

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 1979

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee and  
Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Amendments

COUNCIL ACTION

*A decision is required at this time to either (a) accept a proposed Secretarial Amendment -- commenting on its provisions or (b) approve a Council amendment dealing with several issues including some raised in the Secretarial amendment.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A Secretarial amendment has been proposed for our Gulf Groundfish FMP to extend the plan through October 31st, 1980 and to implement provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment, P.L. 95-354. The Secretarial amendment was initiated because information and data essential to reassessing the status of fish stocks, domestic processing capacity and intent, and joint venture performance and intent were not available to the Council early enough to satisfy the procedural requirements of a Council amendment prior to expiration of the plan on October 31st, 1979. The Secretary has noted that the Council intends to initiate additional amendments to the FMP soon after evaluating new information and data only recently obtained.

Our amendment has been delayed solely because of data availability problems. We are proposing an amendment which differs from the Secretarial amendment. It incorporates information based on resource and industry surveys. The proposed Council amendment:

- (1) extends the plan year through October 31, 1980;
- (2) implements provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment P.L. 95-354;
- (3) changes existing OY's for Pacific cod and Atka mackerel;
- (4) establishes a separate OY for idiot rockfish (*Sebastes*);
- (5) proposes a provisional time and area closure policy concept for joint ventures; and
- (6) proposes different domestic and joint venture reporting requirements.

The attached material consists of:

- (1) The amendment proposed by the Secretary of Commerce;
- (2) the amendment and associated errata proposed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council;
- (3) report and recommendations from the Management Plan Drafting Team; and
- (4) report and recommendations from the DAH Working Group. Additionally, reports are expected from the Advisory Panel and the Scientific & Statistical Committee on pertinent parts of the amendment.

The amendment package for the 1981 fishery will be prepared this coming spring. Among the other routine changes will be consideration of the following: some OY clarifications, incidental halibut catch quota, use of observers, halibut versus groundfish issues, reporting format, and framework concepts.

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THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSED AMENDMENT: PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Amendment #7 is proposed as follows to the Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery.

Part I

Amendment -- Extend FMP through October 31, 1980.

Part 2

Amendment -- Implementing provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment (P.L. 95-354) into the Plan.

The implementing provisions of Public Law 95-354 are handled in this proposed amendment in four subparts. These are:

- a. Redefine DAH and Reserve.
- b. Redefine procedures for determining DAH and Reserve.
- c. The new estimates for DAH and Reserve and TALFF.
- d. Provisions for the periodic review and release of DAH and Reserve.

a. *Redefining DAH and Reserve*

$$OY = DAH + RESERVE + TALFF$$

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

$$RESERVE = 20\% OY$$

$$TALFF (\text{initial}) = OY - RESERVE - DAH$$

DAH is the expected Domestic Annual Harvest

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

DNP is that portion of DAH entering U.S. non-processed fish markets (bait or fresh)

JVP is that portion of DAH delivered to foreign processing vessels by U.S. ships.

b. *Redefined procedures*

Within DAH- DAH is an estimate of the expected domestic annual harvest and is comprised of three elements, DAP, DNP and JVP. JVP (as a portion of DAH), is only allowed if the estimated U.S. harvesting capacity exceeds the estimates of DAP and DNP. DAP, DNP and JVP are reevaluated periodically in light of respective harvesting and processing experiences and projections. Adjustments, if needed, are made within DAH assigning the highest priority to DAP and

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DAH - DAH must be reevaluated at the sixth month and the eighth month to determine whether reserves will be needed to handle excessive DAH or whether surplus DAH will be available for TALFF.

RESERVE - Reserve is intended to be used for DAH if needed. An assessment should be made at the sixth and eighth months to determine if amounts in DAH will be adequate for the year. If the Reserve will not be needed for DAH it will be reallocated to TALFF.

c. *New estimates - DAH and RESERVE.*

DAP = 20,000 metric tons  
 DNP = 4,000 metric tons  
 DAH = 32,800 to 119,000 metric tons  
 JVP = 97,000 metric tons  
 RESERVE = 20% OY

$$\text{DAH } 32,800 \text{ to } 119,000 \text{ mt} = (\text{DAP}) + (\text{DNP}) + (\text{JVP}) \\ = (20,000 \text{ mt}) + (4,000 \text{ mt}) = (95-97,000 \text{ mt})$$

The basis for these estimates are contained in the recommendations of the DAH Working Group (Attached).

d. *Provisions for review*

<u>Category</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
DAP, DNP, JVP	As needed	Possible shuffling of subquotas within DAH
DAH/RESERVE	April 2	If a shortfall exists in DAH, reserve should be released to DAH.
	April 2	If an overage exists, consider release of DAH to TALFF.
RESERVE	April 2	If no Reserve is needed, consider 50% release of reserve to TALFF
DAH	June 2	If a shortfall exists, reserves be released to DAH.
	June 2	If an overage exists consider release of DAH to TALFF
	June 2	If no reserve is needed, then release remaining reserve to TA

Part 3

*Change existing OY's*

*Atka mackerel - recommended new OY - 28,700 metric tons f  
 26,800 metric tons  
 Pacific cod - new OY - 60,000 tons from 34,800 metric to*

Part 4

Create a new category for idiot rockfish (*Sebastolobus*) OY = 3,750 metric tons.

Part 5

*Provisional time/area closures to joint ventures.*

The Council may wish to establish a ~~policy~~ statement based on future factors which may necessitate consideration of a time and/or area closure to joint ventures to afford a U.S. processor the opportunity to utilize the boats of an area for DAP.

Part 6

Reporting Requirements

The proposed reporting requirements Amendment.

The proposed amendment language is:

(b) Processor Reports.

All processors of groundfish and those buyers of groundfish whose purchases enter nonprocessed fish markets except fishermen buying for their own baill needs, shall report information necessary for periodic reassessment for DAP and DNP. Regulations implementing this plan specify the information to be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

(c) Joint Venture Reports.

Persons delivering U.S. caught groundfish to foreign processor vessels shall report information required for periodic reassessment of JVP. The regulations implementing this plan specify the information to be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

The Council may wish to add further language to control regulations for reporting in the same general categories as proposed in the regulations developed by the Alaska Region of NMFS. Their proposed regulations say "that in response to written surveys to be conducted by the Regional Director semiannually or more frequently than necessary, U.S. processors must report the following information: (1) changes in the capacity of plants, (2) changes in availability of groundfish by species, (3) changes in market demand if known, (4) changes in expected utilization of processing capacity or expected purchases of groundfish by species for the subsequent twelve-month period, and (5) changes in other factors that the buyer or processor believes relevant to the accurate determination of domestic annual processing capacity (DAP).

