

September 27, 1984

TO: Members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

We, the undersigned, request the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to begin the process necessary to establish a fleet rationalization program in the sablefish fishery off Alaska in the most expeditious manner possible.

Our request is based on the following reasons:

1. The fishing effort in the current sablefish fleet is already more than enough to harvest current catch quotas.
2. Further increases in effort will result in the following problems:
  - (a) faster rate of harvest forcing product gluts at processing plants, resulting in low quality product, and low prices to fishermen;
  - (b) disruption of established markets which must have reliable supplies over the entire year;
  - (c) disruption of communities which historically depend on economically healthy fisheries.
3. Shorter seasons which could make management of the fishery more difficult and result in stock conservation problems.

We request the Council to appoint a workgroup to examine the applicability of fleet rationalization programs to the Alaska sablefish fishery and that this workgroup will report their findings at the December 1984 meeting.

Signed

*Kelly Beum*  
ECLIPSE / KAMISHAK QUEEN

*James T. Hubbard*  
AR60

SEPT842/G-1

9/27/84

Kenneth Jason  
"C. Lady"

Russ Slipness  
F/V ZENITH

Neil Huff  
F/V ROCKY B

Robert Oberon, Fish; Vessel Own Account

Al Hoze

Charles Chris Jensen

Petersburg

Petersburg Vessel Owner

Mark S. Sundsten

TABLE 1  
 1985 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH  
 INITIAL 1985 INDUSTRY SURVEY OF DAP AND JVP

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>DAH</u>
POLLOCK	W/C	2,023	185,100	187,123
	E	5	0	5
TOTAL		2,028	185,100	187,128
PACIFIC COD	W	600	5,965	6,565
	C	8,691	8,200	16,891
	E	120	0	120
TOTAL		9,411	14,165	23,576
FLOUNDERS	W	400	800	1,200
	C	1,486	1,800	3,286
	E	227	0	227
TOTAL		2,113	2,600	4,713
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	W	3,000	6,951	9,951
	C	6,683	500	7,183
	E	136	0	136
TOTAL		9,819	7,451	17,270
SABLEFISH	W	1,752	114	1,866
	C	6,035	290	6,325
	W. YAK	0	0	0
	E. YAK	0	0	0
	S. E. OUT	3,016	0	3,016
TOTAL		10,803	404	11,207
ATKA MACKEREL	W	0	3,400	3,400
	C	0	500	500
	E	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	3,900	3,900
ROCKFISH	GW	2,947	1,765	4,712
THORNYHEAD	GW	0	0	0
SQUID	GW	0	0	0
OTHER SPECIES	GW	62	605	667
TOTAL		37,183	215,990	253,173

From document dated 9/21/84

TABLE 2  
1985 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH

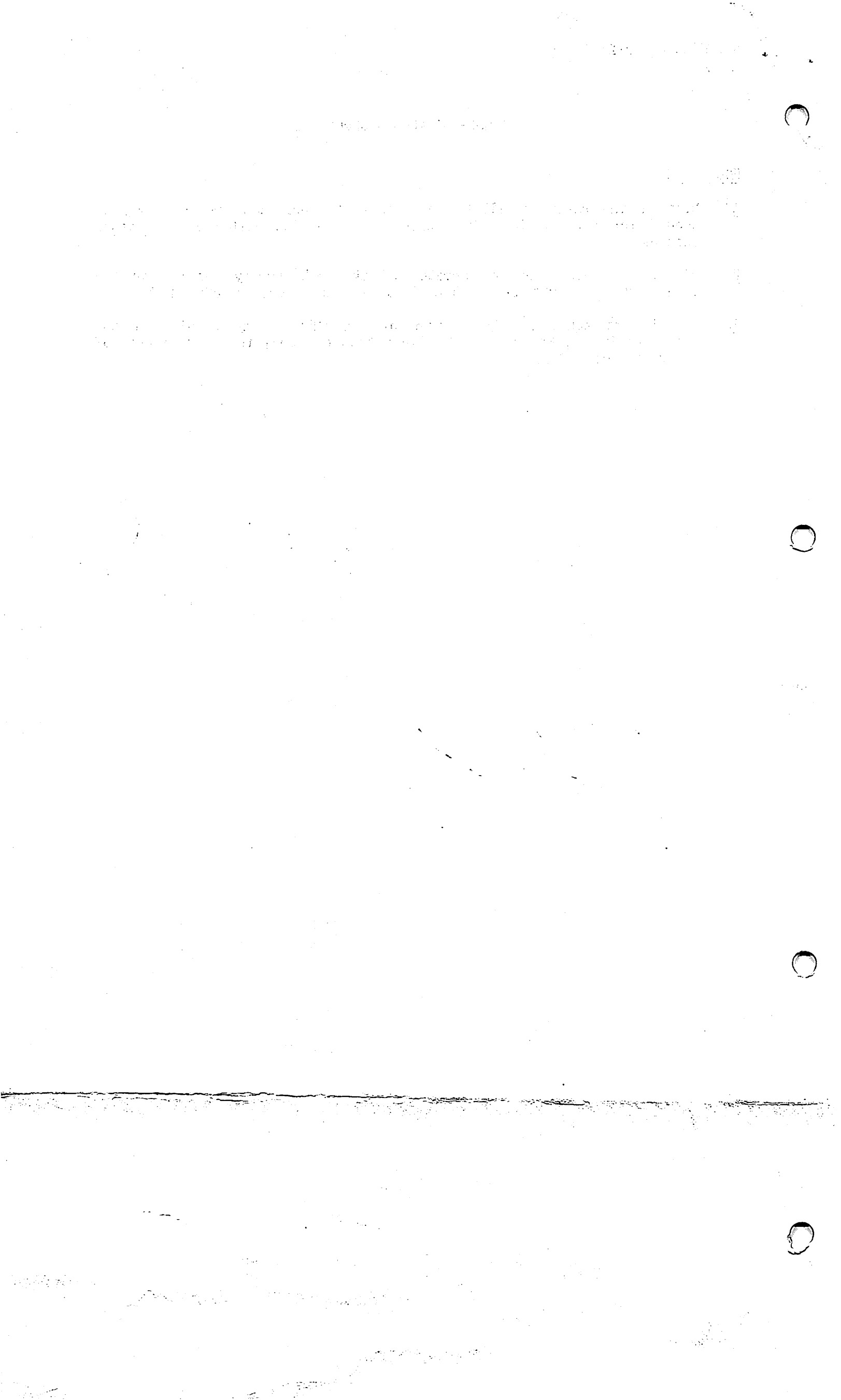
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>	<u>DAP</u> <sup>2/</sup>	<u>JVP</u> <sup>3/</sup>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>TALFF</u>
POLLOCK	W/C	400,000	80,000	2,023	190,000	192,023	127,977
	E	16,600	3,320	5	0	5	13,275
TOTAL		416,600	83,320	2,028	190,000	192,028	141,252
PACIFIC COD	W	16,560	3,312	600	5,965	6,565	6,683
	C	33,540	6,708	8,691	8,200	16,891	9,941
	E	9,900	1,980	120	0	120	7,800
TOTAL		60,000	12,000	9,411	14,165	23,576	24,424
FLOUNDERS	W	10,400	2,080	400	800	1,200	7,120
	C	14,700	2,940	1,486	3,000	4,486	7,274
	E	8,400	1,680	300	0	300	6,420
TOTAL		33,500	6,700	2,186	3,800	5,986	20,814
P. OCEAN PERCH	W	2,700	540 <sup>1/</sup>	2,160*	0*	2,160	0
	C	7,900	1,580 <sup>1/</sup>	6,320*	0*	6,320	0
	E	875	175	136	0	136	564
TOTAL		11,475	2,295	8,616*	0*	8,616	564
SABLEFISH	W	1,670	334 <sup>1/</sup>	1,336*	0*	1,336	0
	C	3,060	612 <sup>1/</sup>	2,448*	0*	2,448	0
	W. YAK	1,680	336 <sup>1/</sup>	1,344	0	1,344	0
	E. YAK	1,135	0	1,135	0	1,135	0
	S. E. OUT	1,435	0	1,435	0	1,435	0
TOTAL		8,980	1,282	7,698*	0*	7,698	0
ATKA MACKEREL	W	4,678	936	0	3,400	3,400	342
	C	20,836	4,167	0	500	500	16,169
	E	3,186	637	0	0	0	2,549
TOTAL		28,700	5,740	0	3,900	3,900	19,060
ROCKFISH	GW	7,600	1,520	2,947	1,765	4,712	1,368
THORNYHEAD	GW	3,750	750	40	10	50	2,950
SQUID	GW	5,000	1,000	100	10	110	3,890
OTHER SPECIES	GW	28,780	5,756	150	1,400	1,550	21,474
TOTAL		604,385	120,363	33,176	215,050	248,226	235,796

\*Indicates of downward adjustment of results obtained from the NMFS Regional office survey.

