# 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

# 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. Shiboleth 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

#### 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.

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A. SECALE TO ONDER, ATTHOUGH OF ACTUAL AND MILTELS OF PARTICLES MINUTINGS

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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## Processing of Joint Venture Receases for Table Species

The Cormittee recommends that during the summer break the approval authority for foint verture are negotated an PALLE special coch as yellowith sold to delegated to the Frequetive Discenter. It then are any usuagidaspects of the measurest that the committee broads attentions.

for Nece moved to approve the doing vectors request by Walliney-Prining/Obtows for yellowing sole. The motion was executed by lady Paringen, and there being no chapelion, it was so ordered. See Neglit about 1981.

Jobseletorson roved to captione the Portional transfer recommendation of the Portiones interpress intervents a factor of the Alast no action be taken or rider request until the issues cased in the Counciltee's aport be received. The motion was seconded by Kenry Micchall Sud, class being to object of the ordered. It was the understanding of the Council that in the problems were solved in the immediate furthee, the Council would be willing to set on the permit request.

Bob Mace moved to send the draft Fermit Maview Follow out for public content. The motion was seconded by John Minches will, there hadre no objection, it was so ordered. The Farmit Meview Committee will meet to August, immediately following the sweets Council meeting on the Cuit of Almia-FMP, to seview gublic comment and propage a final document or Green's vertew in Lableshor.

The Council agreed that the Executive Virsecon should have the authority te spraye in the foliate vencture requests on TALPE species because now end the next Council mentions.

D. TISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### Del Salmen FriP

itm Branson acted the Council to defer action on the revision of the Salmon Plan until after the M.S.-Canada Salmon bracky Commission goes into operation.

# fichert of the Advisory Parci

The Advisor, Panel requested that the Council revise the salmen plan similar to the King Crab pieu where the State would be the lead agency and the Council would be a monitoring agency.

## Report of the Scientiffic and Statistical Counittee

The DSG felt that action on the PSF or this time would be premainted through praticipation will be required under the Treaty, it would be best to walk until more guidence is provided before rebing action.

#### 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.

<u>Public Testimony</u> - 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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COUNCIL DESCUEETON AND ACTION

The Conneil agreed to defer sector or the Salven Ries peril after the Salven Commission is in operation and the rate use obligations of the Conneil are never clearly collned.

Pob Movey supported this recommendation, but expressed the need for action as soon as precidenble because the plan is so out of dates.

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Lieve Davis briefed he consols on changes made to the Environmentals, Assessment (57) and Regulatory Issuer Egy in (612) documents go a result infoundational ages by comments for a result infoundation and ages by comments resolved during the 30-day conseent period which cuded May 2. 1975. The Council was also provided which a summary of comments: Jim 81120p reviewed changes to the Elk, Parc 7. which dealt with the sabinity shifts standard, and Dong Larron presented in report on the disjunction impacts of changing mables with horvest methods. To live White, FMPS, reviewed changes no the laditat document as a recult of Council. 530 and Af disjunctions at The described Council resting:

The Council was asked to identify their producted alternative for each of the a seyen amendment issues;

- 4. Establish a genr and/or area restriction in the seblefish (ishery,
- 2. Estab ish rockfish areas and quotes.
- Implement new optimum vields for politool, Feedific occan perch;
   Exclifiel, Atka mackerel and other species.
- 6. Implement reporting requirements for catcher/processors.
- 5. Egiel ish messures to control the Parific hallbut by catch.
- 6. Implement the MUS hobitat policy.
- 7. Sable Jeb flahjag seasona.

Public Testimo v - All public restimony on groundsist items is found in Appendix II to there minutes.

# release of the Advanty Jenel

The Advisory Finel had the Collowing recommendations for each of the termor listed above.

1880: I - Establish a gear and/or area restriction in the sablefish Schory. The AP recommended that the Eastern Gull be decignated scraline only, the Central and Western Gull sablefish allocation by split among the three near types as follows: 50% to lorgine; 25% to travis; and 25% to pers. At the same time, in the Central Gull, a ors-year phase cut of pos-fishing would begin with the 35% allocation soins to longline gery in 1987, and in the Western Gulf, there would be a three-year phase cut. At the end of three years, the pot allocation would so to the longliners. The 25% trawingleasion would cover bycatch, directed, JV, etc.

- ISSUE 2 Establish rockfish areas and quotas. The AP recommended Alternative 2, setting a Southeast District shelf demersal rockfish OY at 600 mt between  $56^{\circ}\text{N}$  latitude and  $57^{\circ}30^{\circ}\text{N}$  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 an 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 hail 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.

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1880W 20 - Establish rockitch areas and coots. The 880 renumented Alpernative 2, secting a Southerst District shelf dependent rockitch ON on 500 mt between '6 W latitude and '7 10'M latitude with the receiver of the 5,000 mt OY (4.400 rt) to be taken electror in the ould.

1988F 3 - impleasat new Oys for hollock, FOP, mocketon, Atka uncharely and other species,

Policek - Alternative 1, reduce optimum visia to 395,000 at in the Kestern/Central Avec.

POF - The SSU did not recommend any or the alternatives listed, they felt that harvest levels cloud be not at hyperch levels on the Central and Enstern areas.

Atka mackerel - Alremative L, reduce the CYs in the Central and cadtern. areas to by accelerancounts only.

Other Species - The SSC recommended that the Council look into a framework approach for the Other Spacies Of it the Culf.

Other Rock ish - Alreantive I, reduce the Otherschaftshow to 5,000 mm.

