, that it be reworked and resubmitted to the SSC in September for review even though it would be out of the regular amendment cycle. Bob Mace suggested that if the Council does not approve the document on Friday that they approve the SSC recommendation of Alternative 1b as an interim measure, and put the entire document itself into the next amendment cycle. Henry Mitchell suggested that it would best to get something into the plan now because environmentalists are trying to get habitat considerations into the Magnuson Act and it would be better for the Councils to implement their own regulations before that happens.

Changes to the FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the revised habitat document prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the habitat document as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

ISSUE 7 - sablefish fishing seasons.

Jeff Stephan moved to set April 1 as the sablefish season opening in the Gulf of Alaska for pot and longline gear and January 1 for trawl gear. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell. The motion carried, 10 to 1, with Hemphill voting against.

John Winther moved to amend the motion to read that the trawl fishery would open January 1, the longline fishery would open April 1, and the pot fishery would open September 1. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill, and failed, 9 to 2, with Winther and Hemphill voting for.

John Peterson said he couldn't support the September 1 opening date for pot fishermen because they are going to be phased out within three years and it's not fair to them to have to wait until September 1 to begin fishing.

Changes to the FMP

The Council addressed the changes to the FMP for season dates under Issue 1, approving the Changes to the FMP document as presented (see Appendix III).

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the regulations as presented (see Appendix IV). The motion was seconded by John Peterson and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

II. Single Species OY Regulatory Amendment

In March the Council discussed the continuing problem of regulatory areas closing when a single groundfish species OY is reached. The Council recommended that the NMFS Regional Director manage the directed groundfish fisheries in the Gulf to harvest below OY and use the remainder for bycatch

Bob Kover suggested that since they are so close to a document that would be satisfactory to the SEC, they should try to complete it at this meeting. The Council is not satisfied with the product on Friday, and it is recommended that the SEC be kept informed for review even though it would be one of the regular working days. Bob Kover suggested that if the Council does not approve the document on Friday that they approve the SEC recommendation of Alternative II as an interim measure, and put the entire document itself into the next working cycle. Henry Mitchell suggested that it would be best to get something into the place now because opportunities are being to get legislative amendments into the Johnson Act and it would be better for the Council to lay down their own regulations before that happens.

Changes to the Bill

On Friday, the Council reviewed the revised habitat document prepared in response to the preliminary alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the habitat document as presented. The motion was recorded by John Peterson and there being no other business, it was so ordered.

Item 7 - Habitat Working Session

John Peterson moved to set April 1 as the habitat working session in the fall of Alaska for the habitat working session and to have a meeting for the working session was suggested by Henry Mitchell. The motion carried 10 to 1 with Henry Mitchell voting against.

John Peterson moved to amend the motion to read that the habitat working session be held in the fall of Alaska for the habitat working session and to have a meeting for the working session was suggested by Henry Mitchell. The motion was recorded by John Peterson and there being no other business, it was so ordered.

John Peterson said he couldn't support the September 1 opening date for the habitat working session because they are going to be placed on within three weeks and it is not fair to them to have to wait until September 1 to begin habitat.

Changes to the Bill

The Council discussed the changes to the bill for habitat working session and approved the changes to the bill document as presented (see Appendix III).

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the regulations as presented (see Appendix IV). The motion was recorded by John Peterson and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

II. Single Species Of Regulatory Amendments

In March the Council discussed the continuing problem of regulatory amendments that a single groundfish species of the Council. The Council recommended that the BSEE Regional Director submit the direct amendments to the Council to be reviewed before the Council and the remainder for the Council to review before the Council.

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purposes in other non-target fisheries. NMFS advises the single-species OY problem can be addressed through a regulatory amendment. The Plan Team prepared four alternatives for Council review:

- (1) Amend the current domestic and foreign fishing regulations to exempt certain fisheries known to take negligible amounts of certain species from area closures when the OY for those species is reached, to exempt certain gear types used in target fisheries that are known to take negligible amounts of certain species from area closures when the OY for those species is reached, authorize the Regional Director to manage the OY for each target species such that the directed fishery is closed short of a percentage of the OY to allow a buffer amount as bycatch in other target fisheries, and to allow the Regional Director, subsequent to closure, to reopen a fishery by field order on the basis of the most recent information available.
- (2) Establish prohibited species catch limits (PSCs) for species such that bycatches in other target fisheries would be authorized, after the OY had been achieved, up to an amount not to exceed the PSC.
- (3) Designate a species for which the OY had been reached as a prohibited species, authorizing other target fisheries to continue without further accounting for the prohibited species.
- (4) Maintain the status quo.

Report of the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee

The AP and SSC preferred Alternative 1.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Peterson moved to approve Alternative 1 (listed above). Gene Didonato seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2(b) Approve net entanglement provision.

A review by staff and NOAA General Counsel has shown that neither the Gulf of Alaska nor Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery management plan provides authority to implement regulations prohibiting discarding litter at sea. The Council was asked to consider a regulation proposed by the SSC for incorporation into both groundfish plans.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended that the net entanglement regulation be included in the plan as part of the habitat amendment.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Changes recommended by AP: In Paragraph B of the proposed regulation, "If abandoned or discarded floating fishing gear or net fragments ~~of other articles~~ are encountered . . . Also, need to indicate to whom, where at, and how the reports are to be made. Mr. Branson said that information would be included in final regulatory language in any case.

purposes of other management objectives. The plan from
problem can be addressed through management. The plan from
prepared four alternatives for council review:

(1) Amend the current Council and Council Fisheries regulations to exempt
certain fisheries known to have negligible amounts of certain species
from area closures when the CY for those species is such that, to date,
certain gear types used in target fisheries that are used to take
negligible amounts of certain species from area closures when the CY for
those species is reached, authorize the Regional Director to manage the
CY for each target species such that the Director's effort is closed about
of a percentage of the CY to allow a further amount as specified in other
target fisheries; and to allow the Regional Director, subsequent to
closure, to issue a fishery by field order on the basis of the most
recent available information.