1985 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH

FOOTNOTES

- 1/ Most of the reserves will be apportioned to DAP. Some reserves may be needed for bycatch in joint venture and foreign fisheries for other species.
- 2/ DAP is set equal to the greater of the NMFS survey results or the projected NMFS 1984 catch, but less than or equal to 80% of the OY.
- 3/ JVP is set equal to the greater of the NMFS survey results of the projected NMFS 1984 catches, but less than or equal to the remainder of 80% of OY minus DAP.



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

DATE: September 17, 1984

SUBJECT: Incidental Catch Ceilings for the Domestic Trawl Fishery

*ACTION REQUIRED*

*The Council should vote on an emergency regulation to be effective December 1, 1984.*

BACKGROUND

At the December 1983 meeting the Council voted an emergency regulation to raise the halibut bycatch limits on the domestic trawl fleet from 26 mt and 52 mt to 270 mt and 768 mt in the Western and Central areas, respectively, from December 1, 1983 through May 31, 1984. The Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species working group has concluded that design of management measures is critically dependent upon having a well defined set of management objectives for Gulf of Alaska fisheries and needs Council guidance on specific management objectives to formulate long-term prohibited species strategies. In the meantime, the old halibut bycatch regulations will become effective on December 1 absent Council action at this meeting.

On September 6 a group of Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula fishermen, who were selected by the Chairman following the May 1984 meeting, met on Kodiak to formulate recommendations for the emergency rule now before the Council. The draft report of the meeting is included here as Agenda item D-3(a)(1). In summary, the working group on Gulf of Alaska halibut bycatch restrictions recommended:

- (1) The Council approve an emergency rule which applies for the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985, which exempts pelagic gear from the halibut bycatch regulations, and sets the halibut bycatch limits at 270 mt and 768 mt in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska, respectively.

- (2) For enforcement purposes,
  - (a) the halibut bycatch limits be apportioned to the JVP and DAP fisheries according to their projected harvests available prior to implementing the emergency rule and the best estimated DAH plus reserves for the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985.
  - (b) specific halibut bycatch amounts should be attached to each federal joint venture permit.
- (3) The National Marine Fisheries Service should use Alaska Department of Fish & Game observer information on halibut bycatch in DAP fisheries to enforce the halibut bycatch limits.
- (4) State of Alaska internal waters joint venture permits should be conditioned for halibut bycatch limits just as federal joint venture permits.
- (5) The Council's long-term strategy to control prohibited species bycatches should be comprehensive, include king crab, Tanner crab, and salmon, as well as halibut.
- (6) That this fisherman's group remain active and be given the opportunity to comment on Council prohibited species policies and objectives and that Oliver Holm be appointed to the Council's Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Working Group.

#### POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Based on information in the working group's report and comments received, the Council should approve an emergency regulation which exempts pelagic gear from halibut bycatch regulations and sets halibut bycatch limits in the Western and Central Gulf of Alaska.
2. Instructions to NMFS for enforcement of the regulation can be considered in the motion on the emergency regulation, as well as instructions to use data from the ADF&G domestic observer program.
3. A Council recommendation to the state that internal waters joint venture permits should be conditioned for halibut bycatch limits just as federal joint venture permits can be made in a motion for the Chairman to express the Council's view in a letter to the Governor.
4. The fisherman's group has recommended that they remain active in prohibited species matters and that Oliver Holm be appointed to the Council's Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Working Group. If the Council concurs, both recommendations will require a Council motion.



**DRAFT**

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Report of the Working Group on Gulf of Alaska  
Halibut Bycatch Restrictions

Kodiak, September 6, 1984

The Working Group on Gulf of Alaska Halibut Bycatch Restrictions met at Fishermen's Hall, Kodiak, on September 6, 1984. Workgroup members attending were: Paul Gronhold' (Sand Point), Mark Chandler (Kodiak), Charles "Jack" Hill (Kodiak, substitute for Bill Jacobson), Oliver Holm (Quzinkie), and Kent Helligso (Kodiak, substitute for Bernie Burkholder). Members not present were: Phil Chitwood (Seattle), and Paul Jones (Homer). Jeff Povolny and Steve Davis of the Council staff attended. A list of members of the public present is included as Attachment 1.

The Working Group Agenda was as follows:

1. Select a Chairman
2. Presentation of Background Material and explanation of purpose of the meeting.
3. Consideration of an Emergency Regulation for a domestic trawler halibut bycatch limit for December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985.
4. Other Business

Oliver Holm was selected by the Working Group to chair the meeting.

Jeff Povolny explained the purpose of the meeting and made a presentation of the background material.

The purpose was stated in the July 17, 1984 letter from Jim Branson to the Working Group (Attachment 2):

"In 1983 and continuing to 1984 there has been increased harvest by U.S. trawlers of 'hard-on-bottom' groundfish such as flounders and Pacific cod, along with an attendant increase in halibut bycatches. Current halibut bycatch limits on U.S. trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska are quite low; the amounts were established in 1978 when expected U.S. groundfish harvests were much less than today.

In December 1983 the Council approved an emergency rule which temporarily raised the halibut bycatch limits and exempted pelagic trawling from the regulation altogether. The emergency rule expired on June 1, and so the Council would like the working group to recommend bycatch levels for an emergency regulation for the beginning of 1985. The council must approve an emergency rule at the September 26-27 meeting if it is to be effective in time for the 1985 winter groundfish fisheries.

Secondly, the Council would like a recommendation on an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan which, because of the longer implementation process, will not become effective until November 1985."

Background material discussed included the December 1983 Council notebook material (Attachment 3), the Advisory Panel and Council minutes from the December 1983 meeting (Attachment 4), and tables of foreign and joint venture halibut bycatch is for 1982, 1983 and 1984 through June (Attachment 5).

Also presented were three tables which showed the U.S. harvests of bottomfish with bottomtrawl gear during the period December 1, 1983 to May 31, 1984, the joint venture halibut bycatches and bycatch rates during the same period, and projected bottomfish harvest with bottomtrawl gear for the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985 (Attachment 6).

In discussing the background material, it was noted that no information was included on the halibut bycatch in domestic (DAP) bottomtrawl fisheries. Oliver Holm then presented information collected by the ADF&G domestic observer program which showed that depending on the area fished, halibut bycatch rates could vary from as low as 0.92% to 17.43%. The overall halibut bycatch rate from the sample was 3.73%. The table from the domestic observer program is included at Attachment 7.

The working group noted that if the ADF&G observer data is used to calculate halibut bycatches and they are added to the reported joint venture bycatches for the period December 1, 1984<sup>3</sup> to May 31, 1985<sup>4</sup>, the results are as follows:

<u>Area</u>		<u>Dec. 1, 1983- May 31, 1984 Harvest(mt)</u>	<u>Halibut Bycatch Rate</u>	<u>Estimated Halibut Bycatch(mt)</u>
Central GOA	JVP -	7,355	0.0222	163.6
	DAP -	<u>2,929</u>	0.0373	<u>109.3</u>
	Subtotal	10,284	--	272.9
Western GOA	JVP -	1,427	0.0422	60.2
	DAP -	<u>37</u>	0.0373	<u>1.4</u>
	Subtotal	1,464	--	61.6
TOTAL		11,748	--	334.5

The working group noted that these amounts are well below the 270 mt and 768 mt bycatch limits approved by the Council in December 1983, but that actual harvests were also well below the projected harvests. The rates observed in the joint venture fisheries and the ADF&G domestic observer data are substantially more than the 1% rate used to calculate the 1983-84 bycatch limit, and are greater than has been observed in foreign trawl operations in the Gulf of Alaska (Council Document #21).