ISSUE 4 - Implement reporting requirements for catcher/procedurs. The SSC preferred alternatives that use observers cause of the decire to conflor bycatch an probabited species catched. However, since funds are not conscitly available for this type of precise, they recommended Almestive is which week to quire author/processor vessels to obtain FCZ expression, permitsey notify know via U.S. Coast Guard sadic cash time they error leave an UCZ management area, and submit a report to DMES by mail or tales for each lishing week documenties the holl weight estimated of quich by WME species group in each fifth each FMP area. They also suggested the Council explore methods of fundification abserver progress.

ISSUE 5 - Resolitsh measures to control the Pontise halflet by attention The SEC apposite of a street of the samual rejustment of Pt Stutte. The samual rejustment of Pt Stutte.

issue 6 - Implement 1960 habites policy. The SSC recommended Aftermative 16. which rould include a habitest goal in the FMP but not specific soutoned of depailed text. Detailed bobbest discussion rould be provided in a Couroff document as an enter or appendix to the 190.

(SSDE 7 - Sablefish fitching recurre. The SSU did not fire major biplogical featers this measure and felt that there was an compelling reason to either accept or reject the proposed alternatives.

#### COUNCIL PISCUSSION AND ACTION

ISSUE 1 - Sabletish geer and/or oness restrictions, the Courti discussed the alterestives at length. They recognized the need to take action to ministee and respond to the needs of the longitue lighteries who have a treaty in the tishery, however were also recase of the problems of the

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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Henry Mitchell moved to designers the Menters Cut of Alcoho Joneline ords for abbiefish and to ellocate the resource in the Central Colf. as follower 60%, ionnities, 15% that, for both directed and brockers, 15% he pot with a cast-year phose cut of poter is the Vectors Cut the a month tould to 60% longline, [5, 10 white hear directed a directed, and 15% to fets with a two-year phase cut of pet gear. The motifer was seconded by Collingwenth, but Igjan withdiawn [5, 37, Mitchell with the condiguence.]

Gene lifes to refed that els Council caced the Ai recommendation for a factor Guil we aid be lamining erry. In the Central and Festern full, the sebted the resource would be allocated as follower 50% acaptime, 3% drawing the pot. At the seme thee, in the Contral Cult there could be a cacastact phase out of per fishing wirl the 5% pet a incention neverting to longitude. Sent, in the Verter (table, there would be a three-year phase out of part sear, with right is allocation reverting to longitude sear. The first first allocation reverting to longitude sear. The motion allocation would by Jein Federate.

Dor Collinsworth reved to seemed the rotton to charge the percentages in the Collinsworth reved to seem the percentages in the Collinswight and Western Guif to 55% year longisting seems. The cortion was seconded by John Wincher and Carried 6 th 5, with Willes, McVay, K. Petarsen, J. Petarson, and Gene Fidorese vering applies the motion.

Jeff Stephan moved to amend the aution to include the phase-out period to four years in Lathurona. The motion died for lock of a contrat.

Lob Markey moved to emend the motion to provide to within the CY limits in the Eastern Tree as a grewl bycetch of answer. The motion was seconded by John Retermon and or sied, 9 to 7, with Collinswerth and winches worths assimilia

cell Mapper moved to amend the pricestanges in the original metion as follows: 50% to longline and peticisar in the Central follows and loss to troat may are that a con be out on those aty vessels that are participating in the Habbary as of March 31, 1985. The metion died for look of a senond.

dentief trea would be passed out in one rest as proposed, but there wissely resident to the Contral area would be altered a five-read phace out portied. The met or didn't and the contral area would be altered a five-read phace out portied. The met or died for tack of a second.

The mean motion, as amended by Dea Collinsworth and Mob DeVen, anatted 7 to A. with Mace, East 411, E. Teressen, and Stephen voling against.

of, Brancor asked for verification that the catch recurt for the less the the current modion), full to the Control and Mestern arous and in the Lestern arous, is not prohibited species but can all to kept and rath, but were that ancumt is causist, and travilys would coose in these respective districts. Council methers 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-Harville was concerned that the Council had not done many, with the travel allocation. He felt it important to make it clear that the interpriof that Jouent I at the interpriof of the Jouent I at the interprior will alone the whole fishery down willing a semicial inside the Yeley said he think the regulatory manders arounded to handle the ringle-species OY problem will raid care of this problem. The aim of the regulatory amendment is to give the WFS lentent lighter anti-city to clear down the fisher and leave a bycatch amount and cline of her down the fisher and leave a bycatch amount and city to continue, and cour to continue, and cour to continue, and court elements of the fishery, sentery of certain elements of the fishery.

Henry Mirchall noved that the Council Listf ell schledish versos in the Gull of Alasha, Lingling, por and brawl, to these enterrity in the fishery. The rotion was seconded by Sara Hemphill but subscupently wishingen.

There was concern that this issue is done ince steepatally advertised at an agenda item icr this meeting. Sonry Mitchell vithdrew the rection with the concurrence of the second but said that he feels there is a real to stabilize the fishery in the long tema and is should be reduced cometime to the ment future.

## Ghausses for the PGF

On Friday, the Council reviewed the Changes to the 1985 prepared to reflect their decision on this portion of the weatheret.

Henry Missbell wove to approve Section that the charges to NO (included as Appendix ANT to these minutes), dealing with table teb condition as presented by it Plan Teem. The motion was seen ded by John E. Freen. The motion was seen ded by John E. Freen. The motion rate of the Council with ANT Staphan objection. The Council claim of that sillness are not legal to this fishery as a result of vits motion.