(2) Amend the prohibited species catch limits (PSCs) for species such
that species for other target fisheries may be authorized after the
CY has been achieved, up to an amount not to exceed the PSC.

(3) Develop a species for which the CY had been reached as a
prohibited species; authorizing other target fisheries to continue
while further accounting for the prohibited species.

(4) Amend the status quo.

Report of the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee

The AP and SSC preferred Alternative 1.

COUNCIL DECISION ON AIA ACTION

John Peterson voted to approve Alternative 1 (closed area). Gene Johnson
seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2(b) Approve non-entanglement proposal.

A review by staff and NOAA General Counsel has shown that neither the GULF of
Alaska nor the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery management plan
provided authority to implement regulations prohibiting the use of
gear. The Council was asked to consider a regulation proposed by the SSC for
incorporation into both groundfish plans.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended that the non-entanglement regulation be included in the
plans as part of the habitat amendment.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Changes recommended by AP: In Paragraph B of the proposed regulation, "If
abandoned or abandoned floating gear or net fragments are found
within 100 yards of the gear, the gear shall be removed. Also, need to indicate to whom, where, and
how the reports are to be made. Mr. Peterson said that information would be
included in final regulatory language in any case.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the regulation with the above suggested changes. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. This action is to apply to both the Gulf and Bering Sea FMPs.

D-2(c) Emergency action to minimize joint venture and foreign interceptions of salmon.

The Council had expressed concern over the high incidental catch of salmon by fall joint ventures and foreign pollock fishery in the Gulf of Alaska and asked the Plan Team to review the incidental catch data and report to the Council.

The Plan Team concluded that while most of the salmon were caught southeast of Kodiak Island, salmon were caught wherever pollock fishing occurred. The Plan Team discussed possible measures to reduce the incidental harvest of salmon including time/area closures, fishery closures, voluntary measures, and prohibited species catch (PSC) limits and provided the Council with the following recommendations:

- (1) that the Council consider voluntary measures for reduction of the incidental catch of salmon proposed by the industry.
- (2) if formal regulatory action is required, the Team recommended PSC limits for salmon in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas.

After reviewing the NMFS observer data the Team concluded that salmon will be caught wherever fishing occurs. A time/area closure, while preventing pollock fishing in an area, is no guarantee that salmon will not be incidentally harvested elsewhere.

Steve Kaimmer of Alaska Contact presented a paper which outlined methods of reducing the incidental catch of salmon in pollock joint ventures.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC suggested that participants in the groundfish trawl fishery get together to develop a plan to reduce the incidental salmon catch. They recommended the workgroup review Steve Kaimmer's report, "Bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska Pollock Fishery Focusing on Salmon Bycatch in Fall Pollock Joint Ventures" when developing their plan. The SSC felt that the workgroup should produce a plan prior to August 1, 1985. If a plan isn't developed by that time, the SSC recommended that a PSC be implemented with an emergency action. The SSC also suggested that the council direct the plan team to perform the appropriate analyses and calculate a PSC value in case that action is needed.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP discussed the issue with some of the joint venture operators involved in the fishery and suggested the following voluntary measures for the

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the resolution with the above suggested changes. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. This motion is to apply to both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea fisheries.

1-2(a) Emergency action to stabilize fishery and foreign investigations of salmon.

The Council has expressed concern over the high incidence of salmon in fall joint ventures and foreign joint ventures in the Gulf of Alaska and asked the Plan Team to review the individual catch data and report to the Council.

The Plan Team concluded that while most of the salmon were from the southeast of Kodiak Island, salmon were caught wherever pollock fishing occurred. The Plan Team discussed possible measures to reduce the individual harvest of salmon including time-area closures, effort closures, voluntary measures, and individual species catch (PSC) limits and provided the Council with the following recommendations:

(1) That the Council consider voluntary measures for reduction of the individual catch of salmon proposed to the industry.

(2) If formal regulatory action is required, the team recommended that limits for salmon in the Central and Western Regulatory Areas.

After reviewing the WMS observer data the team concluded that salmon will be caught wherever fishing occurs. A time-area closure, which prevents pollock fishing in an area, is a measure that salmon will not be incidentally harvested elsewhere.

Steve Kaiman of Alaska Council provided a paper which outlined methods of reducing the individual catch of salmon in pollock joint ventures.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC suggested that pertinent data in the groundfish time series be gathered to develop a plan to reduce the individual harvest of salmon. They recommended the workshop review Steve Kaiman's report "Hydrograph in the Gulf of Alaska Fall or February Research on Salmon Harvest in Fall Pollock Joint Ventures" when developing their plan. The SSC felt that the workshop should produce a plan prior to August 1, 1982. If a plan isn't developed by that time, the SSC recommended that a PSC be implemented with an emergency action. The SSC also suggested that the Council should the plan team to perform the appropriate analyses and calculate a PSC value in case that action is needed.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AI discussed the issue with some of the joint venture operators involved in the fishery and suggested the following voluntary measure for the

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remainder of 1985:

- (1) That each joint venture must have a chief representative on the grounds who has the power to move or stop the fishing activity of the catcher vessels.
- (2) Fishing will stop if, over a three-day period, incidental catches of chinook salmon exceed two animals per metric ton or the area that is being fished will be changed.
- (3) If an individual tow exceeds three animals per metric ton a chief representative must take action to prevent this from reoccurring. Appropriate action would be at the discretion of the chief representative and may include changing fishing times, techniques or locations.