The working group discussed the August 16 letter from Phil Chitwood (Attachment 8), in which he suggested that the bycatch limits be calculated using the projected groundfish catch and current bycatch rates. It was noted that this method would result in the following:

<u>Central GOA</u>	<u>Projected JVP + Reserves</u>		<u>Projected DAP + Reserves</u>		
Bycatch Rate	20,345 <u>2.22%</u>		12,355 <u>3.73%</u>		
Halibut Bycatch Limit	452	+	460	=	<u>912 mt</u>
<u>Western GOA</u>	<u>Projected JVP + Reserves</u>		<u>Projected DAP + Reserves</u>		
Bycatch Rate	6,950 <u>4.22%</u>		3,850 <u>3.73%</u>		
Halibut Bycatch Limit	293	+	144	=	<u>432 mt</u>

Recommendations of the Workgroup

1. Emergency Regulation for December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985. Based on information from the public attending the meeting and the estimates of groundfish harvest for December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985, the workgroup recommended that the halibut bycatch limits remain as set at the December 1, 1983 Council meeting: 270 mt in the Western Gulf of Alaska and 768 mt in the Central Gulf of Alaska.

The working group felt that it was not necessary to increase the limits beyond these levels because only about 335 mt of halibut were caught incidentally under the previous emergency regulation and the estimates of groundfish harvest were very likely quite optimistic. The working group noted that the halibut bycatch rate calculated by using 270 mt and 768 mt and the projected December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985 bottomfish harvest more closely approximated rates observed in developed foreign trawl fisheries at that, as a goal, domestic trawlers should fish at least as "cleanly" as foreign trawlers.

2. The working group discussed the issues of equity and responsibility in the enforcement of the halibut bycatch regulation. They felt that it would be unfair for one operation which caught a lot of halibut to force the shutdown of other operations which minimized their bycatch. Therefore, they recommend that:
  - (a) The halibut bycatch limits be apportioned to the JVP and DAP fisheries according to their projected harvests, using the best estimates of those projected harvests available prior to implementing the emergency regulations and the best estimated DAH plus reserves for the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985; and
  - (b) that specific halibut bycatch amounts be attached to each federal joint venture permit, the amounts to be apportioned to be calculated using expected harvests of each venture and the best estimated total JVP harvest plus expected reserves available prior to implementation of the emergency regulations.

3. The working group noted that the ADF&G observer information (Attachment 7) is the best available information on halibut bycatches in DAP fisheries, but that it is generally unavailable to federal fisheries managers. Therefore, the working group recommended that this information be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service, in addition to halibut bycatch estimates from the NMFS observer program, to enforce the halibut bycatch limits. The working group noted that continued funding of the domestic observer program was essential to obtaining this information.
4. The working group discussed the question of halibut bycatches in operations working under State of Alaska internal waters joint venture permits. The group felt that as a matter of equity, the fishermen working under these permits should be subject to the same conditions as fishermen working under federal joint venture permits. Therefore, they recommend that the Council ask the State of Alaska to condition the permits for internal waters joint ventures in the same way as federal joint venture permits [recommendation 2(b)]. To establish each permit bycatch limit, the amount of expected harvest by the internal waters joint venture during the period December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985 and the best estimate of DAP plus expected reserves should be used.
5. The working group discussed the second directive in Branson's July 17 letter, to make "a recommendation on an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan . . . ." The group noted that the Council's long-term strategy to control prohibited species bycatches should be comprehensive, include king crab, Tanner crab and salmon as well as halibut. Due to the complex nature of this problem the working group did not formulate a recommendation on a specific amendment at this time.
6. The working group and the members of the public attending the meeting appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss this issue in Kodiak. They unanimously agreed this forum provided more opportunity for fishermen, whose livelihoods are affected by management decisions, to discuss their problems and arrive at constructive solutions. The working group and the public felt that this fishermen's group should remain active and be given the opportunity to comment on Council policies and objectives on incidental catches and prohibited species allocations. To this end the working group recommended that Oliver Holm be appointed to the Council's Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Working Group.

Working Group Meeting on  
 Gulf of Alaska Halibut Bycatch Restrictions  
 Kodiak, Alaska  
 September 6, 1984

Public Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Al Burch	Alaska Draggers Assn. M/V Dawn, Dusk
David Harville	Alaska Draggers Assn. F/V Margaret Lyn, Little Bear - Linda Jeanne, Hickory Wind
Jon C. Zuck	Alaska Contact Ltd.
Joe Harder	F/V Pacific Lady
Jim Blackburn	ADF&G
Pete Jackson	ADF&G
Ray Baglin	NMFS - Kodiak
Chris Blackburn	Kodiak Daily Mirror/Alaska Fishermens Journal
Pete Allan	Fisherman
Jeff Stephan	United Fishermens Marketing Assn./NPFMC
LeRoy Cossette	Fisherman
Mel Wick	Fisherman
Yeshi-Benyamin	Fisherman - Kodiak
Dave Herrnsteen	F/V Anna D - Kodiak

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 271-4064

July 17, 1984

Bernie Burkholder  
P.O. Box 4124  
Kodiak, AK 99615

Dear Bernie:

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council I would like to ask you to participate on an industry workgroup to develop recommendations for halibut bycatch limits for U.S. trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska.

In 1983, and continuing into 1984, there has been increased harvest by U.S. trawlers of "hard on bottom" groundfish such as flounders and Pacific cod, along with an attendant increase in halibut bycatches. Current halibut bycatch limits on U.S. trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska are quite low; the amounts were established in 1978 when expected U.S. groundfish harvests were much less than today.

In December 1983 the Council approved an emergency rule which temporarily raised the halibut bycatch limits and exempted pelagic trawling from the regulation altogether. The emergency rule expired on June 1, and so the Council would like the working group to recommend bycatch levels for an emergency regulation for the beginning of 1985. The Council must approve an emergency rule at the September 26-27 meeting if it is to be effective in time for the 1985 winter groundfish fisheries.

Secondly, the Council would like a recommendation on an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery management plan which, because of the longer implementation process, will not become effective until November 1985.

I have attached to this letter some background material on the halibut bycatch situation. Item 1 is the material which the Council used in December 1983 to formulate the 1984 Emergency Rule. Item 2 shows halibut bycatch for 1982, 1983 and 1984 (to date) by month in the Gulf of Alaska. Item 3 is a report from the Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Working Group, which provides detailed information on the sources of incidental mortality on the halibut resource.

I have tentatively scheduled a meeting of the working group for September 6-7 in Kodiak, Alaska. Please let me know if you cannot attend a meeting then. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Jeff Povolny, staff groundfish plan coordinator.

Sincerely,



Jim H. Branson

JP

Enclosure

**Distribution:**

Bernie Burkholder  
Paul Jones  
Mark Chandler  
Phil Chitwood

Paul Gronhold  
Oliver Holm  
Bill Jacobson

AGENDA D-3D  
DECEMBER 1983MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC, AP Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

DATE: December 1, 1983

SUBJECT: Incidental halibut catch by U.S. trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska

## ACTION REQUIRED

1. Approve an emergency regulation to exempt U.S. pelagic groundfish fishery from the halibut by-catch regulations.
2. Review Council policy concerning halibut by-catch in U.S. groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

## BACKGROUND

Joint ventures now fishing for flounders and Pacific cod could preclude all U.S. trawling in the Central Gulf of Alaska from sometime in December or January until June 1, 1984, because their potential halibut by-catch is restricted under current regulations.

The FMP limits the incidental halibut catch by U.S. trawlers from December 1 to May 31 to specific quotas, which when caught cause all U.S. trawling to shut down for the remainder of the period. The quotas are:

Western Area: 29 mt  
Central Area: 52 mt  
Eastern Area: 31 mt.

Joint ventures now operating in the Central area (Kodiak) could catch the quota in December if their current by-catch rates of halibut continue. If 52 mt is caught the Central area would close to further trawling, including the Shelikof Strait midwater fishery, until June 1.

In order to prevent this, NMFS has conditioned the permits for the joint ventures now operating for December 1983 restricting the allowed take of halibut by those two operations to something less than 52 mt. However, more halibut by-catch in 1984 could still close domestic groundfish fisheries until June 1. The Council staff suggests that the Council approve an emergency regulation to safeguard the midwater trawl fishery for pollock in Shelikof Strait.