Nor Collinsworth moved to iming back to the floor the motion of boosing the bycasch level or the subletish dishery in the fastern Regulator from . The rotion was seconded by John Minther and Kallad, 6 to 5, with Collinsworth. Movey, Elected, Stephan and Minther voting was.

## Regulations

Henry Mitch 'A moved to adopt all of the subjeffish regulations as presented (included on Appendix IV to these with Irs), The method was seconded by tollingworth our carefol with helf Stepher and Mudy Tecensor objecting.

IFFUR 2 - rockitch areas and quotas. The tound i discurred the suggestion that shelf rock ish be removed. In tederal menagement and allow the Cirtle of Alaska to meree the fishery. Par Travers said that, after researching the rubjact, giving full control to the State would not be perfectly but the plan could be nmerded to provide that State regulations, in addition to the televal regulation of the produced to be in conflict. If they were lone, the State rould come up with it our regulations as whey would not not exactly be presumed to be in conflict with Council and table resultions and other regulations and the State. We'll be desired the State. We'll had deed the death afform vessels registered under the level of the State. We'll had deed the the could be considered when the Council reviews the Cult Hall in August.

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  $5,000 \, \mathrm{mt}$ . 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

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Don Collineworth moved or adopt Alternative 7, on set the Southeast District shelf demotract collider of the percent of North and North latitude which the remainer of the 5,000 at 07 (A.400 at) to be accompanied and the collection of the collection of the collection of the collection.

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Pcl Pace mived to approve Section I of the Chappes so the 190, "Otton Focklish," as presented by the Plan Tonk (see Approals III). The norten asconded by teamy Hitchelf and there better no objection, it am so ordered.

#### Prgulations

The magulations for this portion of the coendrol ore included in the convised? Table 1 USee Appendix IV) approved by that the coeff in a previous mation.

TRCEF 3 - new optimum wields for polleck. POP, Arks neckeres and other species.

Nob Maca reved that the GY for POLICEX in the Resteam and outral are, of the Cult of Alerka te set at 300,000 mt. Tohe Peterson second the motion and there being no biection, it was so ordered.

For PACHELS Of N haird, Henry Pfrainell moves to adopt Afternative Larendson the option virid to 1,302 mt and 5,005 mt in the Testern and Course areas, respectively. The motion was resonated by John Wintler and, there being no objection, it was an ordered.

For ATKA MACKERLI, Bob Luce moved to adopt Airstartive 1, to reduce the OVs to the baseers of Cartral steed to bycevels amounts ofly, er 500 st and 100 st, respectively. The motion was reconded by John Josephor and, there is in objection, it was so ordered.

For CTREE CEPCHES, John Perengur neved to adopt Afform tive 1, so set the OF equal to 5% of the Libel OYs for each of the other propodition colors on the basts of an equation contained in the UTP. The motion was examined by dish Masonand, there being no objection. To was so ordered.

sor CTHER ROCKETSH, Don Collineworth moved to sign Alternative L. co rainor the Calfring C. for northless to 5,000 mt. The metion was successful by 30% Stephen and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

#### 90% ទំរាំង ១៦ សន្ទេជន្មក៏ព

Rob Made moved supereve the charges to the FFF relating to this continually special continual the relating ver seconded in Ends Seconded and, there being no objection, it was so codored.

Don Cellinsworth ouggested the tollowing language is included unider the 'O.ben Footset Footset's Section of the Changes to the Foots 'The State of Alaska's scaugeset regime for demonsal shell rockfish in directed at seconing throughful rocks within smaller samages out units them, are provided for by the

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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For . Such State regularions are in adoption to and a riciar clum federal regulations. The area not in cor item with the will as long as they are catablishing smaller argas and quotas which would result in a bereat of demersal shalf coeffich in each MMP makes could result in a bereat that demersal shalf coeffich in each MMP makes could result in a bereat that provided for in the MMP. Such State regulations may apply only to there we say registered under the lews of the State of Alaska." It has been uccommended that the original writing in them has contended by diamonal or tree was allowed the intervers of the State of Alaska fance that they do "vessels literals under its current ground of a regulations but they do require literals of vessels of commercially fish. But Travers such state the regular cut of the isgueson Act and vessels that they do have senten of the isgueson Act and vessels that are if comed index the laws of and out the laws of right cut of the isgueson Act and vessels that are if comed that the laws of would be considered registered. The Council agreed that the sentence would read Tests of the laws."

The Advisory Farel voted user langly notice include this largery. They are concerned that there are come legal questions in implementing this type of regulation in the event that it becomes necessary to chose condition fishing in some areas and theke-licensed versels could be the only ones required to shit down. Pat Travers said that if NFFS arrees with State section than the regional litreeter would have authority to impose the cole requirements or non-inglestered reseals if they extends at this time research.

Don Collinsworth moved (i.a. the dependid appears this language to be oided to the gmendrant charges to the Side. Henry Adthhell seconded the matter which passed. 10 to 1 with Mudy Petersen objecting.

#### Reguliations

Bob Mace moved to approve the routsed Table I which reflects the TY charges made by the Council sed bould be pare of the federal regularions for merceing groundfield in the PUL. The motion was seconded by John Bethvaon and, there being to object on, it was so ordered.

ISSUE A - reporting requirements for entries/processors. The Council discussed voluntary reporting averagements of an interim measure, but There was concern about germing intermation in a rively matrix. There was also concern that there was no description of a "catcher/processor" included in the analysis. Staff suggested that vessels helding any politon of their catch for over two weeks would be regulated under this meadment. The Coast Guard said that they do not have the manpower recessors to bendly additional weekly reports but they could probably deal with check-in ad check-out regulations.