The AP felt that this would result in a reduction of 50-75% from last year's incidental catch rates.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council agreed to form a workgroup with Council, agency and industry representatives to address voluntary measures to reduce the incidental catch of salmon in the Gulf. Bob Mace was asked to chair the workgroup; Jeff Stephan asked to serve as an industry representative. Don Collinsworth suggested that Bob Hunter of the AP also be asked to participate. The Council asked that the workgroup begin to meet in the next month or six weeks and report back to the Council in September.

B-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP

Jim Glock reviewed the changes made to the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Regulatory Impact Statement (RIR) for Bering Sea Amendment 9. The five issues to be addressed by the Council were:

- A. Raise the upper end of the optimum yield (OY) range.
- B. Reduce the incidental catch of salmon in joint venture fisheries.
- C. Reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign trawlers.
- D. Require domestic catcher/processors to submit periodic catch reports.
- E. Implement the NMFS habitat policy.

Public testimony for all groundfish items is found in Appendix II to these minutes.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

ISSUE A - raise the upper end of the OY range. The SSC recommended Alternative 1, to raise the upper OY from 2.0 million mt to 2.5 million mt, but preferred that for the future the Council develop a framework amendment that includes provisions for management flexibility in line with abundance of the groundfish complex and its components.

Continuation of 1982:

(1) That each joint venture must have a clear responsibility for the grounds which the power to move or stop the fishing activity of the member vessels.

(2) Fishing will stop if, over a three-day period, incidental catches of black cod exceed two animals per metric ton of the area that is being fished will be changed.

(3) If an individual now exceeds three animals per metric ton a pilot representative must take action to prevent this from reoccurring. Appropriate action would be at the discretion of the pilot representative and may include changing fishing times, techniques or locations.

The AA felt that this would result in a reduction of 20-30% from last year's incidental catch rates.

COUNCIL BUSINESS AND ACTION

The Council agreed to form a working group with Council, Agency and Industry representatives to address voluntary measures to reduce the incidental catch of salmon in the Gulf. Bob Lee was asked to chair the working group; Jeff Stophar asked to serve as an industry representative. The following suggested that the AA also be asked to participate. The Council asked that the working group begin to meet in the next month or two weeks and report back to the Council in September.

1-2 Review Sea/Aquatic Insects (SIR)

The Council reviewed the changes made to the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the Red Salmon Amendment. The EA and RIS were addressed by the Council's vote:

- A. Reduce the upper end of the optimum yield (OY) range.
- B. Reduce the incidental catch of salmon in joint venture fisheries.
- C. Reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign vessels.
- D. Reduce domestic catch/processors to equal periodic catch/processors.
- E. Implement the 1982 habitat policy.

Public Testimony for all grounds from the Appendix II to these minutes.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Table A - raise the upper end of the OY range. The SSC recommended Alternative 1, to raise the upper OY from 2.0 million to 2.5 million mt. It is desired that for the future the Council develop a framework agreement that includes a voluntary management strategy in line with standards of the groundfish complex and its components.

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ISSUE B - reduce the incidental catch of salmon in joint venture fisheries. The SSC felt that all of the alternatives under this issue were flawed. They recommended a two-step approach to the resolution of the incidental catch problem. First, that industry groups be encouraged to meet immediately for the purpose of developing procedures to reduce incidental salmon catches in 1985 and 1986. Second, that the Council develop a more flexible framework type approach, perhaps based on acceptable catch rates in line with status of the target and incidental species and impacts on domestic fisheries. The plan team should be encouraged to look at the framework being proposed to address the halibut bycatch problem in the Gulf of Alaska.

ISSUE C - reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign trawlers. The SSC preferred Alternative 2, the status quo. They felt that Amendment 1 to the Bering Sea FMP provides mechanisms that are adequate to address reduction of incidental catches of fully-utilized species.

ISSUE D - domestic catcher/processor reporting. The SSC preferred alternatives that use observers because of the desire to monitor bycatch and prohibited species catches. However, since funds are not currently available for this type of program, they recommended Alternative 2, which would require catcher/processor vessels to obtain FCZ processing permits, notify NMFS via U.S. Coast Guard radio each time they enter or leave an FMP management area, and submit a report to NMFS by mail or telex for each fishing week documenting the haul weight estimates of catch by FMP species group in each FMP area. They also suggested the Council explore methods of funding an observer program.

ISSUE E - implement NMFS habitat policy. SSC recommended Alternative 1b, which would include a habitat goal in the FMP but not specific sections and detailed text. Detailed habitat discussion would be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the FMP.

Report of the Advisory Panel

ISSUE A - raise the upper end of the OY range. The AP recommended Alternative 2, status quo. They felt that if the ceiling was raised, there would be a temptation to overharvest.

ISSUE B - reduce the incidental catch of salmon in joint venture fisheries. The AP recommended voluntary measures be developed by an industry workgroup and reviewed by the Council at the September meeting and that a similar amendment could be introduced for the 1986 amendment cycle to keep the bycatch in check.

ISSUE C - reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign trawlers. The AP recommended Alternative 1, to close the area within 20 miles of the Aleutians to all foreign trawling, to protect the nearshore populations which are important to the American fishery.

ISSUE D - domestic catcher/processor reporting. The AP recommended maintaining status quo. They agreed with the need for some sort of reporting system but felt that the other alternatives were not fully developed and contained too many unknowns. They suggested this issue be more fully developed for the next amendment cycle.