NMFS regulations also require the owner or operator of any fishing vessel in the U.S., which delivers groundfish to foreign processing vessels, in response to surveys to be conducted by the Regional Director semiannually or more frequently when necessary, to report the following information: (1) changes in the number or capacity of vessels of the United States which harvest groundfish to be delivered to foreign processing vessels, (2) changes in expected regulatory areas of operation, (3) changes in the foreign processing vessel to which deliveries are expected to be made, (4) changes in groundfish quantities and/or species expected to be delivered in the subsequent 12-month period, and (5) changes in other factors the owner or operator believes relevant to the accurate determination of joint venture processing capacity (JVP).

## General Comments

We have also been asked by Mundt, MacGregor, Happel, Falconer and Zulauf, on behalf of their clients, the North Pacific Longline Gillnet Association, to consider two amendments to the plan. The first request to create a separate OY for the idiot rockfish (*Sebastes*) is included in the amendment package. Their second request to carryover unharvested portions of the sablefish OY into the 1980 plan was rejected by the Plan Drafting Team in Seattle. For that reason we have referenced it in this manner but have not included it in this amendment package.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 21, 1978, an FMP for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish, prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) was approved (43 FR 17242). This approved FMP was amended five times and a sixth proposed amendment noticed in the Federal Register is now in the comment period. In summary, the purposes of the amendments were to: (1) extend the fishing year to October 31, 1979, (43 FR 34825); (2) allow a directed Pacific cod fishery to concentrate in one portion of a fishing area (43 FR 47222); (3) raise reserves to allow for possible joint ventures (43 FR 46349); (4) modify regulatory areas; modify fishing restrictions on foreign vessels; increase the OY for squid and Atka mackerel; relax domestic restrictions on trawl gear; require annual renewal of domestic fishing permits, and extend the period for submitting domestic catch reports (44 FR 40999); (5) establish an OY for fish of the genus Coryphaenoides (rattails) (44 FR 42738); and (6) reduce the DAH on most groundfish species and reallocate the surplus to TALFF (not yet published as final).

The present proposed amendment (number 7) renews the FMP for the fishing year November 1, 1979 - October 31, 1980. The amendment is initiated by the Secretary because information and data essential to reassessing the status of fish stocks, domestic processing capacity and intent, and joint venture performance and intent were not available to the Council early enough to satisfy the procedural requirements of a Council amendment prior to expiration of the plan on October 31, 1979. The Council intends to initiate additional amendments to the FMP soon after evaluating new information and data only recently obtained.



This amendment does not change the optimum yield (OY) or the estimate of domestic processing capacity and intent (DAP) for any species. To implement the intent of P.L. 95-354, however, the amendment redefines the expected domestic annual harvest (DAH) as including the portion of the U.S. harvest utilized by domestic processors (DAP), the portion of the U.S. harvest entering non-processed fish markets (NPF), the portion of the U.S. harvests discarded (DIS), and the portion of the U.S. harvest delivered to foreign processing vessels (JVP). The amendment also establishes a reserve equal to 20 percent of the OY. In consequence, DAH values are revised to reflect the summing of the components: DAP, DIS, NPF and JVP. The values of JVP are changed in accordance with the best available information. The total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF) is redefined as follows:  $TALFF = OY - DAH - Reserve$ . The amendment increases the TALFF in the plan because the JVP component of DAH is reduced.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, under a delegation of authority from the Secretary, has determined that this amendment to the FMP (1) is necessary and appropriate to the conservation and management of Gulf of Alaska groundfish resources; (2) is consistent with the National Standards and other provisions of the Act; (3) does not constitute a major Federal action requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement; but (4) does constitute a significant action requiring the preparation of a regulatory analysis under Executive Order 12044.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, 1979.

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Winfred H. Meibohm  
Executive Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service

A. The Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish which was published on April 21, 1978 in the Federal Register (43 FR 17242) is proposed to be amended as follows:

(All changes are made in sequential order by Federal Register page number and section.)

Federal Register, page 17245 - No. 2, change - Delete all after "formula", and insert the following:

Initial Foreign Allocation = (0.8 OY) DAH - DIS. The 20 percent of OY held as a reserve should be reallocated either to the foreign fisheries or to the domestic fishery in season, following a reassessment of the performance of these fisheries.

Page 17245; No. 3; change. Delete present language and insert the following:

Base DAH on the estimated catch by U.S. fishermen to be delivered to U.S. processors and foreign processors.

Page 17247; Section 2.2 2.(b); change. - Delete present language and insert the following:

Expected domestic annual harvest (DAH) is the estimated portion of the U.S. groundfish harvest which will be utilized by domestic processors (DAP), the estimated portion which will enter non-processed fish markets (NPF), the estimated portion which is discarded (DIS), and the estimated portion, if any, delivered to foreign processors (JVP) which are permitted to receive U.S. harvested groundfish in the fishery conservation zone.

DAP is derived from the last year's purchases of fish by U.S. processors modified by the net change resulting from the expected purchases during the plan year. The Council will reassess and revise the DAP periodically during the plan year, based on processor reports and any changes in factors that would alter the levels of resource utilization.

NPF is derived from estimates of the quantities and species of groundfish that enter non-processed fish markets. The principal utilization is for pot bait in the crab fisheries with lesser quantities being utilized as bait in the longline fisheries. Minor quantities enter the institutional and household markets. Determinations of NPF are based on report sales and interviews of fishermen who directly utilize groundfish catches for bait. Projected utilization in the plan year takes account of changing demands related to the planned magnitude of fisheries requiring groundfish as bait.

DIS is derived from fishermen interviews that solicit information on the species and quantities that are of no value, extraneous to their operations and are discarded.

JVP is the U.S. harvested portion of the OY in excess of the capacity and intent of U.S. processors to utilize or for which actual domestic markets are not available that will be delivered to foreign processors who are authorized to receive such U.S. harvested fish in the fishery conservation zone.

The components of the DAH are dynamic and require periodic reassessment to assure that DAH remains realistic and based on the best available current information. For example, changes in DAP resulting from additional vessels entering a fishery or from vessels leaving a fishery, changes in processing capacity or in a variety of other factors can alter DAH. Accordingly, DAH values will be amended as required by changes in its component elements.