Feely Petarsen moved to approve Alternative I, mointain the structure que. The moster-test seco. Cef by Erry Hemphill but wes subserved by wisherows.

John Deterson somed to magness Alternative 2, which would require a PCT processing persit with check-in/observent and veckly detail resouring. The motion was seconder to Bob McVer and, timere being no objection, it was something to the moderned.

## 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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#### Council Moetilns

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the Exidaty, the Concell reviewed the charges to the FAF prepared in respondents the their preferred sitemative on this section of the amendant.

Rob Mace moved to sprove the classes to the ELP for this portion of the smendment, or propered by the plan test and corrected or pages 10-19 to the dvaft Changes to the EVP document. The socion was corrected by "not Peatings and, there being no direction it was so ordered. (Fire decument included as appendix III to these minutes.)

#### Regulations

Pat Tragers recented the regulations prepared to imposes this portion of the amendment. Crain Hancond of sectional MIPS correspondence for the regulations.

Henry Mitchel moved to approve the regulations for catcher/processor reporting contained in OFR Part 672, 672.5, and 672.4 is true and to the Council, with misor adicated change proposed to the Council sud that the same regulations be applied to the bestry lies a council. The potter was seconded by Rudi Patennes, and there before no objection it was so ordered. It was the maderative ing of the Council that the sussificación of the With William preparing the lived doughest and would follow the process thursty to be sure Council concerns are socreptized to Verbinarco. But

John Winsher neved to amend Secrica (1907), its the river nerograph to dissert "upon" between the words "and usuprite", to it out "and" of the Colin the the third sector of and to delice "and position" of their senters. In Section (3)(A)(H) to colote "and the position of the new district ty" from the third sentence. The same charges would be not in Section (1988)(H) and the colones should be not in Section (1988)(H) and objection, our sector was sounded by Sect Harebill set, there being no objection, or we see ordered.

Sara Busphill a ved to escal the main motion to delote the lass sentence in perapsaple (3)(1)(i) and (1)(i), "No such operator supercosts any pert of that vessel's catch on board that vessel for a reviol of them is days from the fise it is empty under the Repteral birecter excepted all multifloctions required under this prograph during that perfect. "The motion as seached in "advictions required under this peripheral weaks that the perfect excepts charge the teach" the teach of the regulation and would delost the purposes of gathering data. It was dispended that the regulation and would delost the purposes of allow for problems arising, stores, reduction it fallows for problems arising. Stores, reduction the distribution from opening gars rest that the mouton with the enquiration of all second to very the the foundil as the Council of the regulations to take the sugger tons cut concerns at the Council of the regulations for under consideration that they are limitative the document and chern better them are that for the document and chern the repulsation of a conformal and the document and chern the refer to the conformal and the regulation of the section of the conformal and chern the conformal and the regulations of the conformal and chern the conformal and conformal and chern the chern the conformal and chern the c

The realn motion erryled as americal (see final language in Appendir TV).

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.

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John Mittler moved to approve Alternative 3, to develop a framework preseder for the annual adjustment of PSC (indis, including items are larged under the Alternative or pages 26-27 of the Rik. The motion was deconded by Seerv Wichell and, there being no objection, it was solvedered.

There was some discussion shout the foosibility of getting the amendment language and regulations prepared on this ofternamive is time for touciff review and approved at chis meeting. The Plan feat said they felt they could encerodish this; however, if there were any problems with the amendment, a prescrible altest this would be to go with Alternative 2 (raise the Venteum and Central Gulf Fro limits, at 270 mt and 75% it, respectively) as an interim a course and the Alternative 3 could be included in the frameworkal plan. The Council cyreed that this would be the plan of surion if the Council could could be the plan of surion if the Council could not agreement on Alternative 3.

## Changes to the FOP

On Saiday, the concil reviewed the cleanaur to the PMP prapayed in response to their preferred alternative on this portion of the exembless.

Borry Mitchell seved to adopt the forework Asternative 3 in the Chance. To the rip deciment presented by the Man, with the odditions of the illeriality given to the Regional Director as slows under Alternative M. . The motion was secreted by Robinson and, there being no objection to the objection. It was so ordered. (Final document facilable, Appendix M. T. theodominutes.)

# Regulations

Ferry Mitchell moved "clapprove the regulations for the firstwork provision adopted in the Changes ter the Two less the Ferry to the provisions to allow the Council Regional Director the most fishibility in section [12] infire the most fishibility in section [13] infire the motion was accorded by Rob Mace and, there help no objection, it was accorded by Rob Mace and, there help no objection, it was accorded.:

166UE 6 - habitant policy. Bob McVes sold he was disapposed the the AP and SGC recormendations as to include the hibitet section in the EPP. Euch work has been done on the document since the Maxch council meeting to address connects and centerns of the SSC, AP and Council and they are silling to thenge the document to reflect the SSC's communis at this northing. For there is a literature that did not include the document into the Fill would not in consistent with the NMFT Hebiter Followed in a sector by NMFS.

Bob heven moved to incorporate the habital scotton is the SSS and shar Mission sould redraft the deciment in accordance with the correspondent and odvice selected by the SSS at this meeting for Gornall review on Frills 1849 26. Son Collingworth seconded the motion and, there below no objection, if was so ordered.