ISSUE B - reduce the incidental catch of salmon in total venture fisheries. The SSC felt that all of the alternatives under the June 1984 plan were flawed. They recommended a water-soluble net in the position of the incidental catch problem. First, the industry groups be encouraged to meet immediately for the purpose of developing procedures to reduce incidental catch catches for 1985 and 1986. Second, the Council develop a new fishing framework type approach, perhaps based on escapable catch rates to limit catches of the target and incidental species and habitat or essential fisheries. The plan team should be encouraged to work at the Council being proposed to address the habitat problem in the Gulf of Alaska.

ISSUE C - reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign trawlers. The SSC preferred Alternative 2, the status quo. They felt that Alternatives 1 and 3 provided mechanisms that are adequate to address the reduction of incidental catch of fully-utilized species.

ISSUE D - domestic catcher/processor reporting. The SSC preferred Alternative 1, use observer because of the better to monitor bycatch and prohibited species. However, since funds are not currently available for this type of program, they recommended Alternative 2, which would require catcher/processor vessels to obtain SSC processor permits. SSC also U.S. Coast Guard to each time they enter or leave an FV monitoring area, and submit a report to SSC by mail or later for each fishing week commencing the full weight estimates of catch by FV species group for each FV area. The SSC also suggested the Council explore methods of funding an observer program.

ISSUE E - the main SSC habitat policy. SSC recommended Alternative 1, which would include a habitat goal in the plan but not specific actions and detailed goals. Detailed habitat discussion would be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the plan.

Report of the Advisory Panel

ISSUE A - reduce the upper end of the OY harvest. The SSC recommended Alternative 2, status quo. They felt that as the ceiling was raised, there would be a temptation to overharvest.

ISSUE B - reduce the incidental catch of salmon in total venture fisheries. The SSC recommended voluntary measures be developed by an industry working group and reviewed by the Council at the September meeting and then a habitat management could be introduced for the 1985 management cycle to help the bycatch in Alaska.

ISSUE C - reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign trawlers. The SSC recommended Alternative 1, to close the area with 30 miles of the Alutian to all foreign trawling, to protect the nearshore population which are important to the Alutian fishery.

ISSUE D - domestic catcher/processor reporting. The SSC recommended maintaining status quo. They agreed with the need for some sort of reporting system but felt that the current alternatives were not fully developed and required too many resources. They suggested the Council to more fully develop for the next management cycle.

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ISSUE E - implement NMFS habitat policy. The AP recommended Alternative 1b, which would include a habitat goal in the FMP but not specific sections and detailed text. Detailed habitat discussion would be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the FMP.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

ISSUE A - raise the upper end of the OY range.

Dr. Loh Lee Low advised the Council that the equilibrium yield is now declining and does not foresee it going up to 2.5 million mt in the near future.

Some Council members felt that there is a danger in raising the OY to 2.5 million mt because pressure could be put on the Council to use it if it was available.

Rudy Petersen moved to approve Alternative 2, the status quo. John Winther seconded the motion which carried 8 to 3, with Mace, Hemphill and McVey voting against.

Bob Mace moved to amend the motion to raise the OY to 2.5 million mt; the motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill, but subsequently withdrawn with the concurrence of the second.

ISSUE B - reduce the incidental catch of salmon in joint venture fisheries.

Advisory Panel member Joe Chimegalrea, representing the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, asked the Council to consider only American and joint venture trawl fishery proposals that do not utilize king salmon of Western Alaska origin because the species is being fully utilized onshore and possibly being overharvested when offshore interceptions occur.

Council members agreed that an industry group would be the best near-term solution to the problem of incidental catches of salmon in joint ventures; however some felt that there should be management measures to encourage the reduction of these catches. Jon Nelson also expressed concern that the absence of Council action may have an effect on the salmon negotiations beginning in October.

Bob Mace moved to adopt Alternative 5, status quo, with the provision that the involved vessels be encouraged to develop voluntary measures to reduce interception and that the plan team consider the SSC recommendation to framework the regulation on the basis of acceptable catch rates during the next amendment cycle. The motion would include appointment of a workgroup of Council, agency and AP representatives with a charge to report back to the Council in September. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Henry Mitchell was asked to chair the workgroup. Dennis Petersen of NPFVOA is contacting industry representatives.

Issue E - Implement WMSB... The AL recommended Alternative B, which would include a habitat pool in the TMT but not specific sections and detailed... detailed habitat diagnosis could be provided in a Council document as an annex or appendix to the TMT.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Issue A - Under the upper end of the OY range.

Dr. Job Joe has advised the Council that the equilibrium yield is now declining and does not increase as going up to 2.5 million in the near future.

Some Council members felt that there is a danger in raising the OY to 2.5 million in future years could be put on the Council to use it if it was available.

Mr. Peterson moved to approve Alternative 2, the status quo. John Mitchell seconded the motion which carried 5 to 1 with Mr. Campbell and Mr. W. W. being absent.

Mr. Joe moved to amend the motion to raise the OY to 2.5 million in the near future was seconded by Sara Mitchell, but subsequently withdrew with the concurrence of the second.

Issue B - Under the broader catch of salmon in John's venture fisheries.

Advisory Panel member Joe Ohtani, representing the Lower Klamath Advisory Committee, asked the Council to consider only American and John's venture small fishery proposals that do not utilize King salmon of Westport Alaska origin because the species is being fully utilized elsewhere and possibly with a catch of other fisheries.

Council members agreed that an industry group could be the best mechanism to the problem of incidental catches of salmon in John's venture fisheries. However some felt that there should be management measures to encourage the reduction of these catches. Joe Nelson also expressed concern that the absence of Council action may have an effect on the salmon negotiations beginning in October.

Mr. Joe moved to adopt Alternative 2, status quo, with the provision that the industry was to be encouraged to develop voluntary measures to reduce incidental catches and that the plan be considered the 280 recommendations to the Council on the basis of acceptable catch rates during the next management cycle. The motion would include appointment of a working group and an advisory committee with a charge to report back to the Council in September. The motion was seconded by Sara Mitchell and John Mitchell and carried.

