

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC, and AP Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

DATE: December 5, 1985

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

1. Review Council policy for management of zero-TALFF and zero-JVP species.
2. Identify zero-TALFF and zero-JVP species.
3. Provide bycatch amounts of fully-utilized species from ABC if necessary.

BACKGROUND

Review Council policy for management of zero-TALFF and zero-JVP species. In December 1984 the Council was presented for the first time with several groundfish species that were fully-utilized by domestic fishermen and processors. Under the FMP, the three species, sablefish, Pacific ocean perch, and other rockfish, were subsequently designated as DAP fisheries (OY=DAP) and JVP and TALFF fisheries were set at zero. This DAP designation required a management decision since by regulation any joint venture or foreign fishery that would take any of these species would be prohibited.

In response the Council established a policy whereby small bycatch amounts of the fully-utilized species are provided to joint ventures and foreign fisheries. The bycatch amounts were subtracted from the equilibrium yield (EY) estimate, since a "buffer" existed between the EYs for these species and their OYs. The OYs for these species was set 25% below their EYs to promote rebuilding and the subtraction of bycatch amounts reduced the rebuilding rate. Table 1 showing the 1985 bycatch apportionments and the effects on the rebuilding rate is provided as item D-1(d)1. Table 2 comparing the bycatch PSCs to the actual 1985 catch is included as item D-1(d)2. These bycatch apportionments (PSCs) were implemented by emergency rule.

For 1986 it is anticipated that zero-TALFF and zero-JVP will again be an issue before the Council. Assuming the Council wishes to continue its policy for management of zero-TALFF and zero-JVP species, small amounts of fish need to be allocated for bycatch purposes. The Plan Team recommends that the Council use the same methodology as last year with the exception that bycatch allocations be subtracted from ABC since no groundfish EYs were calculated for 1986. This solution is only possible as long as there is sufficient "buffer" between the fully-utilized species ABCs and their OYs. Since these incidentally caught fish come from outside OY, they are treated as prohibited species and retention is prohibited. These bycatch allocations could be placed on joint venture and foreign fishing permits. Bycatch rates for estimating joint venture and foreign bycatch needs, obtained from the foreign observer program, will be available during the meeting.

TABLE 1. 1985 Fully-utilized species apportionments in the Gulf of Alaska (mt)

<u>Fully-utilized Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>1985 OY</u>	<u>JV PSC</u>	<u>Total DAH Removals</u>	<u>Foreign Bycatch</u>	<u>25% Inc. if needed</u>	<u>Total Removals</u>	<u>EY</u>	<u>Rebuilding Rate (%)</u>
Sablefish	W	1,670	+ 245	= 1,915	+ 140	(175)	= 2,055 (2,090)	2,225	8 (6)
	C	3,060	+ 545	= 3,605	+ 31	(39)	= 3,636 (3,644)	4,075	11 (11)
Pacific ocean perch	W	1,302	+ 53	= 1,355	+ 30	(38)	= 1,385 (1,393)	1,736	20 (20)
	C	3,906	+ 98	= 4,004	+ 16	(20)	= 4,020 (4,024)	5,208	23 (23)
Rockfish	Gulfwide	5,000			25			?	

TABLE 2. 1985 Joint Venture and Foreign Bycatch PSC Limits
 and Actual Catch (mt)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>JVP PSC</u>	<u>JV Catch</u> ^{1/}	<u>Foreign PSC</u>	<u>25% Inc. if Needed</u>	<u>Foreign</u> ^{1/} <u>Catch</u>
Sablefish	W	245	92	140	(175)	17
	C	545	94	31	(39)	20
Pacific ocean perch	W	53	208 ^{2/}	30	(38)	6
	C	98	26	16	(20)	2
Other Rockfish	GW		50	25		10

^{1/} Catch reported through December 2, 1985.

^{2/} Joint venture catch, when added to DAP catch, still below DAH.