Heary Mitchell suggested MMFS consider the AF minority opinion when revisions the try document because it seems to most closely lellow the hebics: policy that MbFL has come up with.

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 lb 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

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Pob MeVer suggested that since they are so close to a decument that would be satisfactory to the SSC. They should try to complete it of this meeting, TT the Council to not satisfied with the product on iniday, that if he responded and resultated to the SSC in deplember for review and thing the theorem is so the SSC in deplember for review and the change it for concentrations of the repulsar mendmant endicated. Hob Mace suggested that if the Council does not approve the Council does not approve the Council does alternative in a sar towerth reclaims recause, and prit the antity decrease redained the fire the rest areads not approve the theory Mitchell suggested that it would have to get deathful into the interplan may because onvironmentalists are trying to get labitar considerations into the Magnuson Ac and it would be better into the labitar considerations into the Magnuson Ac and it would be better into the Labitar considerations that rem regularions before that happens.

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188UE 7 - cublefish dishing seasons.

Jeff Stephan moved to set April 1 as the rebleffsh assert opening in the full of Alfaka for put sed longitus gear and musty 1 for troud gear. The medicular seconded by Bears Mitchell. The medicularities IC to 1, with herefall vetting spainer.

John Winther moved to smeno the motion to road that the trawl lishery could open January 3, the lengtime lishery would open April 7, and the not lishery would open Sopt when 7. The nation was seconded by bard Brankill, and fried. I so 2, with V. then and Beanhill voting for.

#### Changes to the De

The council electersed the changes to the PMF for season dates under Insuella, espirable the Clarges to the SMP document as presented (see Appendix 117).

## Regulations

Heary Filtchell moved to approve the regularions as presented fact Appendix IV). The action was seconded by John Pererge, and them being no objection, it was so ordered.

# II. Single Species ON Regulatory Americant

in some the Council discussed the continuing amblem of resulting areas consists, the Council species of a reached. The Council secretary reserved the the theorem and the time the Street of groundstan allerates and the Cult to between below of and use the remainder for bycarch

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 reach, to exempt certain gear types used in target fisheries that are know 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 atticles 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.

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purposes of other num-terget Lighevice. PFS-advises the single-species Of problem can be addressed through requirecty amendment. The Plan Scamperengered from a ternatives for bounds' reviews

- (1) Amond the guarant concerts and funding fishing regulations to exempt central elected known to take negligible amounts of certain appelor from erro closure when the CV for those appeles is meach, to examp, contain generally appelor to take from erro elected know to take registible amounts of certain specials from erro electron the CV for there species to the help find the CV for each torget species such that the directed fishery is closed short of a percentage of the CV to allow a luffer encurt as bycarch in other target is herrer, to recent as listery by field order on the horis of the most contains and the sector of the most of the most one short career inference at its by field order on the horis of the most contain and the most on sector sector and the most of the most on sector and recent inference and the sector of the most of the most of the sector of the sector
- (2) Marchiich prohibited spectes earch lisits (PRCs) for spectes such that bycarines in other carges Shehr os real has such tired, after the OV had bee achieved, up to an asourt to the college the PSC.
- (3) Destaurate a species for which the OT had been reached as a problem aparent appropriate aparent statements of the statement of the stateme
  - (4) Maintain the status quo.

# Report of the Advisory Parel and Scientific and Farristical Committee

The AP and SSC preforred Alternative 1.

COUNCIL DISCUESS ON AM ACTION

John Poterson reved to approve Attoricaive 1 (lasted bove). Cone ildonato seconded the morson and, there being no objection. It was so ordered.

# D-2(b) Approve net optunglement provision.

A review by see's and NOAA General Coursel has shown that neither the Cult of Alseka nor "er. as Sea/Aleution Islands groundlish fishery management plan provides authority to implement in substiant prolibiting discussion at sea. The Council was asked to consider a regulation proposed by the SaC for incorporation into both groundlish plans.

## Report of the Scientific and Stational Committee

The SSC recommeded that the net entanglement regulation be included in the plane as part of the habiter quendment.

# seport of the A visory Panel

Charges recommended by AP: In Faregraph B of the proposed regulation, "If abadoned or elseanded floating fishing pent of ret fragments of fifty are encountered... Also, meed to indicate to bome, where at, and low the apportr are to be made. Mr. Brancou 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-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

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#### COUNCIE DISCUSS FOR AFT ACTION

Heary mileled moved to adopt the repulation with the above angested obouges. Never Peterson encouded the corten and, there have conditions into wear and angles of the ection in the apply to both the Gulther's Moring Sea TMPs.

# 1-2(c) Emergence acutes to minimize estury ventury and foreign interceptions of samon.

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The Plan term of holded that while most of the estmon were that southeast of Koddak Island, sawon were caught wherever follock ishar econored. The Phan Team discussed possible measures to reduce the incidental herrest of salmor frelading time/area closures, fisher; electrons country reconvers problems apacted apacted orthe (PSG) limits and provided the (Sunci) with the following reconvendentings:

- (1) that the Council consider volumbery measures for seduction of the inclineal cetal cetal manual proposed to the following.
- (1) if formal regulatory sation is required, the feam concommended (60) limits for salmon anothe Central and Western Regulators in sas.

After reviewing the NMFS objective date the Tenm corolnoid that solven will be caught wherever dishing occurs. A time forest closure, while prevertion policely fishing in an orea, is in prevented that salmon will not be incidentally herviered alsowhere.

Steve Kainmer . Alaska Controt previous a paper which outlined weshods of counting the is idental satch of raimon in policek joint ventures.