Mr. Mitchell was asked to chair the working group. Council members of WMSB and other industry representatives.

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ISSUE C - Reduce the incidental catch of fully-utilized species by foreign trawlers.

Some Council members agreed with the SSC's assessment that Amendment 1 to the Bering Sea FMP already provides the flexibility needed to deal with this situation.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Alternative 1, to close the area within 20 miles of the Aleutians to all foreign trawling. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried, 7 to 3, with Mace, Hemphill and McVey voting against.

Changes to FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the FMP prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Section 14.5.3 in the Changes to the FMP, including Section 19.0, Appendices, with the minor changes suggested during Council discussion for the paragraph on rationale . The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and carried with Bob McVey objecting. (Final document included with these minutes as Appendix V.)

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the regulations proposed by Pat Travers for this portion of the amendment (see Appendix VI). The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried with Bob McVey objecting.

ISSUE D - catcher/processor catch reporting. The Council discussed voluntary reporting arrangements as an interim measure, but there was concern about getting information in a timely manner. There was also some concern that there was no description of a "catcher/processor" included in the analysis. Staff suggested that vessels holding any portion of their catch for over two weeks would be regulated under this amendment. The Coast Guard said that they do not have the manpower necessary to handle additional weekly reports but they could probably deal with check-in and check-out regulations.

John Peterson moved to approve Alternative 2, which would require a FCZ processing permit with check-in/check-out and weekly catch reporting. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Changes to the FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the FMP prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Section 14.4.5., Statistical Reporting Requirements, in the Changes to the FMP as prepared by the Plan Team. The motion was seconded by John Peterson, and carried, 8 to 1, with Rudy Petersen voting no and Mr. Collinsworth and Mr. Campbell out of the room at the time of the vote.

ISSUE C - Review the third draft of fully-outlined agenda by forestry
department.

Some Council members agreed with the 2001 assessment that Amendment 1 to the
Kaitake Bay ERM already provided the flexibility needed to deal with this
situation.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Amendment 1 to close the area within 10
kilometres of the Akaroa to all foreign fishing. The motion was seconded by
John Collinworth and carried. A vote of 10 in favour, 10 in
opposition.

Changes to ERM

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the ERM prepared in response to
their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Section 4.4.2 of the Changes to the ERM
including Section 4.4.2.1, Appendix 1, with the minor changes to the
Council discussion for the purpose of ratification. The motion was seconded
by John Collinworth and carried with 10 in favour, 10 in opposition.
(Final document included with these minutes as Appendix V.)

Regulations

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the regulations proposed by the Fisheries for this
portion of the amendment (see Appendix VI). The motion was seconded by John
Collinworth and carried with 10 in favour, 10 in opposition.

Issue D - catch/processor catch reporting. The Council discussed a summary
reporting arrangement as an interim measure, but there was concern about
getting information in a timely manner. There was also some concern that
there was no description of a "catch/processor" included in the legislation.
Staff suggested that people holding any portion of their quota for over two
weeks would be regulated under this arrangement. The Chair said that they
do not have the response necessary to handle additional weekly reports but
they could probably deal with check-in and check-out regulations.

John Peterson moved to approve Alternative 2, which would require a 100%
processor permit with check-in/check-out and weekly catch reporting. The
motion was seconded by John Collinworth and there being no opposition, it was
carried.

Changes to the ERM

On Friday, the Council reviewed the changes to the ERM prepared in response to
their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Section 4.4.2.1, Appendix 1, relating to
regulations. The changes to the ERM as prepared by the Fisheries. The
motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with 10 in favour, 10 in
opposition. A vote of 10 in favour, 10 in opposition.

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During discussion there were several minor editorial changes to the wording provided by the plan team. These changes were noted by the plan to team to be included in the final document. (Final document included as Appendix V to these minutes.)

Regulations

On Friday, the Council reviewed the regulations prepared by Pat Travers in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment. There was considerable discussion of what the definition of a catcher/processor is under these regulations. The regulations specified that any vessel holding its catch for over two weeks would be required to report under these regulations. The rationale was any vessel that lands within two weeks will file a fish ticket which will act as their report, any vessel staying out longer than this will be required to report so that the Regional Director will have timely catch information. Although there were some Council members who were concerned about the regulations, Bob Mace suggested that after the first year in operation the Council could amend then if problems are found.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve the regulations for catcher/processor reporting contained in CFR Part 675, 675.5, and 675.4 as presented to the Council, with minor editorial changes proposed by the Council. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen, and there being no objection it was so ordered. It was the understanding of the Council that the staff would coordinate with NMFS in preparing the final document and would follow the process through to be sure Council concerns are recognized in Washington, DC.

John Winther moved to amend Section (3)(A)(i), in the first paragraph to insert "upon" between the words "and stopping", to insert "and" after GMT in the third sentence, and to delete "and position" of that sentence. In Section (3)(A)(ii) to delete "and the position of the new fishing activity" from the third sentence. The same changes would be made in Section (3)(B)(i) and (3)(B)(ii). The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Sara Hemphill moved to amend the main motion to delete the last sentence in paragraphs (3)(A)(i) and (3)(B)(i), "No such operator may retain any part of that vessel's catch on board that vessel for a period of more than 14 days from the time it is caught unless the Regional Director received all notifications required under this paragraph during that period." The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen. Some Council members felt that this change would take the "teeth" out of the regulation and would defeat the purposes of gathering data. It was suggested that NMFS could deal with the regulation to allow for problems arising, storms, mechanical failures, etc., which might prevent them from complying. Sara restated the motion with the concurrence of the second to move that the Council ask the drafters of the regulations to take the suggestions and concerns of the Council on this particular paragraph under consideration when they are finalizing the document and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

The main motion carried as amended.