DEC83/U



I. The Council should approve an emergency regulation to exempt U.S. pelagic (off bottom) groundfish fishing from the halibut by-catch regulations.

The pelagic fishery for pollock in Shelikof Strait catches very small quantities of halibut (about 2 mt in 1983 in a directed catch of 133,000 mt). Approving such an emergency rule would not result in much halibut by-catch, and would allow the fishery that expects to take some 200,000 mt in 1984 to take place.

Under Section 305(e)(2) of the Magnuson Act, a unanimous vote by the Council compels the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate an emergency rule while a mixed vote in favor leaves the promulgation of the emergency rule to the Secretary's discretion.

If the Council would like to exempt domestic pelagic trawling from the halibut regulations, the following motion is suggested:

"Because we find that without immediate action current regulations could shut down the U.S. 1984 Shelikof Strait pelagic trawl fishery for Alaska pollock, I move that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and 50 CFR Section 672.20(e) which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska by U.S. trawlers."

II. The Council should review its policy concerning incidental catch of halibut by U.S. Trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska.

A. History of the Current Regulation

The domestic halibut by-catch restrictions were developed in 1978 when the FMP was written. At that time, the halibut resource was depressed, the fishery resource in Shelikof Strait was unknown and contemplated domestic fishing operations were limited. The numbers for the halibut by-catch restriction were arrived at by taking 1% of the total DAH plus reserves estimated at that time.

B. Scope of the Problem

It is very difficult to apply the current halibut by-catch regulation fairly on all segments of the U.S. groundfish trawl fishery. For example, if one, or two fishing operations catch the whole by-catch quota, the entire trawl fishery must cease until June 1, shore-based operations as well as joint ventures. This will greatly inhibit development of a domestic processed groundfish industry. The 1984 estimates of DAP for all species in the Western and Central Areas is about 44,000 mt. Normally we could expect that roughly half of this would be caught from December through May. A shutdown of the fishery for most of that period would not allow processors or fishermen to market as much fish as they could by operating steadily through the year and may cause them to lose markets which must have a steady supply.

Estimated joint venture needs, excepting pollock, total 24,651 mt for the same two areas.

NMFS has placed restrictions on the two joint ventures now operating to limit their halibut by-catch to a total of 45 mt in the Central Area from December through May. Assuming the Council exempts pelagic gear, this leaves only 7 tons for other groundfish trawl fisheries during this period.

C. Possible Council Alternative Actions

1. Maintain the status quo.

If the Council maintains the status quo, the halibut limits should be applied fairly so that one "dirty" operation does not force the closure of others which may have low halibut by-catches. In order to do this, the 52 ton limit should be distributed to the operations in proportion to their expected harvest relative to total 1984 DAH. Using the numbers already established the rates needed to calculate distribution of the halibut quota would be as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Western Area: } & \frac{29}{3,990} = 0.007 \text{ mt halibut/mt groundfish} \\ \text{Central Area: } & \frac{52}{63,648} = 0.008 \text{ mt halibut/mt groundfish} \end{aligned}$$

Halibut by-catch rates in the 1983 joint venture fisheries (other than pollock) have been between 0.012 to 0.033 mt halibut/mt of groundfish.

Clearly, this course of action would still shutdown groundfish trawling for everything but pollock long before June 1.

2. Raise the limits.

Raising the limit would allow bottom trawling to continue longer, if raised high enough there should be no closure. Unfortunately information on which to base a suggestion for a new, higher limit is scarce at the moment. If the Council used the same rationale as was used for the current numbers (1% of DAH plus reserves) the new limits would be as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Western Area, DAH + Reserves} &= 27,067 \times 0.01 = 270 \text{ mt} \\ \text{Central Area, DAH + Reserves} &= 76,812 \times 0.01 = 768 \text{ mt} \end{aligned}$$

For any limit decided on, the halibut by-catch quota should be distributed fairly among the user groups, in the proportion of their intended catch to the total DAH.

3. Establish a halibut by-catch rate.

A halibut by-catch rate could be set which if exceeded would cause the offending operation to be terminated. Halibut by-catch rates known to date from joint ventures other than pollock are between 0.012 to 0.033 mt of halibut/mt groundfish. Halibut by-catch rates in the foreign fishery have been estimated to be between 0.009 and 0.012 mt halibut/mt groundfish.

If the Council were to choose the 0.01 rate already discussed, the halibut by-catch could be as high as 270 mt in the Western Area and 768 mt in the Central Area in 1984.

Under a rate-only regulation, as the groundfish fisheries for the "on bottom" species grow, so would the halibut by-catch.

4. Remove limit entirely.

Removing the limit entirely would allow bottom trawling to proceed unimpeded but could result in substantial halibut by-catches. Using the upper by-catch rate observed so far this year, the potential by-catch in 1984 is as follows:

Western Area, DAH + Reserves =  $27,067 \times 0.033 = 893$  mt

Central Area, DAH + Reserves =  $76,812 \times 0.033 = 2,535$  mt

5. Close halibut nursery areas.

Agenda item D-3D-1 is a map of critical halibut nursery areas determined by the IPhC. Closing these areas to bottom trawling would give some protection to the halibut resource.

The areas are also good flounder and cod grounds, so closing all three will force fishermen to go to areas where their catch rates may not be as high.

The areas are designated 1, 2, and 3, in terms of their importance as halibut nursery areas.

Two advantages of an area closure is that it would affect all segments of the domestic fleet equally, and would be relatively easier to enforce.

6. Close nursery areas and remove the limit entirely.

It is not possible to evaluate this alternative because we do not have information on halibut by-catch by specific areas. However, this alternative would give some protection to halibut and allow ADF&G and NMFS to collect information on halibut by-catch by area, which could be evaluated and used by the Council to refine the regulations later.

D. Staff Recommendations

The staff will have prepared for the meeting some comments on the costs and benefits of the suggested alternatives. We hope this information will help the Council arrive at a decision. It's apparent that any limit set, either a flat number or a rate, poses very difficult problems in monitoring and enforcing it -- except for joint ventures delivering codends to the processor. We have no effective way of monitoring catches sorted on deck, unless it would be to simply to assume their catch rates are the same as any "codend joint venture" working in the same area.

In the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish FMP, the Council has decided not to impose prohibited species regulations on the domestic industry, rather, to allow them to develop methods to control their by-catch on their own. U.S. by-catch of halibut in the Bering Sea declined this year, although it is still greater than in the Gulf of Alaska -- comparative numbers are:

Bering Sea Joint Venture Halibut By-catch (through September)

<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
562.5 mt	455.6 mt

Gulf of Alaska Joint Venture Halibut By-catch (through September)