# Peport of the E Lentificand Statistical Counities

The SSC suggested they participants in the groundleh thrash fichery get together to develop a plan to reduce the indicetal patient estah. They recommended the workgroup review Stove Fatzer's crootly "Bycetch in the the thirty Focusing on Sairon Bycetch in Tall Hollock Julet Ventures" when developing their plan. The SSC felt that the workgroup should produce a plan rator to August 1, 1983. If a plan their developed by that tire, the SSC recommended that a FSC be replanental with an elevance action. The SSC also suggested that a FSC be replanental with an elevance the portion the lapropriate analyses and calculate a PSC veloc in our best out on appropriate analyses, and calculate a PSC veloc in our class out of the seed-edit

# Report of the Advisory Panel

The AF discussed the large with more of the joint protture operator involved in the fisher and suggested the following voluntary measures for the

#### 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.

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remarkalence of 1915:

- (1) That each joint venture must have a chief representative or the grounds who has the power to move or step the fishing activity of the caucher versels.
- (2) Fighing will grop if, over a three-day period, locatertal cortage of chinock follows white the animals per metric ten or the area that is being field will be changed.
- (5) If an individual company through introla per sorzia for a chick corresponditive much take, setting to provent this from reoccumning. Appropriate action would be at the discretion of the chief representative and may include chitging fighing times, techniques or locations.

The AD felt that this would result in a reduction of SC-71% from last vestion incliental cotol rates.

#### COUNCIL DISCUSS ON AND ACTION

The Council second to form a workgroup with Council, apendy and industry representatives to address voluntary messures to reduce the indicertal artch of galmon in the Culf. [Bef Face was asked to that the warkgroup) sets Stephen asked to serve as an industry reprosentative. for tollipsworth suggested that hell Funter of the AR also be asked to participate. The Council asked the west month or ric works and report back to be Council in September.

# H-2 Pering Sea/Aleutian Islands IEP

Jim Glock revised the observes made to the Environmental Assatument (EA) and Regulatory Impact Stotoment (ETR) for Laning Sed Amendrons C. The Tive issues to be addressed by the Council were:

- A. Rathe the upper and or the optimic yield (OY) rarge.
- F. Ladue the incidental catch of salme in joint venture Triberies.
- C. seduce the incidental cotch of full estilized species by loveign crawlers.
- D. Roquise demostic catches, processors to submit periodic ortch vapores.
  - E. Implement the MMFS hebitet policy.

Public testimony for all groundfish items is found in Apprelic 1 to those minutes.

# Report of the P tentific and Statistical Committee

issum A - raine the upper end of the OV rarge. The SSC commended Alternative I, to raise the upper OY from 2.0 militon ut to 2.5 militon mt. but preferred that for the future the Council devalop a frirework amandance that includes a covariant for management analytist in the with shundance of the groundlish couples and its components.

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 an 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 hail weight estimates of catch by FMP species group in each FMP area. The 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.

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ISSUE B - reduce the indidental careb of solars in foint volume lisheries. The SSC fait volume lisheries in the SSC fait volume lawed. They recommended a wo-step approach to the resolution of the indidental catch problem. First that that industry groups be encursed to meet inactionally from purpose of developing procedures to reduce includental asiron catches in the purpose of develop and last. Second, that the Courti develop a rope limiting improved type approach, perhaps based on acceptable catch rates in lieuwith strugged the truet reduced to describe the plant the truet courts are considered to describe them should be encouraged to acceptable of the final proposed to acceptable the halilled by catch problem in the Ord of Alexius.

188180 C - reduce the incidental catch of unlighessized species by foreign travlers. The LC preferred Allernethe 2, the arrive quel They labe that the Amendant T to the Bersing Sea 280 provides machinisms that are adequate to address reduction of finddental catches of fally-utificat appeales.

listin D - comestic unterlay processes reporting. The SEC preferred alternatives the construction because of the destroit to menious breatch as projectly sections, there exists the destroit to menious projectly as for this type of program, they recommended Alternative X, which would require catcher/processes were veryels to obtain FCZ processing permitter ratio sach time they courselve at large catcher for an in the contract of the catcher for and fighting week documenting the hail weight contracts of catch by MP species group in head of the catcher the last weight or there exists under the program. The also suggested by General for methods of funding a contract program.

ISSUE U - is mean MMFF labitet for to recommended Alternative 1b, which would include a babitational it the PM but not specific feations and detailed text. Detailed babitat discussion bould be provided to a Council document as as ours or appendix to the PM.

# Repert of the February Penal

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ISSIE B - reduct the incidental cottem is advent delet vertus. It is begies. The AP recommended voluntary seasons is acveloped by an industry untagroup and reviewed I the Council pt the September meeting and there a visitar case commitment could be it to decad for the 1900 anadment cycle to help the byeatch in chart.

188UE C. - recover the incidental carch of fully-obilitied species by foreign trawlers. The NP recommended Alternative 1, to close the axes within 30 pilles of the Aleutine to all foreign trawling, to protect the nestence papulations which are important to the American Elebery.

188UN B - concert, contact representating. The AP Tecommonded maintaining aterns que. They exceed with the weed for come sort of reporting average hat felt there the order elternstives were not felty, emeloped, and enteined tee meny unknowner. They suggested this frame is more fully developed for the cost chardeset orde.

ISSUE E - implement NMFS habitat policy. The The AP recommended Alternative lb, 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.

Used E commended Alternative Delter. The The Af recommended Afternative Lb, which would not used the Actions and detailed reverse behind the discussion would be provided in a Council document as an attendant specific to the FPP.