During discussion on their own several other editorial changes to the working
provided in the plan team. These changes were noted by the staff to be
included in the final document. (The document included as Appendix V to
these minutes.)

Regulation

On Friday, the Council reviewed the regulatory proposal by the staff in
response to their previous discussion on this section of the amendment.
"There was considerable discussion of what the definition of a
catchment/process is under this regulation. The regulation specified that
any vessel before the date for over the weeks would be required to report
under these regulations. The national and any vessel that lands within two
weeks will file a trip ticket which will not be their report, any vessel
staying out longer than this will be required to report as that the national
Director will have to file catch information. Although there were some Council
members who were concerned about the regulation, Bob Mason suggested that
after the first year in operation the Council could review the regulations
found.

Harry Mitchell moved to approve the regulation for catcher/process
regarding vessels in the part (A), (B), (C), and (D). The motion was
Council, with minor editorial changes proposed by the Council. The motion was
seconded by Bob Mason. The motion was carried. It was so ordered. It
was the understanding of the Council that the staff would coordinate with
the preparing the final document and would follow the process through to be
sent Council members are requested in Washington, DC.

John Wither moved to amend Section 2(A)(1) to the following: "The
draft 'noon' between the words 'and' and 'and' in Section 2(A)(1) after
the third sentence, and to delete 'any portion' of that sentence. In Section
(3)(A)(1) to delete 'and the portion of the new fishing activity' from the
third sentence. The same changes will be made in Section (3)(B)(1) and
(3)(C)(1). The motion was seconded by Bob Mason and there being no
objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mason moved to amend the main motion to delete the last sentence in
paragraph (3)(A)(1) and (3)(B)(1). "No such vessel may land any part of
that vessel's catch on board that vessel for a period of more than 14 days
from the time it is caught unless the National Director is notified and
notifications required under this paragraph during that period." The motion
was seconded by Bob Mason. Some Council members felt that the change
would take the "catch" out of the regulation and would defeat the purpose of
gathering data. It was suggested that the Council could call upon the regulation to
allow for problems arising, storms, mechanical failures, etc., which might
prevent them from complying. Bob Mason stated the motion with the concurrence of
the second to move that the Council and the Director of the regulation to
take the suggestions and concerns of the Council or the National Director
under consideration when they are finalizing the document and there being no
objection, it was so ordered.

The main motion carried as amended.

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ISSUE E - habitat. Bob McVey said he was disappointed by the AP and SSC recommendations not to include the habitat section in the FMP. Much work has been done on the document since the March Council meeting to address comments and concerns of the SSC, AP and Council and they are willing to change the document to reflect the SSC's comments at this meeting. Pat Travers said that an alternative that did not include the document in the FMP would not be consistent with the NMFS Habitat Policy and would be rejected by NMFS.

Bob McVey moved to incorporate the habitat section in the FMP and that NMFS would redraft the document in accordance with the comments and advice received by the SSC at this meeting for Council review on Friday, May 24. Don Collinsworth seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Henry Mitchell suggested NMFS consider the AP minority opinion when revising the document because it seems to most closely follow the habitat policy that NMFS has come up with.

Bob McVey suggested that since they are so close to a document that would be satisfactory to the SSC that they should try to complete it at this meeting. If the Council is not satisfied with the product on Friday, that it go back for review by the SSC in September even though it would be out of the regular amendment cycle . Bob Mace suggested that if the Council does not approve the document on Friday that they approve the SSC recommendation of Alternative 1b for the interim, and put the entire document itself into the next amendment cycle. Henry Mitchell suggested that it would best to get something into the plan now because environmentalists are trying to get habitat considerations into the Magnuson Act and it would be better for the Councils to implement their own regulations before that happens.

Changes to the FMP

On Friday, the Council reviewed the revised habitat document prepared in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the amendment.

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the habitat document as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-3(b) Net Entanglement Regulation

A review by staff and NOAA General Counsel has shown that neither the Gulf of Alaska nor Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery management plan provides authority to implement regulations prohibiting discarding litter at sea. The Council was asked to consider a regulation proposed by the SSC for incorporation into both groundfish plans.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended that the net entanglement regulation be included in the plan as part of the habitat amendment.

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Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel suggested the following changes to the regulation before incorporating it into the habitat amendment:

Changes recommended by AP: In Paragraph B of the proposed regulation, "If abandoned or discarded floating fishing gear or net fragments ~~or other articles~~ are encountered . . . Also, need to indicate to whom, where at, and how the reports are to be made. Mr. Branson said that information would be included in final regulatory language in any case.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell moved to adopt the regulation with the above suggested changes. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. This action is to apply to both the Gulf and Bering Sea FMPs.

D-3(c) Emergency to minimize joint venture interception of salmon.

This item was addressed in Issue 2 of the amendment package.

D-3(d) Status report on trawl closures to protect king crab aggregations.

In March the Council expressed great concern over the high Soviet bycatch and asked the Plan Team to examine available data on king crab distribution over time to determine if areas of aggregation could be identified for possible spot closures at certain times of the year. The Team was unable to get all the data necessary to recommend specific time/area closures in time for this meeting. A comprehensive report will be available prior to the September meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

This was an informational item only on the SSC agenda.

Report of the Advisory Panel

AP members suggested NMFS provide all foreign vessels engaged in TALFF operations in crab sensitive areas a recommended PSC rate to be utilized as a self-policing guide.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Bob Mace said that the Permit Review procedure, by taking into consideration the past incidental catch record of an operation, could provide a tremendous leverage on foreign and joint venture operations to reduce bycatch. It was also suggested that it might be necessary to limit the number of vessels participating in a particular foreign fishery.