Page 17247; Section 2.2 3; change. - Delete present language and insert the following:

Determination of the total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF). The total allowable level of foreign fishing is determined by deducting the DAH and the reserve from the OY.

Page 17247; Section 2.2; change. -Add a new paragraph to read as follows:

4. A reserve is established equal to 20 percent of the OY of each species in each regulatory area to account for uncertainties arising from harvests delivered to U.S. processors, U.S. processing capacity, joint ventures, and imprecise allocations of by-catch species in mixed species fisheries. Reserves are to be promptly apportioned to the DAH (DAP, JVP), and TALFF in that order of priority, in accordance with the procedures and criteria specified in the regulations as necessary to achieve the FMP objectives.

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2; change. - First paragraph, last line, delete "1978" and insert "1980."

Page 18313; Section 5.2.2; change. - Second paragraph, delete all after "U.S. fishing vessels." on line 9 and insert the following:

This form of domestic utilization was allowed during four months of 1978 and more than six months in 1979. The conservation and management regime in the plan provides for a continuation of deliveries of U.S. harvested fish to foreign processors who have been issued permits to receive such fish. This provision is intended to increase the U.S. harvested portion of the OY beyond the capacity and intent of U.S. processors to utilize the resources. Thus, in the absence of actual domestic markets, U.S. harvesters may take advantage of foreign markets through joint venture arrangements as an equitable alternative.

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2.1; change. - Delete all of 5.2.2.1 except heading and insert the following:

While most U.S. processors interviewed indicated an intense interest in developing a fishery for Gulf of Alaska groundfish, early expectations have not been realized. The predicted 1979 harvest of 44,500 m.t. proved to be more than twice the actual harvest. The State of Alaska, the federal government, and the fishing industry are presenting investing funds and effort in well organized groundfish fishery development efforts. The probability is high that substantial expansion of the domestic groundfish industry will occur in the next few years.

The domestic annual capacity and intent to process (DAP) was reassessed in June, 1979, following a survey of U.S. processors, an evaluation of the performance of U.S. harvestors and an examination of other factors including the seasonality of all fisheries, the status of alternative fisheries, and changes in fleet size, processing capacity and markets. The processor survey inquiry went to forty Gulf of Alaska processors and requested information on (a) the amount of fish processed to date and (b) their intent and capacity to process groundfish for the remainder of the fishing year ending October 31. There were 33 responses, which included the major groundfish processors.

As a result of the reassessment, the DAP was amended downward and re-distributed among the three regulatory areas according to processor location. (Table 64).

The survey and reassessment methodologies were designed to provide results consistent with the plan and the intent of P.L. 95-354. The DAP values established by this reassessment are applicable to the 1980 fishing year (November 1, 1979 - October 31, 1980) although subject to revision on the basis of periodic reassessments during the year.

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2.2; change. - Delete present language and insert the following:

Two foreign processing vessels were given permits to receive U.S. harvested groundfish from U.S. fishermen in the Gulf of Alaska during part of both 1978 and 1979. Although the current permits originally authorized receipt of up to 155,000 m.t. of pollock and assorted by-catch set aside as a joint venture reserve (JVP), the quantities of U.S. harvested fish actually delivered were minor and much of the JVP was incrementally reallocated to the TALFF.

The performance of joint venture operations during 1979, while below expectations, clearly revealed the potential for rapid expansion. In recognition of this probability and consistent with the provisions of P.L. 95-354, the plan provides an initial JVP amount of 97,845 m.t. of all species combined for the 1980 plan year (November 1, 1979 - October 31, 1980). Should the performance of joint ventures fail to meet expectations or the demands of DAP exceed expectations, the JVP will be reduced accordingly. JVP surpluses not required in the DAP will be made available to the TALFF during the plan year.

Page 17314; Section 7.0; change. - First paragraph, second line, delete "1978 and 1979," and substitute "the plan year." Fourth line, place period after "catch." and delete "as of July, 1978."

Page 17314; Section 7.0; change. - Third paragraph, third line, place period after "OY" and delete remainder.

Page 17314; Section 7.0; change. - Fourth paragraph, second line, following "DAH," place a period and delete "- j - v reserve."

Page 17315; change. - Table 62 - delete and insert new table.

Page 17316; change. - Table 64 - delete and insert new table.

Page 17324; Section 8.5.1; First paragraph, first line, change. - insert (A) ahead of "Fishery."

Page 17325; Section 8.9.1; change. - Footnote 2 under "Estimated Management Costs," delete period after "1978" and substitute comma; add "\$70,000 in fiscal year 1979, and \$100,000 in fiscal year 1980."

Page 17325; Section 8.5.1; change. - Insert two new sections as follows:

(B) Processor reports. All processors of groundfish and those buyers of groundfish whose purchases enter non-processed fish markets, except fishermen buying for their own bait needs, shall report information necessary for



periodic reassessment of DAP and NPF. The regulations implementing this Plan specify the information to be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

(C) Joint venture reports: Persons delivering U.S. caught groundfish to foreign processor vessels shall report information required for periodic reassessment of JVP. The regulations implementing this plan specify the information to be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

#### PART 611 - FOREIGN FISHING

B. 50 C.F.R. Part 611 is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. Section 611.20(c), remove the portion of Table I applicable to Gulf of Alaska Groundfish and replace it with the following:

2. Section 611.92(b), remove Table I and replace it with the following Table I:

3. Section 611.92(b)(ii) is amended to read:

(ii) Reserves.

(A) Apportionment of Reserve Amounts. As soon as practicable after each of the following dates, and on other dates as required, the Regional Director shall apportion to the TALFFS an appropriate percent of the reserve

amount set out in Table I of this section for each species in each fishing area: January 2, March 2, May 2, July 2.

(B) Determination.

(1) General. In making the apportionment described in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A) of this section, the Regional Director shall determine the appropriate percent of the reserve amount to be apportioned, and whether apportionment is required on other dates, based on consideration of the following factors:

(i) Reported U.S. catch and effort by species and area, compared to previously projected U.S. harvesting capacity;

(ii) Projected U.S. catch and effort by species and area for the remainder of the fishing year;

(iii) Amounts of fish already purchased or processed by U.S. processors during the fishing year, compared to previously projected processing capacity of U.S. processors;

(iv) Projected processing capacity and utilization of capacity by U.S. processors for the remainder of the fishing year; and

(v) The need to maintain orderly fisheries despite misspecification of by-catch species amounts in mixed stock fisheries.

(2) Public Comment.