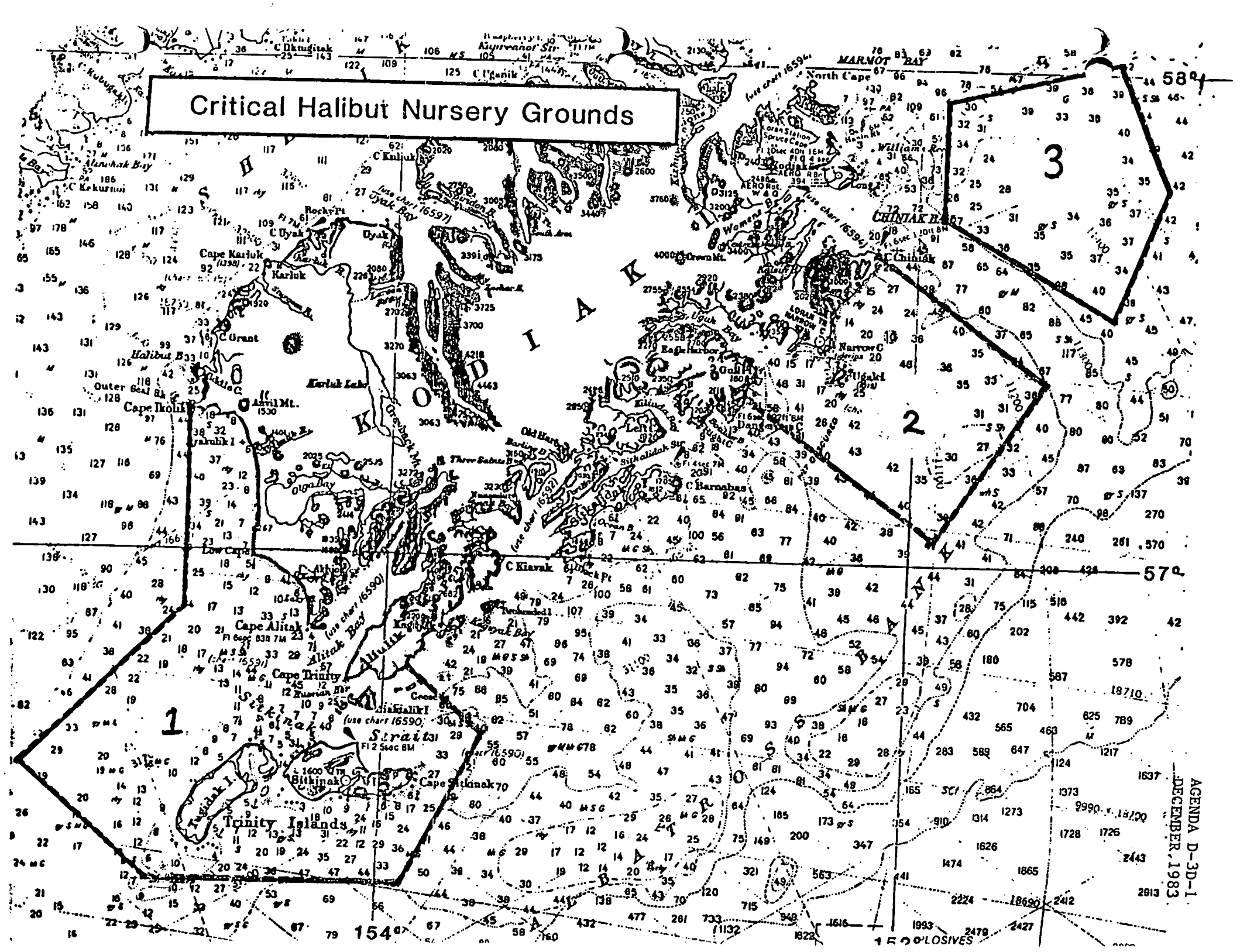
<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
3.6 mt	151.6 mt

III. Other Items

Agenda item D-3D-2 is a report from the Gulf of Alaska Prohibited Species Working Group. They are on the threshold of analyzing various management strategies to control or reduce the by-catch of prohibited species in the Gulf of Alaska.

The Council should ask the group to proceed post-haste with its analysis of the current regulations in order to have information to use in resolving the domestic halibut by-catch issue.

# Critical Halibut Nursery Grounds



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

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Certified By: Robert D. Alverson

Date: 1-30-84

## MINUTES

### ADVISORY PANEL

Anchorage, Alaska  
 December 6-7, 1983

The Advisory Panel met on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 6-7, 1983, in the Old Federal Building at 605 West 4th Avenue. The following members were present:

Bob Alverson, Chairman  
 Bud Boddy, Vice Chairman  
 Patricia Barker  
 Al Burch  
 Barry Collier  
 Barry Fisher  
 Weaver Ivanoff  
 Ron Jolin  
 Joe Kurtz  
 Rick Lauber

Ray Lewis  
 Jim O'Connell  
 Dan O'Hara  
 Jack Phillips  
 Don Rawlinson  
 Harvey Samuelson  
 Walt Smith  
 Tom Stewart  
 Tony Vaska  
 Ed Wojack

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Alverson. Minutes of the September 1983 meeting were reviewed and approved.

#### B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report. Jim Branson presented his report to the Advisory Panel. The AP took no action regarding the subjects discussed.

#### C-1 Halibut Fisheries Management

- (a) Report of Halibut Workgroup. Rick Lauber gave a brief account of the actions of the Halibut Working Group two weeks ago.
- (b) Consideration of objectives. The six objectives proposed by the working group were adopted unanimously.
- (c) The AP entertained a motion to adopt a moratorium for the halibut fishery. Prior to the vote we heard from Oliver Holm, Barbara Monkiewicz, Chuck Kekoni, Jack Knutsen, Peter Allen, Mark Lundsten, Henry Mitchell, Mike Haggren, and Bernie Burkholder.

Taiwan - Directed Fishery. The AP had taken no action by Tuesday because they were waiting for additional information.

- (5) Spain. The AP recommends approval of this permit, but cautions that the request for 8,000 tons of cod may be a problem in the Gulf of Alaska. The vote on this was 14 in favor, 4 against and one abstention.

The AP recommends in the future for permit discussions that we have the following information:

- (1) We would like information on vessels with repeat violations over several years.
- (2) We would like the company name of the violating vessel listed as well as the vessel name and country of origin.
- (3) Do not list vessels with pending violations, only those who have paid a fine or been convicted.

Some AP members felt that recommending no permits for those Japanese vessels whose cases were still unsettled was presuming fault and denying the full judicial process.

D-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

- (a) The AP recommends adoption of the amendment prepared by the staff that would combine the Central and Western areas of the Gulf of Alaska for purposes of pollock management.

The AP also recommends that the OY for this new area be 340,000 mt, which takes into account the JVP, DAH and historical TALFF allocation.

Pacific ocean perch. The AP recommends the Council incorporate the three options drafted by the SSC and send the proposed amendment out for public comment.

Pacific cod. The AP recommends the OY change be incorporated into the three options of the SSC and be sent out for public comment.

Emergency Regulations

The AP unanimously requests the Council to provide an emergency regulation that would exempt pelagic (off bottom) trawls in the Gulf of Alaska so that the incident rate on halibut would not shut down the pollock fishery.

The AP also recommends that the Council further provide an emergency regulation that would adopt the proposed staff recommendation #2. The Council should also look at requiring the foreign fleets to have pelagic trawls in the Gulf so as to minimize the total impact on the halibut resource.

The AP would like to point out that the Council, in order to change a regulation, should provide a socioeconomic and biological impact statement so we can know what the effect of a flounder fishery is going to have on king crab, Tanner crab and halibut.

- (b) Domestic utilization of sablefish. The AP recommends unanimously that there is adequate DAH to justify no TALFF for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska.

D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

- (a) Final Groundfish TAC, DAP and JVP for 1984. The AP heard from Dennis Petersen, Barry Fisher, Konrad Uri and Terry Baker. They all testified that the abundance of codfish was not as good as suggested by the NMFS survey or the PMT suggestion of 210,000 mt. It was their feeling that the codfish populations were greatly diminished.

The Advisory Panel, therefore, recommends that the PMT harvest recommendations be accepted in the entirety except that of codfish and that Pacific cod TAC be allowed to equal DAH plus an amount for an incidental catch for the foreign fishery. This amount can be determined by the SSC.

- (b) Prohibited Species in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary. The issue of prohibited species take is an issue that must be debated in the context of both the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The AP was informed that the NPFVOA would sponsor a meeting of industry user groups to take this issue up and possibly have a suggestion by the February meeting of the Council. The AP generally felt that this may not be adequate, unless sincere effort is pursued by all parties concerned and may require Council oversight if progress is not made. At this time the AP felt that they would wait until February to hear the results of the meeting before recommending more definitive action from the Council.



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

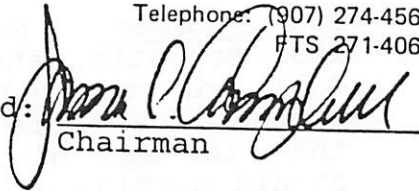
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Certified: 

Chairman

## MINUTES

57th Plenary Session  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
December 7-9, 1983  
Old Federal Building  
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its 57th plenary session on Wednesday, December 7, 1983 at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Federal Building, Anchorage, Alaska and adjourned at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, December 9.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met at the Old Federal Building on Monday and Tuesday, December 6-7, 1983.

The Advisory Panel met at the Old Federal Building on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7-8, 1983.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee members, Advisory Panel members and general public in attendance are listed below.

### Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman  
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman  
Robert W. McVey  
Rudy Petersen  
Jeffrey R. Stephan  
Ray Arnaudo  
RADM Richard Knapp  
John Winther

Jon Nelson for  
Dr. Robt. Putz  
Don Collinsworth  
Sara Hemphill  
Gene Didonato for  
Bill Wilkerson  
Robert U. Mace for  
John Donaldson

### Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman  
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman  
William Aron  
Don Bevan  
Bud Burgner  
John Burns

Steve Langdon  
Jack Lechner  
Jack Robinson  
Fred Gaffney for  
John Clark  
Larry Hreha

Public Testimony

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Assn. When 1983 domestic catch figures for cod in the Central area of the Gulf are compared to the projected 1984 figures, a tremendous increase over previous years is forecast. It is their position that the DAH plus reserve as they currently exist in the FMP should provide enough fish to provide for the expanding domestic fishery in Kodiak this year without cutting out the foreign directed fishery.

COUNCIL ACTION

Council members discussed ways of accommodating the U.S. industry needs without totally cutting foreign fisheries off for the next season. A proposal to ask the Regional Director to release reserves of cod to TALFF at the beginning of the year was discussed. Mr. McVey said that unless there was an increase in the cod OY, there would not be enough in reserves to accommodate this request.

*Bob Mace moved to approve the JVP and DAP figures contained in the Gulf of Alaska table dated December 8, 1983 (included with these minutes in Appendix II) with the provision that the Council recommend to the Regional Director that 3,000 mt of Pacific cod reserves in the Central area be apportioned to TALFF on January 1, 1984. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried unanimously with Bob McVey abstaining.*

D-3D Incidental Halibut Catch by U.S. Trawlers in the Gulf

Jeff Povolny reported that joint ventures now fishing for flounders and Pacific cod could preclude all U.S. trawling in the Central Gulf of Alaska from sometime in December or early January until June 1, 1984, because their potential halibut by-catch is restricted under current regulations. The FMP limits the incidental halibut catch by U.S. trawlers from December 1 to May 31 to specific quotas (29 mt in the Western area, 52 mt in the Central area, and 31 mt in the Eastern area) which, when caught, cause all U.S. trawling to shut down for the remainder of the period. An emergency regulation seems necessary to safeguard the winter and spring midwater trawl fishery for pollock in Shelikof Strait.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurs that the U.S. pelagic groundfish fishery should be exempt from the halibut quota. The incidental catch of halibut in the Shelikof Strait pollock fishery is very low. The SSC also discussed the alternatives provided for addressing the joint ventures other than those in Shelikof Strait, but were unable to

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provide a specific recommendation. The SSC recommended that the prohibited species workgroup's deliberations be completed as soon as possible.

#### Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that the Council request an emergency regulation that would exempt pelagic (off bottom) trawls in the Gulf of Alaska so that the incidental catch of halibut in other U.S. trawl fisheries would not shut down the pollock fishery. The AP also recommended that the Council request emergency regulations to set the halibut by-catch quotas for U.S. draggers at 270 mt in the Western Area and 768 mt in the Central Area of the Gulf.

#### Public Testimony

Arne Lee, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. He doesn't understand why the rate of incidental catch for the foreign fleet is so much lower than the domestic fleet. He's very curious about what the economic cost of the halibut incidental catch is to U.S. halibut fishermen in the Gulf. There are a lot of unanswered questions and he would like more information on the problem. At current figures, approximately 18% of the total allowable halibut catch last year will be allowed to be taken as incidental catch. He would like to see a study group convened to work on some of the unanswered questions about incidental catches and their economic impact. One way to handle incidental catch would be a poundage or number limit.

Ron Kutchick, Kodiak. He is a dragger who participates in joint ventures. It is impossible to stay away from the halibut and sablefish. There's a real problem in staying away from prohibited species. He feels American fishermen should be allowed a longer directed halibut fishery to reduce the number on the grounds.

Oliver Holm, Ouzinkie. A limit of 52 mt of halibut by-catch seems unfair to draggers. There are so many halibut on the grounds that it's going to be a real problem. He would like the Council to increase the amount for joint ventures. Crab is also a problem. He recommended that the Council form a workgroup to work with the draggers on this problem.

Donald McCaughran, IPHC. In response to a request from Bob McVey to indicate the most critical areas for halibut, Dr. McCaughran said the Alitak Bay/Trinity Island area is important. Many halibut stay in that area year-round and provide the harvest for Kodiak small-boat fleets. Halibut that leave the area are found off Yakutat, Southeast, B.C., and Washington and Oregon. The halibut stocks have grown considerably and incidental catch is a real problem. He thinks there are solutions which could be found by fishermen working together on the problem. Draggers will

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never avoid some halibut by-catch; they just hope that it never gets so high that it hurts the domestic halibut fishery which is so important to Kodiak and other small-boat fisheries. IPHC has done some study of gear modifications to reduce the incidental catch and will be continuing this research this year.

Mickey Serwald, President, Alaska Draggers Assn. The 52 mt incidental catch in the Gulf is based on obsolete information. The draggers are doing everything possible to keep the incidental catch low, but the bottomfish operation in the Gulf may be terminated within days. There are more halibut now than ever before. From the fisherman's point of view, an incidental catch based on a percentage of the total catch would be helpful.

Al Burch, Mgr., Alaska Draggers Assn. Mr. Burch read a letter into the record from five Alaska draggers asking the Council to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of the FMP. Mr. Burch said they are working with other associations to come up with answers to the incidental catch problem. It is very important to them to have the 52 mt limit raised.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. The Council should be aware that there is a lot of demographic transition in the fleets at this time when making any changes. The nursery grounds in Bristol Bay are entirely justified and the resource should be considered first. He is involved in the industry workgroup studying the incidental catch problem.

COUNCIL ACTION

There was a consensus among Council members that an emergency regulation was needed to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from provisions of the FMP which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska. The figures contained in the FMP were established in 1978 and were based primarily on a Pacific cod fishery. It was also determined that an extension of the 90-day emergency regulation period would be needed in order to protect the winter & spring midwater trawl fishery in Shelikof Strait.

*Gene Didonato moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to exempt U.S. pelagic trawling from the provisions of 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and 50 CFR Section 672.20(e) which limit the halibut by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska by U.S. trawlers because without immediate action current regulations could shut down the U.S. 1984 Shelikof Strait pelagic trawl fishery for Alaska pollock. The motion was seconded by Jeff Stephan and carried unanimously.*

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Bob Mace moved that an emergency regulation be promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce to raise the halibut by-catch limits in Section 8.3.1.1.D of the FMP and in 50CFR Section 672-20(e) to 270 mt in the Western Gulf and 768 mt in the Central Gulf of Alaska because without immediate action current regulations could shut down U.S. joint venture and shore-based fisheries using bottom trawls. The motion was seconded by Harold Lokken and carried unanimously with Sara Hemphill abstaining.

Several Council members were concerned with the amount of tonnages and while supporting the emergency regulation, said they could not support them in the FMP.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council send out for public review an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska FMP to control the halibut and crab by-catch in the Gulf of Alaska. The objective of the amendment shall be to hold the total halibut and crab by-catch in all trawl fisheries at approximately the 1981-82 average levels of the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, but with as few impediments as possible to the developing U.S. fisheries in that area. The amendment package shall contain at least the following options:

1. Allow the domestic halibut and crab by-catch to rise and reduce the foreign by-catch by allowing pelagic gear only in the foreign trawl fishery year-round West of 140°W longitude.
2. Establish halibut and crab by-catch rates in the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.
3. A combination of closing halibut nursery areas to foreign and domestic trawling and/or limits and/or by-catch rates on the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.
4. Establish halibut and crab by-catch limits for the foreign and domestic trawl fisheries.

As part of the motion, the Council directs the staff to work with the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup to prepare an analysis of these options which can be included in the amendment package. John Winther seconded the motion which carried, 7 to 2, with Bob Mace and Rudy Petersen voting against.

Sara Hemphill moved that the current restriction on joint venture vessel permits, which limits the amount of sablefish which can be delivered to a foreign processing vessel be removed until such time as there is no foreign TALFF on sablefish. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion.

After Council discussion, the motion was withdrawn to allow adequate notice to the public. Jim Branson noted that if it is to be discussed at the next Council meeting, the staff should be directed to do as much analysis as they can before then.