Dr. Low, NWAF, said that the observer reporting system is not the problem; it is the extensive effort over a short period of time with a small allocation. He suggested that observers be advised to monitor this very closely and advise the captain of the ship when there appears to be a problem.

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Rudy Petersen moved that the Council accept the AP recommendation to recommend that NMFS provide a recommended PSC rate for all foreign vessels engaged in TALFF operations in crab sensitive areas to be used as a self-policing guide. The motion would include Dr. Low's suggestion that the observers be advised to work very closely with the captains on the vessels and alert them to problem areas when they approach them. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-3(e) Factory Trawler request to reduce cod TAC.

The Council received a request from the Factory Trawlers Association to reduce the cod TAC in the Bering Sea because the catch rates have declined and they are concerned about the resource and their ability to keep their ships working at full capacity. The Bering Sea Interim Action Committee met by teleconference on May 14 to determine whether an emergency existed. The Committee received data prepared by the Factory Trawlers and heard from the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center staff. They concluded that there was no evidence of a biological emergency in the Bering Sea and Aleutians Pacific cod resource. They also said there was little evidence that removing the foreign fleets would improve the factory trawler CPUE or that price would be pushed up by dropping the TAC. They recommended that a long-term solution be sought in the 1986 amendment cycle.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurred that the current decline in Pacific cod in the Bering Sea is in line with NMFS predictions and that no biological emergency exists. Natural mortality rates associated with this stock coupled with its current age structure preclude any significant increases in future CPUEs through a decrease in TAC such as the one being proposed.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the reserve and unallocated portions of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea not be released during 1985.

Dr. Low, NWAFC, briefly reviewed NMFS forecasts for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea. The current situation is in line with their earlier forecast of a 36% population decline. Dr. Low said that the status of cod stocks will be reviewed in September after the Bering sea summer survey is completed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council was advised by Pat Travers, NOAA General Counsel, that the Regional Director can only withhold reserves for conservation reasons under the current Bering Sea FMP. Council members felt that there was no biological emergency and that they should not go back on commitments made to the Japanese in the Bering Sea.

Henry Mitchell moved that the Council take no action on this issue at this time. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Pearson stated that the Council accept the 1982 program...
that WITS provide a recommended PDE rate for all...
FAIR operations in each...
The number would include...
not very closely with the...
as a whole they approach...
being no objection, it was ordered.

D-2(6) Pearson's Travel Request to remain on TAC

The Council received a request from the Factory Workers Association to remain...
and TAC in the being sea because the...
are concerned about the resource and their ability to keep their...
at full capacity. The being sea...
reconferencing on May 14 to determine...
Council received data prepared by the...
Northwest and Alaska Fisheries...
evidence of a biological emergency...
resources. They also said their...
plans would improve the factory...
by changing the TAC. They recommended...
the 1982 annual cycle.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Commission

The SSC announced that the current...
the line with WITS predictions...
Natural mortality rates associated...
age structure provide any...
decrease in TAC such as the...
the 1982 annual cycle.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended...
and in the being sea not be...
the 1982 annual cycle.

Dr. Low, WITS, initially reviewed...
sea. The current situation...
regulation level. Dr. Low...
reviewed in September...
the being sea...
is completed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council was advised by...
Regional Director...
the current being sea...
emergency and that they...
in the being sea.

Henry Mitchell...
The motion was...
it was ordered.

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E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

E-1 Contracts

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

(a) Contract 83-4: Joint Venture Trawl Logbook Program

A subgroup of SSC Members (Marasco) and Council staff has been formed and given authority to take action on this contract for the SSC.

(b) Contract 84-1: Sea Lion Pup Census

A subgroup made up of SSC Members (Burns and Marasco) and Council staff has been formed and given authority to take action on this contract for the SSC.

(c) Contract 84-3: Origin of Chinook Salmon - Part II

The draft final report for this contract was received too late to allow review. Committee members were requested to supply Marasco with their comments prior to the 15th of June. The comments will be passed to the authors of the report. Marasco and Marshall will be responsible for determining if a revised report is required and that it receives review.

(d) Contract 84-6: Bering Sea Herring Scale Analysis- Part II

The SSC recommends approval of the final report for this contract and final payment.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Winther moved to approve the final report for Contract 84-6, Bering Sea Herring Scale Analysis - Part II. John Peterson seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob Mace moved to give the Executive Director authority to make final payments on contracts 83-4, 84-1 and 84-3 when they have been approved by the SSC subgroup. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Programmatic Funds

NMFS still has \$47,000 available for FY85 programmatic grants in the next few weeks. It is not known whether additional funds will be available for FY86.

An interest has been expressed in analyzing the stock composition of chinook and chum salmon caught by groundfish trawlers in the FCZ. In light of the importance of this issue, the SSC suggested that this would be a rational way to spend FY86 programmatic funds if any are available.

Don Collinsworth moved to approve the request for programmatic funds for an analysis of the stock composition of chinook and chum salmon caught by groundfish trawlers in the FCZ. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

E. GOVERNMENT, RESEARCH AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Part I - Council

Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee

(a) Council 8-6: Joint Venture (New) Feedback Program

A subgroup of SSC members (Mason) and Council staff has been formed and given authority to take action on this contract for the SSC.

(b) Council 8-1: See item for item

A subgroup made up of SSC members (Mason and Mason) and Council staff has been formed and given authority to take action on this contract for the SSC.

(c) Council 8-5: Origin of Chemical - Part II

The draft final report for this contract was received too late to allow review. Committee members were requested to supply Mason with their comments prior to the 15th of June. The committee will be passed to the authors of the report. Mason and Mason will be responsible for determining if a revised report is required and the it received.