(i) Comments may be submitted to the Regional Director concerning whether or not, and the extent to which, vessels of the United States will harvest reserve amounts during the remainder of the fishing year. (Address: NMFS, P.O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska, 99802).

(ii) For the dates specified in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A), comments must be submitted no later than the following respective dates: December 18, February 16, April 17, and June 18. When apportionment is required on dates other than those specified, the Federal Register notice of the proposed apportionment will state the period during which comments must be submitted.

(iii) The Regional Director shall consider any timely comments filed in accordance with this subsection, in making the determination specified in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(B)(1) of this section.

(iv) The Regional Director shall compile in aggregate form, the recent available reports on: (1) level of catch and effort by vessels of the United States fishing in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery; and (2) the amounts of fish processed by U.S. fish processors. This data shall be available for public inspection during business hours at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office, Federal Building, Room 453, 709 West Ninth Street, Juneau, Alaska, 99802, during the last 15 days of each comment period.

(3) Procedure. As soon as practicable after each of the dates stated in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A) of this section, or as stated in the Federal Register notice of the proposed apportionment on other dates, the Regional Director shall publish in the Federal Register: (i) the final amounts of reserves to be apportioned to TALFF's; (ii) the reasons for the determination that vessels of the United States will, or will not, harvest the amounts available for apportionment to the TALFF's; and (iii) responses to any comments received.

#### PART 672 - GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

C. 50 C.F.R. Part 672 is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. Section 672.5, Reporting Requirements, is amended by adding paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows:

(e) Any fish buyer or processor (i.e., any person who receives fish for a commercial purpose from a fishing vessel subject to this part) shall, in response to written surveys to be conducted by the Regional Director semi-annually, or more frequently when necessary, report the following information: (1) changes in the capacity of plants; (2) changes in the availability of groundfish by species; (3) changes in market demand, if known; (4) changes in expected utilization of processing capacity or expected purchases of groundfish by species for the subsequent 12 month period; and (5) changes in other factors that the buyer or processor believes relevant to the accurate determination of domestic annual processing capacity (DAP).

(f) The owner or operator of any fishing vessel of the United States which delivers groundfish to foreign processing vessels shall, in response to surveys to be conducted by the Regional Director semiannually, or more frequently when necessary, report the following information: (1) changes in the number and capacity of vessels of the United States which harvest groundfish to be delivered to foreign processing vessels; (2) changes in expected regulatory areas of operation; (3) changes of the foreign processing vessel to which deliveries are expected to be made; (4) changes in groundfish quantities and/or species expected to be delivered in the subsequent 12 month period; and (5) changes in other factors the owner or operator believes relevant to the accurate determination of joint venture processing capacity (JVP).

2. Section 672.20(a), remove Table I and replace it with the following Table I:

3. Section 672.20(c) is amended to read as follows:

(c) Reserves.

(1) Apportionment of Reserve Amounts. As soon as practicable after each of the following dates, and on other dates as required, the Regional Director shall apportion to the TALFFS an appropriate percent of the reserve amount set out in Table I of this section for each species in each fishing area: January 2, March 2, May 2, July 2.

(2) Determination.

(i) General. In making the apportionment described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Regional Director shall determine the appropriate percent of the reserve amount to be apportioned, and whether apportionment is required on other dates, based on consideration of the following factors:

(A) Reported U.S. catch and effort by species and area, compared to previously projected U.S. harvesting capacity;

(B) Projected U.S. catch and effort by species and area for the remainder of the fishing year;

(C) Amounts of fish already purchased or processed by U.S. processors during the fishing year, compared to previously projected processing capacity of U.S. processors;

(D) Projected processing capacity and utilization of capacity by U.S. processors for the remainder of the fishing year; and

(E) The need to maintain orderly fisheries despite misspecification of by-catch species amounts in mixed stock fisheries.

(This table to be inserted in Section 611.20(c))

TABLE I

Fishery	Species	Species Code	TALFF (metric tons)
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish....	Cod, Pacific.....	702	15,500
Do.....	Flounders, including yellowfin sole.	129	18,300
Do.....	Mackerel, Atka.....	207	15,940
Do.....	Perch, Pacific ocean..	780	9,905
Do.....	Pollock.....	701	70,440
Do.....	Rattails.....	315	9,228
Do.....	Rockfishes, other than Pacific ocean perch.	849	4,030
Do.....	Sablefish.....	703	2,120
Do.....	Squid.....	509	3,500
Do.....	Other Species.....	499	11,810

(This table to be inserted in Section 672.20(a))

Table 1.-- Optimum Yield and Reserves; Regulatory Areas

[Metric Tons]

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Pollock	OY	57,000	95,200	16,600	168,800
	Reserve	11,400	19,040	3,320	33,760
Pacific Cod	OY	9,600	19,400	5,800	34,800
	Reserve	1,920	3,880	1,160	6,960
Flounder	OY	10,400	14,700	8,400	33,500
	Reserve	2,080	2,940	1,680	6,700
Pacific Ocean Perch	OY	2,700	7,900	14,400	25,000
	Reserve	540	1,580	2,880	5,000
Other Rockfish	OY	300	800	6,500	7,600
	Reserve	60	160	1,300	1,520
Sablefish	OY	2,100	3,800	7,100	13,000
	Reserve	420	760	1,420	2,600
Atka Mackerel	OY	4,400	19,400	3,000	26,800
	Reserve	880	3,880	600	5,360
Squid	OY	1,000	2,000	2,000	5,000
	Reserve	200	400	400	1,000
Rattails	OY	3,300	7,100	2,800	13,200
	Reserve	660	1,420	560	2,640
Other Species	OY	4,400	8,600	3,200	16,200
	Reserve	880	1,720	640	3,240



(This table to be inserted in Page 17316)

Table 64.— OY, Reserve, DAH, DAP, JVP, and TALFF by Area  
[1,000's mt.]