Don Collinsworth suggested the staff look at the geographic distribution of the catch in the foreign fleet and the potential geographic distribution of the catch in joint ventures and find out if the fish are coming out of the same areas or different areas and explore some of the marketing implications of increasing sablefish incidental catch levels and lowering the TALFF.

Jeff Stephan moved that the Council direct the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species workgroup to include in the scope of their work a complete evaluation of the by-catch of non-target and prohibited species by all fishermen, both domestic and foreign. The prohibited species workgroup is requested to produce information and data detailing species composition of by-catch, an analysis of areas of by-catch, and an analysis of the proportional distribution of by-catch between the pelagic and on-bottom trawl fisheries. Bob Mace seconded the motion which carried, 5 to 4, with Campbell, Lokken, Petersen, and Winther voting against.

Some Council members felt that the prohibited species workgroup will deal with these issues where adequate information is available. Jim Branson noted that there is poor information available on domestic catches.

#### D-4 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

##### D-4A 1984 TACs, DAPs, JVPs

Council members were provided with the most recent estimates of industry needs for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands based on a recent NMFS survey. Estimates had been mailed to the public for review and Council members received copies of comments in a recent Council mailing.

Loh-Lee Low told the Council that the PMT report provided was based on the Team's evaluation of the status of the stocks and on the needs of the fishery. Since the September meeting, the Team reviewed information received from INPFC and Japanese and Korean scientists and provided an updated report on status of stocks.

#### Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended EY values suggested in the supplement to the Resource Assessment Document (RAD) [2,248,345 mt total groundfish] and concurred with the Team's recommendations for the TAC values.

Gulf of Alaska  
Foreign and Joint Venture  
Halibut Bycatch  
1982

	<u>Foreign</u>		<u>Joint Venture</u>	
	Numbers	Tons	Numbers	Tons
January	10,699	23.6	39	0.1
February	31,833	140.8	18	0.2
March	16,701	55.8	3	0.1
April	53,342	195.1	21	0.1
May	21,531	83.7	2,199	2.5
June	125,592	488.1	--	
July	33,647	289.5	--	
August	21,624	197.7	--	
September	40,847	280.2	--	
October	102,883	578.7	--	
November	143,773	594.8	--	
December	153,725	566.4	--	
TOTAL	756,195	3,494.3	2,280	3.0

Source: NMFS Observer Program

Gulf of Alaska  
Foreign and Joint Venture  
Halibut Bycatch  
1983

	<u>Foreign</u>		<u>Joint Venture</u>	
	Numbers	Tons	Numbers	Tons
January	20,700	60.6	100	0.1
February	39,000	105.0	100	0.3
March	49,700	172.9	100	1.1
April	22,700	85.6	600	2.6
May	19,300	83.7	2,200	17.5
June	73,800	463.7	1,500	15.6
July	42,300	282.5	2,500	9.8
August	36,300	114.3	17,300	64.4
September	30,200	177.8	13,200	38.4
October	97,800	563.7	3,900	29.1
November	158,000	659.3	15,100	60.1
December	101,100	436.0	36,900	88.1
TOTAL	690,800	3,305.1	93,300	327.1

Source: NMFS Observer Program



Gulf of Alaska  
Foreign and Joint Venture  
Halibut Bycatch  
1984  
(through June)

	<u>Foreign</u>		<u>Joint Venture</u>	
	Numbers	Tons	Numbers	Tons
January	37,600	121.0	32,400	40.3
February	87,100	246.3	6,000	10.9
March	9,800	27.0	1,400	2.5
April	37,900	121.0	5,500	15.1
May	3,600	10.3	15,700	30.6
June	9,300*	63.5*	12,700*	51.5*
TOTAL (through June)	185,300	589.1	73,700	150.9

\*preliminary

Source: NMFS Observer Program

Table 1  
 Gulf of Alaska  
 December 1, 1983 - May 31, 1984  
 DAH Harvest  
 (excludes Shelikof mid-water fishery)

Central Gulf of Alaska	JVP	7,355	
	DAP	<u>2,929</u>	
			10,284 mt
Western Gulf of Alaska	JVP	1,427	
	DAP	<u>37</u>	
			1,467 mt

Table 2  
 Gulf of Alaska  
 DAH Halibut Bycatches  
 December 1, 1983 to May 31, 1984

<u>Area</u>	<u>JVP catch mt</u>	<u>Halibut Bycatch (mt)</u>	<u>%</u>
Western GOA	1,427	60.2	4.22
Central GOA	7,355	163.6	2.22

Table 3  
 Gulf of Alaska  
 Projected Domestic Groundfish Harvest  
 December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985  
 (rough estimate)  
 to be harvested with bottom trawls  
 (excludes Shelikof mid-water fishery)

	JVP	17,000 mt
	DAP	<u>12,000 mt</u>
	Total	29,000 mt
Estimate for Western GOA	20%	5,800 mt
Estimate for Central GOA	80%	23,200 mt
Reserves		
Western GOA		5,090 mt
Central GOA		9,500 mt
Estimated Total Domestic Harvest with bottom trawls		
Western GOA		10,890 mt
Central GOA		32,700 mt

Table 1. Summary of ADF&G bottomfish observer results for the trawl fishery of the Westward Region from January through July of 1984.

Geog. Catch Area	Month	No. Tows Observed	Trawl Hrs. Observed	Total Catch (lbs)	King Crab		Tanner Crab		Halibut		Pacific Cod		Flatfish		Salmon	
					lbs. per. Trawl hr.	% 1/	lbs. per. Trawl hr.	% 1/	lbs. per. Trawl hr.	% 1/	lbs. per. Trawl hr.	% 1/	lbs. per. Trawl hr.	% 1/		
Malina-Offshore	Mar	2	3.50	11,514	0.0	-	2.7	0.08	93.9	2.85	2373.1	72.14	624.3	18.98	0.0	-
	Apr	2	6.00	23,970	0.0	-	0.4	0.01	254.5	6.37	1862.0	46.61	1102.9	27.61	3.0	0.07
Catch Area Totals:		4	9.50	35,484	0.0	-	1.2	0.03	195.3	5.23	2050.3	54.89	926.5	24.80	1.9	0.05
Marmot Bay	Apr	31	67.50	152,761	.1	-	64.7	2.86	268.8	11.88	480.1	21.22	1082.0	47.81	0.3	0.01
	May	5	11.75	43,866	.8	0.02	47.2	1.32	162.7	4.36	1134.4	30.39	1937.7	51.90	0.0	-
Catch Area Totals:		36	79.25	196,627	.2	.01	62.1	2.50	253.0	10.20	577.1	23.26	1208.9	48.72	0.3	0.01
Marmot Flats	Apr	9	23.42	67,558	287.3	9.96	41.4	1.44	118.2	4.10	1205.6	41.79	1144.3	39.67	1.1	0.04
	Catch Area Totals:		9	23.42	67,558	287.3	9.96	41.4	1.44	118.2	4.10	1205.6	41.79	1144.3	39.67	1.1
Marmot-Offshore	Mar 2/	5	7.88	11,250	0.0	-	.03	-	248.9	17.43	148.9	8.90	1203.1	73.20	1.7	0.12
	Catch Area Totals:		5	7.88	11,250	0.0	-	.03	-	248.9	17.43	148.9	8.90	1203.1	73.20	1.7
Chiniak-Offshore	Mar 2/	3	3.08	2,800	0.0	-	.23	0.03	102.5	11.28	70.4	8.00	693.8	78.80	0.0	-
	Catch Area Totals:		3	3.08	2,800	0.0	-	.23	0.03	102.5	11.28	70.4	8.00	693.8	78.80	0.0
Barnabus	Mar	22	38.42	168,209	0.0	-	3.7	0.08	40.1	0.92	3813.9	87.11	275.6	6.30	0.2	.01
	Catch Area Totals:		22	38.42	168,209	0.0	-	3.7	0.08	40.1	0.92	3813.9	87.11	275.6	6.30	0.2
Kupreanoff-Offshore	Mar 2/	15	25.33	132,000	0.0	-	1.6	0.03	84.6	1.62	3245.6	59.90	740.7	13.67	1.4	0.03
	Apr 2/	6	10.50	31,000	0.0	-	8.5	0.29	221.6	7.51	2146.6	59.62	722.0	20.10	4.7	0.16
	May 2/	17	38.83	179,846	0.0	-	0.6	0.01	218.2	4.71	1744.7	39.96	884.2	20.25	0.9	0.02
Catch Area Totals:		38	74.66	342,846	0.0	-	2.0	0.04	173.4	3.78	2389.0	51.08	805.9	17.23	1.6	0.03
Uyak Bay	Mar	9	15.00	61,802	0.0	-	.7	0.02	131.1	3.18	3125.4	75.86	797.8	19.36	19.6	0.48
	Apr	14	29.12	129,593	0.0	-	.4	0.01	81.4	1.83	2987.8	67.13	864.7	19.43	4.2	0.09
Catch Area Totals:		23	44.12	191,395	0.0	-	.5	0.01	98.3	2.27	3034.4	69.95	842.0	19.41	9.4	0.22
Karluk	Mar	1	1.25	1,500	41.1	3.43	.7	0.06	19.8	1.65	31.1	2.59	1025.8	85.49	0.0	-
	Catch Area Totals:		1	1.25	1,500	41.1	3.43	.7	0.06	19.8	1.65	31.1	2.59	1025.8	85.49	0.0
Akutan Pass	Jan 2/	12	34.42	72,580	0.0	-	.2	0.01	90.7	4.30	1523.8	81.23	22.8	1.22	1.0	0.05
	Feb 2/	10	34.10	180,936	0.0	-	.3	0.00	78.1	1.47	6216.8	94.90	190.2	2.90	.4	0.01
	Mar 2/	7	23.08	316,561	0.0	-	.5	0.00	117.6	0.86	13373.2	95.19	0.0	0.0	.6	0.00
Catch Area Totals:		29	91.60	570,077	0.0	-	.3	0.00	92.7	1.49	2362.0	90.86	35.6	0.8	.6	0.01
Unimak Pass	Jan	27	101.52	186,655	0.0	-	0.1	0.01	125.6	6.83	1545.0	81.76	104.9	5.6	0.2	0.01
	Feb	2	7.50	36,003	0.0	-	8.2	0.17	32.6	.68	NA 3/	-	NA 3/	-	0.0	0.0
Catch Area Totals:		29	109.02	222,658	0.0	-	.6	0.03	119.2	5.84	NA 3/	NA 3/	NA 3/	NA 3/	.2	0.00
REGIONAL TOTALS		199	482.20	1,810,404	14.1	.38	13.1	.35	139.9	3.73	1547.0	41.2	503.3	12.9	1.5	0.04