(d) Council 8-6: Review See item for item - Part II

The SSC recommends approval of the final report for this contract and final payment.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Wheeler moved to approve the final report for Council 8-6. Robert Mason and Henry Scott Analyte - Part II. John Peterson seconded the motion and there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Rob Mason moved to give the Executive Director authority to make final payments on contracts 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8, 8-9, 8-10, 8-11, 8-12, 8-13, 8-14, 8-15, 8-16, 8-17, 8-18, 8-19, 8-20, 8-21, 8-22, 8-23, 8-24, 8-25, 8-26, 8-27, 8-28, 8-29, 8-30, 8-31, 8-32, 8-33, 8-34, 8-35, 8-36, 8-37, 8-38, 8-39, 8-40, 8-41, 8-42, 8-43, 8-44, 8-45, 8-46, 8-47, 8-48, 8-49, 8-50, 8-51, 8-52, 8-53, 8-54, 8-55, 8-56, 8-57, 8-58, 8-59, 8-60, 8-61, 8-62, 8-63, 8-64, 8-65, 8-66, 8-67, 8-68, 8-69, 8-70, 8-71, 8-72, 8-73, 8-74, 8-75, 8-76, 8-77, 8-78, 8-79, 8-80, 8-81, 8-82, 8-83, 8-84, 8-85, 8-86, 8-87, 8-88, 8-89, 8-90, 8-91, 8-92, 8-93, 8-94, 8-95, 8-96, 8-97, 8-98, 8-99, 8-100, 8-101, 8-102, 8-103, 8-104, 8-105, 8-106, 8-107, 8-108, 8-109, 8-110, 8-111, 8-112, 8-113, 8-114, 8-115, 8-116, 8-117, 8-118, 8-119, 8-120, 8-121, 8-122, 8-123, 8-124, 8-125, 8-126, 8-127, 8-128, 8-129, 8-130, 8-131, 8-132, 8-133, 8-134, 8-135, 8-136, 8-137, 8-138, 8-139, 8-140, 8-141, 8-142, 8-143, 8-144, 8-145, 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8-718, 8-719, 8-720, 8-721, 8-722, 8-723, 8-724, 8-725, 8-726, 8-727, 8-728, 8-729, 8-730, 8-731, 8-732, 8-733, 8-734, 8-735, 8-736, 8-737, 8-738, 8-739, 8-740, 8-741, 8-742, 8-743, 8-744, 8-745, 8-746, 8-747, 8-748, 8-749, 8-750, 8-751, 8-752, 8-753, 8-754, 8-755, 8-756, 8-757, 8-758, 8-759, 8-760, 8-761, 8-762, 8-763, 8-764, 8-765, 8-766, 8-767, 8-768, 8-769, 8-770, 8-771, 8-772, 8-773, 8-774, 8-775, 8-776, 8-777, 8-778, 8-779, 8-780, 8-781, 8-782, 8-783, 8-784, 8-785, 8-786, 8-787, 8-788, 8-789, 8-790, 8-791, 8-792, 8-793, 8-794, 8-795, 8-796, 8-797, 8-798, 8-799, 8-800, 8-801, 8-802, 8-803, 8-804, 8-805, 8-806, 8-807, 8-808, 8-809, 8-810, 8-811, 8-812, 8-813, 8-814, 8-815, 8-816, 8-817, 8-818, 8-819, 8-820, 8-821, 8-822, 8-823, 8-824, 8-825, 8-826, 8-827, 8-828, 8-829, 8-830, 8-831, 8-832, 8-833, 8-834, 8-835, 8-836, 8-837, 8-838, 8-839, 8-840, 8-841, 8-842, 8-843, 8-844, 8-845, 8-846, 8-847, 8-848, 8-849, 8-850, 8-851, 8-852, 8-853, 8-854, 8-855, 8-856, 8-857, 8-858, 8-859, 8-860, 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Minutes
May 1985
Council Meeting

E-2 Review of FY85/85 Budgets

The Finance Committee met on May 19. The Council had been advised by Bill Gordon that they will receive additional administrative funds, approximately \$84,558. A revised FY85 budget totalling \$1,067,200 was reviewed and approved by the Committee with Bob McVey objecting to foreign travel by Council staff members to INPFC.

Council members discussed travel to INPFC by staff members and felt that it is important for them to attend.

A preliminary FY86 budget for \$1,179,144 was reviewed and accepted by the Committee. A tax-deferral plan for the staff was also reviewed. This would be a benefit to the staff and without cost to the Council.

John Winther moved approval of the budgets as submitted. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and carried with Bob McVey objecting.

John Peterson suggested that the Council defer the halibut workshops they had directed staff to conduct this fall. Reasons for deferring the workshops were budgetary restraints and pressure to update or framework the Gulf FMP. Bob McVey said that the IPHC has been on record for three years urging the U.S. to get control of the halibut fishery on the U.S. side. He is reluctant to pull back now but did agree that the Gulf plan should have priority. It was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to defer the halibut workshops at this time.

Jim Branson suggested that groups other than the Council, such as Sea Grant or the National Coastal Resources Research and Development Institute, could take over the halibut workshops.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Governor Bill Sheffield addressed the Council on Tuesday, May 21. He thanked the Council for their efforts in managing the fisheries. The State of Alaska would like to see the foreign fisheries phased out of Alaska waters by 1989 and the joint ventures by 1990. It is important to Americanize the fisheries and increase shoreside employment. The joint ventures which survive should be the ones who have cooperated the most during the transition. The Governor also stressed the importance of minimizing the high seas interception of Alaska-bound salmon.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 1985.