Species	Western	Central	Eastern	Total	
Pollock .....	OY .....	57.0	95.2	16.6	168.8
	Reserve .....	11.4	19.04	3.32	33.76
	DAH .....	0.025	5.38	0.695	64.6
	JVP .....	22.1	30.55	5.85	
Pacific Cod .....	TALFF .....	23.475	40.23	6.735	70.44
	OY .....	9.6	19.4	5.8	34.8
	Reserve .....	1.92	3.88	1.16	6.96
	DAH .....				15.5
Flounders .....	DAP .....	0.24	3.48	0.28	
	JVP .....	4.0	5.25	2.25	
	TALFF .....	3.44	6.79	2.11	12.34
	OY .....	10.4	14.7	8.4	33.5
Pacific Ocean Perch .....	Reserve .....	2.08	2.94	1.68	6.7
	DAH .....				8.5
	DAP .....	0.1	0.3	0.9	
	JVP .....	2.3	3.15	1.75	
Other Rockfish .....	TALFF .....	5.92	8.31	4.07	18.3
	OY .....	2.7	7.9	14.4	25.0
	Reserve .....	0.54	1.58	2.88	5.0
	DAH .....				10.095
Sablefish .....	DAP .....	0.025	0.295	0.08	
	JVP .....	1.245	3.7	4.75	
	TALFF .....	0.89	2.325	6.69	9.905
	OY .....	0.3	0.8	6.5	7.6
Atka Mackerel .....	Reserve .....	0.06	0.16	1.3	1.52
	DAH .....				2.05
	DAP .....	0.045	0.2	0.455	
	JVP .....	0.1	0.2	1.05	
Other Species .....	TALFF .....	0.095	0.24	3.695	4.03
	OY .....	2.1	3.8	7.1	13.0
	Reserve .....	0.42	0.76	1.3	2.48
	DAH .....				8.4
Squid .....	DAP .....	0.1	1.0	4.7	
	JVP .....	0.65	0.85	1.1	
	TALFF .....	0.93	1.19	0	2.12
	OY .....	4.4	19.4	3.0	26.8
Ratfish .....	Reserve .....	0.88	3.88	0.6	5.36
	DAH .....				5.5
	DAP .....	0	0	0	
	JVP .....	1.1	4.15	0.25	
Other Species .....	TALFF .....	2.42	11.37	2.15	15.94
	OY .....	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0
	Reserve .....	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.0
	DAH .....				0.5
Other Species .....	DAP .....	0	0	0	
	JVP .....	0.1	0.2	0.2	
	TALFF .....	0.7	1.4	1.4	3.5
	OY .....	3.3	7.1	2.8	13.2
Other Species .....	Reserve .....	0.66	1.42	0.56	2.64
	DAH .....				1.332
	DAP .....	0.033	0.033	1.266	
	JVP .....	0	0	0	
Other Species .....	TALFF .....	2.607	5.647	0.974	9.228
	OY .....	4.4	8.6	3.2	16.2
	Reserve .....	0.88	1.72	0.64	3.24
	DAH .....				1.15
Other Species .....	DAP .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	
	JVP .....	0.4	0.45	0.15	
	TALFF .....	3.02	6.33	2.46	11.81

(This table to be inserted in Page 17315.)

Table 62.— Gulf of Alaska Groundfish TALFF

[1,000 mt]

<u>Species</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>TALFF</u>
Pollock	168.8	33.76	64.6	70.44
Cod	34.8	6.96	15.5	12.34
Flounders	33.5	6.7	8.5	18.30
Pacific Ocean Perch	25.0	5.0	10.095	9.905
Rockfish	7.6	1.52	2.05	4.03
Sablefish	13.0	2.48	8.4	2.12
Atka Mackerel	26.8	5.36	5.5	15.94
Squid	5.0	1.0	0.5	3.5
Rattails	13.2	2.64	1.332	9.228
Other	16.2	3.24	1.15	11.81
Total	343.9	68.66	117.627	157.613

(iii) Procedure. As soon as practicable after each of the dates stated in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, or as stated in the Federal Register notice of the proposed apportionment on other dates, the Regional Director shall publish in the Federal Register: (A) the final amounts of reserves to be apportioned to TALFF's; (B) the reasons for the determination that vessels of the United States will, or will not, harvest the amounts available for apportionment to the TALFF's; and (C) responses to any comments received.

(ii) Public Comment.

(A) Comments may be submitted to the Regional Director concerning whether or not, and the extent to which, vessels of the United States will harvest reserve amounts during the remainder of the fishing year. (Address: NMFS, P.O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska, 99802).

(B) For the dates specified in paragraph (c)(1), comments must be submitted no later than the following respective dates: December 18, February 16, April 17, and June 18. When apportionment is required on dates other than those specified, the Federal Register notice of the proposed apportionment will state the period during which comments must be submitted.

(C) The Regional Director shall consider any timely comments filed in accordance with this subsection, in making the determination specified in paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section.

(D) The Regional Director shall compile in aggregate form, the recent available reports on: (1) level of catch and effort by vessels of the United States fishing in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery; and (2) the amounts of fish processed by U.S. fish processors. This data shall be available for public inspection during business hours at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office, Federal Building, Room 453, 709 West Ninth Street, Juneau, Alaska, 99802, during the last 15 days of each comment period.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY FMP

A. The Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish which was published on April 21, 1978 in the Federal Register (43 FR 17242) is proposed to be amended as follows:

(All changes are made in sequential order by Federal Register page number and section.)

Federal Register, page 17245 - No. 2, change - delete all after "formula", and insert the following:

TALFF (initial) = OY-Reserve-DAH. The 20 percent of OY held as a reserve should be reallocated either to the foreign fisheries or to the domestic fishery in season, following a reassessment of the performance of these fisheries.

Page 17245; No. 3; change. Delete present language and insert the following:

Base DAH on the estimated catch by U.S. fishermen to be delivered to U.S. processors to be used as bait or sold fresh, and foreign processors.

Page 17247; Section 2.2.2 (b); change. - Delete present language and insert the following:

Expected Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH) is the estimated portion of the U.S. groundfish harvest which will be utilized by domestic processors (DAP), the estimated portion which will enter non-processed fish markets (DNP), and the estimated portion, if any, delivered to foreign processors (JVP) which are permitted to receive U.S. harvested groundfish in the fishery conservation zone.

DAP is the estimated portion of DAH that is expected to be processed by U.S. processors. The Council will reassess and revise the DAP periodically during the plan year, based on processor reports and any changes in factors that would alter the levels of resource utilization.

DNP is derived from estimates of the quantities and species of groundfish that enter non-processed fish markets. The principal utilization is as bait in the crab and longline fisheries. Minor quantities enter the institutional and household markets. Determinations of DNP are based on reported sales and interviews of fishermen who directly utilize groundfish catches for bait. Projected utilization in the plan year takes account of changing demands related to the planned magnitude of fisheries requiring groundfish as bait.

JVP is the U.S. harvested portion of the OY in excess of the capacity and intent of U.S. processors to utilize or for which actual domestic markets are not available that will be delivered to foreign processors who are authorized to receive such U.S. harvested fish in the fishery conservation zone.