1/ Represent total catch weights.

2/ Number of tows, trawl hours observed and total catch shown include tows in which only prohibited species were sampled as well as those in which all species were sampled. The catch-per-hour and percentage composition of prohibited species, therefore, are consistent with the effort levels shown. Catch-per-hour and percentage composition shown for non-prohibited species, however, are based on only those tows in which these species were sampled.

3/ Prohibited species only sampled. Weights of Pacific cod and flatfish not available.



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson *JHB*  
Executive Director

DATE: September 19, 1984

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

*ACTION REQUIRED*

*An emergency rule is needed to close the sablefish fishery in the federal cul-de-sacs of Southeast Alaska.*

BACKGROUND

On January 1, 1985, the FCZ cul-de-sacs (i.e. FCZ intrusions) into the Southeast Alaska archipelago (Figure 1) will open to sablefish fishing, along with all other waters of the FCZ off Alaska. Historically these areas have not opened until the state seasons of March 15 (southern areas) and September 1 (northern areas). The resource in these areas is included in the state's guideline harvest levels and not in the FCZ OY.

At the February 1984 meeting, the Council unanimously voted to close the four cul-de-sacs by emergency rule until the traditional opening dates, solving the problem for 1984. You also told the plan team to prepare an amendment to the FMP to solve the cul-de-sac problem. The amendment package is nearing completion and is scheduled for presentation in January in the annual groundfish cycle.

Since a plan amendment will not be in effect by January 1, 1985, we need to close the cul-de-sac areas with an emergency rule again until the state opening dates. It needs to be done at this meeting to allow sufficient time to notice the closure prior to the beginning of the year. An emergency rule approved at this meeting should be scheduled for implementation on January 1, 1985. As in 1984, this emergency rule will require an extension in May 1985 to cover all cul-de-sacs for the required time.

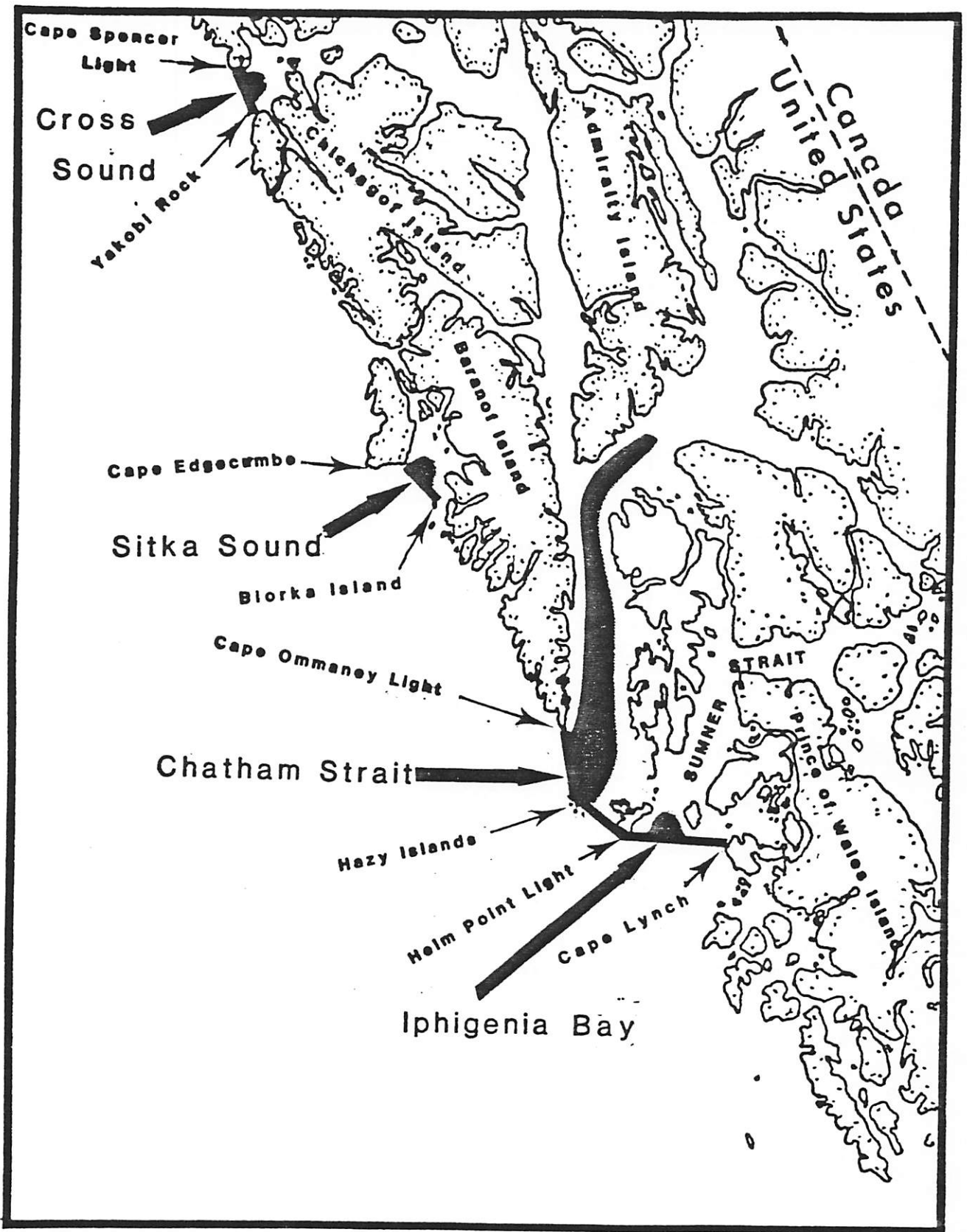


Figure 1. FCZ intrusions in the southeast Alaska archipelago.