COUNCIL DISCHIFTON AND ACTION

Isabe A - usten the upper end of the OY rames.

Dr. Lob Lee Lee revised the Council that the squiiib up yield is now declining and does not forcise it poing up to . I military at in the near future.

Some Council sumbars felt that there is a danger in reiging the CK to 2.5 million at because pressure could be put on the Caunail to use it if it was evailable.

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Advisory Famel nowbor Joe Chinogalres, representing the lover Fur ollying Advisory Committee, asked the Council to densider only American and luther values used to the restance result to the king arbitrary proposals that do not utilize king arbitrary of Western Aleska origin been a the specied to being fully utilised constone and possibly heiry everheis where they offshore therecalters occur.

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Bob Nace moved to adopt Altertative 5, status quo, with the provinient that involved wesself to develop voluntary means as to reduce interception and that the plan hear consister the SSC commendation to fromerode she eguletion on the halfs of acceptable catch write during hox emendment cycle. The notion would include appointment of a cort group of Council, seemed and AP representatives while appointment of epoch back to the Council in Separation and AP representatives while a charge to report back to the Council in Separation and AP representatives while a charge to report back to the Council and are contained by Souncil and a third council and other than a confidence of the confidence o

Bonsy Mitchell was osked to choic the workscomp. Dennis Petersen of NYFYO. 'c contaction industry rapid autobives.

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.

40B12/N -24-

Migroes May 1985 Council Mooding

ISSUENCY - Reduce the internal catch of Mally-arthised spected by Coratguetralised.

Song Council merbers opned with the SSC! reseases to that American I to the Soring Sea FMP already provided the flowing lay needed to feel with this situation.

Penry Editchell coved to approve Alternative 1, to close the area within "O siles of the Alentiche to all foreign troviles. The modes of a content in the Alentiche to all foreign troviles. The modes of the Editor to a content in the Editor to a second of the Editor to a second content to a second content

#### Changes to 'MP

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#### Reguletions

Menty Mitchell royed to adopt the rejulations transferd by Tos Travero for this portion of the omephanis (Ora appendix VI). The rotion we escondal by John Winther and core between Mah Mayby chiecting.

Itsuff D - catch syprocessor capch reporting. The tapeout discussed a functory reporting array carrs as an interim resource, but there was concern cheer posting information in a funcily scener. There was no description of a "cancher/processor" healed in the callynic. Staff suggested that tessels habiting any portion of their depth for over two weeks would be egulated order this accessor to hereit redirional weekly reports but they are not have the manuover accessor to hereit redirional weekly reports but they could probe to dead with check-in and check-out resultations.

John Peterman coved to approve Alternative C. which would nequire a FCZ processing permit with check-in/check-out and weekly catch reporting. The motion was seconded by how Collingwalch end, there wing no objection, it was so ordered.

#### Thanges to the rill

Or Priday, the Council sardewed the charges to the SW prepared in resource in their preferred alternative on this portion of the mandment.

Henry Mirchell moved to approve Section 14.6.5., Statistical Larating Sequitaments, in the Changes to the MP as prepared by the Plan home. The ration was seconded by John Peterson, the countried 8 to 1, with budy Telement of the not at Mr. Colling as at Mr. Colling as at Mr. Colling as at Mr. Colling as the Colling as the contribution of the root of the root of the cote.

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 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.

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During discuss on them were covernt stoom efformal charges to the receipt provided by the play to team to be included by the play to team to be included in the limit decument. (If of document included as Appendix V to these minuter.)

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On Eriday, the Council reviewed the impulsations presents, by Tat Trunks in respect to their prelevred alternative on this sortion of the amendant, There was considerable discussion of what the deficition of a catcher/process, is under these regulations. The regulations specified that any vessel holding its quick for over (no weeks would be required to report where these regulations. The science was vessel that itself with a two weeks will fill a list indicat which will not as then report, any vessel staying out for or han this will be required to report so that the ingle of Director will lave that a catch is committee. Although there were some Coverit bipactor will have thatly catch is committee. Although there were some Coverit start is a specifical that the first year in operation the count means are suggested that found.

Hepty Mitchell moved to entrove the regulations for careler/processor recovering contained in CFF Part (75, 675.5, and 675.4 is presented to the Council, with prince addressed transposed by the Council. The metric metrics were reconded by Budy Petersen, and the relating no objection if were no coloured. It was the orders and the the Council the relating the first decrease and would follow the precess through to be sure found to went follow the process through to be sure Council concerns are recognized to Wertington, OC.

John Winther woved to amend Section (3)(A)(f), in the first parament the arm "upon" hetween the words "and chemit ", to insers "and" effect (AVF in the which sepicion, and to colere "are possition" of that sections. In Section (3)(A)(E1) toylete "and the position of the new listing obtivity" from the third section (10)(E1) to the same charges will be made in hearith (10)(E1) and third section, it motion was secunded he Sam Hemphill and, there have objection, if we so ordered.

Saga Hemphill moved to smead the rate motion to delete the list sentence in paragraphs (2)(1)(4) and (3)(6)(5). "To such corrector was section any part of that Hessel's often the chard that vestal for a period of seasification file in any motion of the time if is cruphe under the Reffical Director received all motifications required under this paragraph during that rection." The motion was seconded by Endy Retersen. Some Gound's members left that reliable converge the "teerh" out of the graulation and would defect the purposes of gathering data. It was suggested that 1997 could coal with the regulation to allow for problems arising, storms, inchanted failures, etc., which might proven then from completing Same reseated the motion with the consurrence of the second to move that the Council as the deafters of the regulations and take the deafters are there problems and converge of the deafters are there before under consideration when they are firefired the document and there before objection, it was so ordered.

to noth motion carried as amended.