The components of the DAH are dynamic and require periodic reassessment to assure that DAH remains realistic and based on the best available, current information. Accordingly, DAH values will be amended as required.

Page 17247; Section 2.2.3; change. - delete present language and insert the following:

Determination of the total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF). The total allowable level of foreign fishing is determined by deducting the DAH and reserve from the OY.

Page 17247; Section 2.2; change. -Add a new paragraph to read as follows:

4. A reserve is established equal to 20 percent of the OY of each species to account for uncertainties arising from harvests delivered to U.S. processors,

U.S. processing capacity, joint ventures, and imprecise allocations of by-catch species in mixed species fisheries. Reserves are to be promptly apportioned to the DAH and TALFF in that order of priority, in accordance with the procedures and criteria specified in the regulations as necessary to achieve the FMP objectives.

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2; change. - Second paragraph, third line, delete "1978" and insert "1980."

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2; change. - Second paragraph, delete all after "U.S. fishing vessels." on line 9 and insert the following:

This form of domestic utilization was allowed during four months of 1978 and more than six months in 1979. The conservation and management regime in the plan provides for a continuation of deliveries of U.S. harvested fish to foreign processors who have been issued permits to receive such fish. This provision is intended to increase the U.S. harvested portion of the OY beyond the capacity and intent of U.S. processors to utilize the resources.

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2.1; change. - delete all of 5.2.2.1 except the heading and insert the following;

While most U.S. processors interviewed indicated an intense interest in developing a fishery for Gulf of Alaska groundfish, early expectations have not been realized. The 1979 DAH of 44,500 m.t. was reassessed in mid-season and amended down to 18, 100 m.t. The State of Alaska, the federal government, and the fishing industry are presently investing funds and effort in well-organized groundfish fishery development efforts. The probability is high that substantial expansion of the domestic groundfish fishery will occur in the next few years.

The domestic annual capacity and intent to process (DAP) and the expected domestic annual harvest were reevaluated in August, 1979, following a survey of U.S. processors and fishermen, an evaluation of the performance of U.S. harvestors

and an examination of other factors including the seasonality of all fisheries, the status of alternative fisheries, and changes in fleet size, processing capacity and markets. The processor survey inquiry went to forty Gulf of Alaska processors and requested information on (a) the amount of fish processed to date and (b) their intent and capacity to process groundfish from Nov. 1, 1979 to Oct. 31, 1980. Fishermen were queried through their respective crab and shrimp organizations and asked how many boats could be expected to fish for bottomfish during the next plan year -- with the current markets, unlimited markets and increased prices.

As a result of the reassessment, the DAH, DAP, DNP and JVP have been amended and distributed among the three regulatory areas according to processor location. (Table 64).

The survey and reassessment methodologies were designed to provide results consistent with the plan and the intent of P.L. 95-354. The DAP values established by this reassessment are applicable to the 1980 fishing year (November 1, 1979 - October 31, 1980) although subject to revision on the basis of periodic reassessments during the year.

Page 17313; Section 5.2.2.2; change. - delete present language and insert the following:

Two foreign processing vessels were given permits to receive U.S. harvested groundfish from U.S. fishermen in the Gulf of Alaska during part of both 1978 and 1979. Although the current permits originally authorized receipt of up to 155,000 m.t. of pollock and assorted by-catch set aside as a joint venture reserve (JVP), the quantities of U.S. harvested fish actually delivered were minor and much of the JVP was incrementally reallocated to the TALFF.

The performance of joint venture operations during 1979, while below



expectations, clearly revealed the potential for rapid expansion. In recognition of this probability and consistent with the provisions of P.L. 95-354, the plan provides an initial JVP amount of 97,845 m.t. of all species combined for the 1980 plan year (November 1, 1979 - October 31, 1980). Should the performance of joint ventures fail to meet expectations or the demands of DAP exceed expectations, the JVP will be reduced accordingly. JVP surpluses not required in the DAH will be made available to the TALFF during the plan year.

Page 17314; Section 7.0; change. - Third paragraph, third line, place period after "OY" and delete remainder.

Page 17315; change.- Table 62 - delete and insert new table.

Page 17316; change.- Table 64 - delete and insert new table.

Page 17324; Section 8.5.1; First paragraph, first line, change. - insert (A) ahead of "fishery."

Page 17325; Section 8.5.1; change. - Insert two new sections as follows:

(B) Processor reports. All processors of groundfish and those buyers of groundfish whose purchases enter non-processed fish markets, except fishermen buying for their own bait needs, shall report information necessary for periodic reassessment of DAP and DNP. The regulations implementing this plan specify the information to be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

(C) Joint venture reports: Persons delivering U.S. caught groundfish to foreign processor vessels shall report information required for periodic reassessment of JVP. The regulations implementing this plan specify the information to be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

PART 611 - FOREIGN FISHING

B. 50 C.F.R. Part 611 is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. Section 611.20(c), remove the portion of Table I applicable to Gulf of Alaska Groundfish and replace it with the following:

2. Section 611.92(b), remove Table I and replace it with the following Table I:

3. Section 611.92(b)(ii) is amended to read:

(ii) Reserves and DAH

(A) Apportionment of Reserve and DAH Amounts. As soon as practicable after each of the following dates, and on other dates as required, the Regional Director shall apportion to the TALFF an appropriate percent of the Reserve and DAH amount set out in Table I of this section for each species in each fishing area: April 2nd and June 2nd.

(B) Determination.

(1) General. In making the apportionment described in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A) of this section, the Regional Director shall determine the appropriate percent of the Reserve and/or DAH amounts to be apportioned, and whether apportionment is required on other dates, based on consideration of the following factors:

(i) Reported U.S. catch and effort by species and area, compared to previously projected U.S. harvesting capacity.

(ii) Projected U.S. catch and effort by species and area for the remainder of the fishing year;

(iii) Amounts of fish already purchased or processed by U.S. processors during the fishing year, compared to previously projected processing capacity of U.S. processors;

(iv) Projected processing capacity and utilization of capacity by U. S. processors for the remainder of the fishing year; and

(v) The need to maintain orderly fisheries despite misspecification of by-catch species amounts in mixed stock fisheries.

(2) Public Comment.

(i) Comments may be submitted to the Regional Director concerning whether or not, and the extent to which, vessels of the United States will harvest reserve amounts during the remainder of the fishing year. (Address: NMFS, P.O.Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802).

(ii) For the dates specified in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A), comments must be submitted no later than the following respective dates: March 16 and May 16. When apportionment is required on dates other than those specified, the Federal Register notice of the proposed apportionment will state the period during which comments must be submitted.

(iii) The Regional Director shall consider any timely comments filed in accordance with this subsection, in making the determination specified in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(B)(1) of this section.

(iv) The Regional Director shall compile in aggregate form, the recent available reports on: (1) level of catch and effort by vessels of the United States fishing in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery; and (2) the amounts of fish processed by U.S. fish processors. These data shall be available for public inspection during business hours at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office, Federal Building, Room 453, 709 West Ninth Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801, during the last 15 days of each comment period.

(3) Procedure. As soon as practicable after each of the dates stated in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A) of this section, or as stated in the Federal Register notice of the proposed apportionment on other dates, the Regional Director shall publish in the Federal Register; (i) the final amounts of reserves and DAH to be apportioned to TALFF's; (ii) the reasons for the determination that vessels of the United States will, or will not, harvest the amounts available for apportionment to the TALFF's; and (iii) responses to any comments received.

#### PART 672 - GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

C. 50 C.F.R. Part 672 is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. Section 672.5, Reporting Requirements, is amended by adding paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows:

(e) Any fish buyer or processor (i.e., any person who receives fish for a commercial purpose from a fishing vessel subject to this part) shall,

in response to written surveys to be conducted by the Regional Director semiannually, or more frequently when necessary, report the following information: (1) changes in the capacity of plants; (2) changes in the availability of groundfish by species; (3) changes in market demand, if known; (4) changes in expected utilization of processing capacity or expected purchases of groundfish by species for the subsequent 12 month period; and (5) changes in other factors that the buyer or processor believes relevant to the accurate determination of domestic annual processing capacity (DAP).

(f) The owner or operator of any fishing vessel of the United States which delivers groundfish to foreign processing vessels shall, in response to surveys to be conducted by the Regional Director semiannually, or more frequently when necessary, report the following information: (1) changes in the number and capacity of vessels of the United States which harvest groundfish to be delivered to foreign processing vessels; (2) changes in expected regulatory areas of operation; (3) changes of the foreign processing vessel to which deliveries are expected to be made; (4) changes in groundfish quantities and/or species expected to be delivered in the subsequent 12 month period; and (5) changes in other factors the owner or operator believes relevant to the accurate determination of joint venture processing capacity (JVP).

2. Section 672.20(a), remove Table I and replace it with the following Table I:

(This table to be inserted in Section 672.20(a).)

Table 1.--Optimum Yield and Reserves; Regulatory Areas  
[Metric Tons]

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Pollock.....	OY.....	57,000	95,200	16,600	168,800
	Reserve....	11,400	19,040	3,320	33,760
Pacific Cod.....	OY.....				
	Reserve....				
Flounder.....	OY.....	10,400	14,700	8,400	33,500
	Reserve....	2,080	2,940	1,680	6,700
Pacific Ocean Perch	OY.....	2,700	7,900	14,400	25,000
	Reserve....	540	1,580	2,880	5,000
Other Rockfish	OY.....	300	800	6,500	7,600
	Reserve....	60	160	1,300	1,520
Idiot Rockfish....	OY.....				
	Reserve....				
Sablefish.....	OY.....	2,100	3,800	7,100	13,000
	Reserve....	420	760	1,420	2,600
Atka Mackerel...	OY.....				
	Reserve....				
Squid.....	OY.....	1,000	2,100	2,000	5,000
	Reserve....	200	400	400	1,000
Rattails.....	OY.....	3,300	7,100	2,800	13,200
	Reserve....	660	1,420	560	2,640
Other Species..	OY.....	4,400	8,600	3,200	16,200
	Reserve....	880	1,720	640	3,240

(This table to be inserted in Section 611.92(b).)

Table 1.--Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery: TALFF and Reserve by Species and Regulatory Area for 1979-1980

[Metric tons]

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Pollock.....	TALFF.....	23,487	40,230	6,735	70,440
	Reserve.....	11,400	19,040	3,320	33,760
Pacific Cod.....	TALFF.....				
	Reserve.....				
Flounders.....	TALFF.....	5,920	8,310	4,070	18,300
	Reserve.....	2,080	2,940	1,680	6,700
Pacific Ocean Perch...	TALFF.....	890	2,325	6,690	9,905
	Reserve.....	540	1,580	2,800	5,000
Other Rockfish.....	TALFF.....	95	240	3,695	4,030
	Reserve.....	60	160	1,300	1,520
Idiot Rockfish ..... (Sebastolobus)	TALFF.....				
	Reserve.....				
Sablefish.....	TALFF.....	930	1,190	0	2,120
	Reserve.....	420	760	1,420	2,600
Atka Mackerel.....	TALFF.....				
	Reserve.....				
Squid.....	TALFF.....	700	1,400	1,400	3,5000
	Reserve.....	200	400	400	1,000
Rattails.....	TALFF.....	2,607	5,647	974	9,228
	Reserve.....	660	1,420	650	2,640
Other Species.....	TALFF.....				
	Reserve.....	880	1,720	640	3,240

(This table to be inserted in Section 611.20(c).)

TABLE I

Fishery	Species	Species Code	TALFF (metric tons)
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish...	Cod, Pacific.....	702	15,500
Do.....	Flounders, including	129	18,300
Do.....	yellowfin sole.		
Do.....	Mackerel, Atka.....	207	15,940
Do.....	Perch, Pacific ocean....	780	9,905
Do.....	Pollock.....	701	70,440
Do.....	Rattails.....	315	9,228
Do.....	Rockfishes, other than	849	4,030
	Pacific ocean perch.		
Do.....	Idiot Rockfish (Sebastes)		3,750
Do.....	Sablefish.....	703	2,120
Do.....	Squid.....	509	3,500
Do.....	Other Species.....	499	11,810



(This table to be inserted in FR Page 17315.)