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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Mingtes Neg 1985 Council Westins

Hilly E. - hal not no include the habitar section in the Ar and SEC macommercations not no include the habitar section in the Eq. Hugh work has been done in the document since the happed Courth greating to address becaused and concerns of the SEC. AF and nounced are they are willing to charge the document to reflect the SEC s courants at this massing. Par Transact said that an electrority that did not include the document in the FRI would not be consistent with the 1885 Exhibit Folicy and well a rejected by Mins.

Rob MeVer inved to incorporate the habitat section in the 10.0 and that the bound redraft tie document in accordance with the community of the section of this meeting for Council review on Eriday, for 24. Eco Collingworth seconded the matter and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

Fenry Mirchell suggested Min consider the Passessity opening when revising the document beinger to meet ellering to be in birthat policy that he habitat policy that has come or with.

Bob 2. Wey suggested that since they are so closs to a document that would be satisfiactory to the SSC that they should any to complete it an older mesting, if the Council is not satisfied with the pardect on Priles, that it so back for review by the SSC is September of even though it would be out of the regular amendaent cycle. Bet Nace ampedated that if the Council dees not councy the document on Pricey that they approve the SSC recessor adoption of Albertstine in for the interim and put the entire document itself into the newt amendment cycle. Heary Mitchell suggested that it would been to go schoolbing into the plan acquired environmentalists are trying to not he implement that the Magnus of Act and it would be better the Councilla to implement that the Magnus of Act and it would be better for the Councilla to implement that own regulations before that heart own regulations before that heart or.

#### Changes to the IMP

On Friday, the Council rowleyed the regised habitet decument prepared in response to their preferred elegantive on this professor amendment.

Henry littehell served to sdopt the behindt deterant so presented. The section was seconded to eff Stephan and, thore being no objection, it was so ordered.

#### D-3(b). tet Entemplement Regulation

A review by atale and disk General Council became the dulf of the dulf of Alaska bet Berine SeafAlouties intends groundfile lishary savepement nion provides arthorized to implement a conficulties distributed by the Berine seas. The finder a vegalatics exceed by the Berine for imperacion into lote groundish plans.

# Report of the Desantific and Statistical Commission

The EFC commended that the new mitenglement conduct to be included in the model in the

#### 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 <u>floating</u> fishing gear or net fragments  $\phi t$   $\phi t h \phi t$   $\phi t h \phi t$  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, NWAFC, 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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Maribes Yay 1985 Consult Meeting

# Report of the Advisory Panel.

The Advisory Peral suggested the following charges to the regulation before recorparating it into the bebits successful;

Changed necommended by AP: in Paragraph B of the proposed regulation, "If shandened or discarded fleating fishing geen or not frequence of ellipse fishing geen or not frequence of ellipse are first are encountered... Also, need to foliame to whom, where are not how the reports one to be made. If, Brensen and that information would be included a line treplatory largery discountered.

COUNCIE DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Foury Mitchell coved to adopt the regulation with the above stayested thangen. Puch Peccessus accded the motion and, there being at objection, it was accorded. This to apply to both the Cult and Bentage Sac PREG.

B-3(c) Press. cy to righted joint venture duterception of select.

This tree was so hereed in lague 2 of the anothered package.

P-1(d) Sectum report or trand closulus temptoet hing erab aggregations.

In March the Generij capressed greet concern over the bigh Saviar branch and anked the Plan feam to examine evaluable data on king areb distribution over tima to determine if augustion could be identified for normable apparament of agreement file Than we unable to per all the data necessary to recommend specific simplement closures to ofme for Ships reactor. A comprehensive report will be available prior to the Rebessian meeting.

# Repairt of the Scientific and Statistical Countries

This wer ar informational item only on the SSC aganda.

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#### COUNCIES PIECT SETTING AND ANTERMOOM

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br. Low. FWFEC, and evan the observer reprintes citter in not ble problem; it is the extensive offer over a short period of time with a small strongenession. He suggested the chearvers be advised to mendeer this very closely and advise the corrects of the ship when there appears to be a problem.

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 their 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.

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Pody Persusya moved that the Council accept the 40 recomposition to recompend that NITS growlde & recommended PSC race for all Corein versess currently and In TALEE operations to order a resident to be used as a cell-colt top quide. The accion would include Dr. Lou's suggestion that the charvers be advised to community very close y with the outerna as at the verses and start that to problem at asset when they emphase and them. The mortem was seconded to the temperation, it was so ordered.

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# Report of the Scientiffic and Statistical Countries

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Perry Mitchell saved that the Comeil take no edice on this issue at this take. The motion was accorded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection. It was so ordered.

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 grands 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. COVIENCES, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

E-1 Controls

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(a) Contract & -6: deint Venture Trawl Lecheck Fronton

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(b) Contract 5 - ]: See Mon Pup Centur

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COUNCIL DISCREEDON AND ACCOUNT

John Winther moved to Epprove the final report for Contract Size, sorter Sta Berning Scale fealysis - Part II. John Peterson seconded the mental and there being no objection, it was so exceesed.

Rob Mace Roved to give the Executive Director sutherful to make that payments on contracts 85-4. 84-1 get 84-3 when they have been approved by the 880 cubgroup. The retion was seconded by Web have and, there being no objection. In was so codered.

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## 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.