Table 62. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish TALFF

[1,000 mt]

<u>Species</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>DAH</u>	<u>TALFF</u>
Pollock	168.8	33.76	64.6	70.44
Cod	60.0	12.0	18.5	29.50
Flounders	33.5	6.7	8.5	18.30
Pacific Ocean Perch	25.0	5.0	10.095	9.905
Rockfish	7.6	1.52	2.05	4.03
Idiot Rockfish (Sebastes)	3.75	0.75	0.006	2.99
Sablefish	13.0	2.48	8.4	2.12
Atka Mackerel	28.7	5.74	5.5	17.46
Squid	5.0	1.0	0.5	3.5
Rattails	13.2	2.64	1.332	9.228
Other	16.2	3.24	2.3	10.66
Total	374.75	74.83	121.783	178.133

OY, Reserve, DAH, DAP, JVP, and TALFF by Area

[1,000's mt] (All catches to date through July 1979)

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Pollock	1. <u>OY</u> .....	57.0	95.2	16.6	168.8
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				64.6
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.025	5.38	0.695	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0.0	1.29	.480	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	22.1	30.55	5.85	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.022	0.33	0.012	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	11.4	19.04	3.32	33.76
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	23.475	40.23	6.735	70.44
Pacific cod	1. <u>OY</u> .....	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				18.5
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.24	3.48	0.280	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....		0.718	0.105	
	5. ...DNP(estimate) <u>2/</u>	0.60	1.200	1.200	
	6. ...JVP--1980 estimate	4.0	5.25	2.25	
	7. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.008	2.204	0.001	
	8. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
	9. <u>TALFF</u> .....	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Flounders	1. <u>OY</u> .....	10.4	14.7	8.4	33.5
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				8.5
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980)	0.1	0.3	0.9	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date)	0.0	0.465	0.725	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	2.3	3.15	1.75	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.007	0.042	0.0	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	2.08	2.94	1.68	6.7
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	5.92	8.31	4.07	18.3
Pacific Ocean Perch	1. <u>OY</u> .....	2.7	7.9	14.4	25.0
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				10.095
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.025	0.295	0.08	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	1.245	3.7	4.75	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.001	0.027	0.023	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	0.54	1.58	2.88	5.0
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	0.89	2.325	6.69	9.905
Other Rockfish	1. <u>OY</u> .....	0.3	0.8	6.5	7.6
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				2.05
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.045	0.200	0.455	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0.0	0.078	0.120	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	0.1	0.2	1.05	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.0	0.015	0.003	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	0.6	0.16	1.3	1.52
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	0.095	0.24	3.695	4.03

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Sebastolobus (idiot rockfish)	1. <u>OY</u> .....	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	3.75
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				0.006
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.001	0.001	0.001	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0	0	0	
	5. ...JVP--Estimate 1980)	0.001	0.001	0.001	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0	0	0	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	0.75
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	2.99
Sablefish	1. <u>OY</u> .....	2.1	3.8	7.1	13.0
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				8.4
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.1	1.00	4.7	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date) <u>4/</u> ...	0.0	.028	0.972	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	0.65	0.85	1.10	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	.001	0.005	0.0	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	0.42	0.76	1.3	2.48
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	0.93	1.19	0.0	2.12
Atka mackerel	1. <u>OY</u> .....	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....5.5				
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0.0	.008	0.0	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	1.1	4.15	0.25	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.0	0.001	0.0	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
Squid	1. <u>OY</u> .....	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				0.5
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	0.1	0.2	0.2	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.0	0.0	.001	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.0
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	0.7	1.4	1.4	3.5
Rattail	1. <u>OY</u> .....	3.3	7.1	2.8	13.2
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				1.332
	3. ...DAP(estimate 1980).....	0.033	0.033	1.266	
	4. ...DAP(catch to date).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	5. ...JVP--1980 estimate	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	6. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	7. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	0.66	1.42	0.56	2.64
	8. <u>TALFF</u> .....	2.607	5.647	0.974	9.228

---

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Other species	1. <u>OY</u> .....	4.4	8.6	3.2	16.2
	2. <u>DAH</u> .....				2.3
	3. ...DAP (estimate 1980).....	0.1	0.1	0.1	
	4. ...DAP (catch to date).....	0	0.2	0.12	
	5. ...DNP <u>6/</u>	0.2	0.40	0.400	
	6. ...JVP--1980 estimate	0.4	0.45	0.15	
	7. ...JVP--1979 catch/date	0.0	0.013	0.0	
	8. <u>RESERVE</u> .....	0.88	1.72	0.64	3.24
	9. <u>TALFF</u> .....	3.02	6.33	2.46	10.81

---

- 1/ Pending OY Amendment. All Reserves and TALFF will change accordingly.
- 2/ Pacific cod DNP estimate based on longline and crab bait trends.
- 3/ To be finalized later. Information on areal division of OY not available.
- 4/ Sablefish DAP catch thru 8/7/79.
- 5/ Figures pending OY amendment. Areal division of OY will establish routine Reserve and TALFF figures.
- 6/ Other species DNP estimated based on longline and crab bait trends.

SPECIAL NOTES:

All "catch to date" information will be dropped from final table.

1,900 mt increase

Present 26.8

Boost to 28.7

ERRATA DEVELOPED FOR THE INCREASE IN OY OF ATKA MACKEREL

FMP PLAN BOOK

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
S-1	Summary	add change amount to OY figure of 343,900
S-1	Summary	add change amount to DAH figure of 18,100 (rounded)
4-23	4.7.8	<u>IF</u> MSY-OY-ABC equal, no change
4-23	4.7.8.1	

Appropriate changes in all tables for Atka mackerel (58-61-61a-62-62-63-64)

Federal Register 43 FR 17242 changes:

17310	4.7.8	text change IF MSY-EY-OY not equal
17308	table 58	Atka mackerel figure changes to 28.7
17313	table 61	Table changes to include A-M DAH (based on DAH being assigned to Rattail.)
17315	table 62	OY-Reserve-DAH-TALFF changes
17315	table 63	table changes (% of OY)
17316	table 64	table changes

Present .. 34.8  
boost to 60.0

ERRATA DEVELOPED FOR INCREASE IN OY OF PACIFIC COD

FMP PLAN BOOK

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
S-1	Summary	add change amount to OY figure of 343,900
S-1	Summary	add change amount to DAH figure of 18,100
4-22	4.7.7	text change if necessary. Otherwise only figure changes.
4-22	4.7.7.1	
Appropriate changes in all tables for Pacific cod (58-61-61a-62-63-64)		
<u>Federal Register 43 FR 17242 changes:</u>		
17309	4.7.7.1	text change IF MSY-OY-EY not equal
17308	table 58	Pacific cod figure changes to (60,000) (pending)
17313	table 61	Table changes to include Pacific cod DAH
17315	table 62	OY-Reserve-DAH-TALFF changes
17315	table 63	table changes (% of OY)
17316	table 64	table changes

NOTE: SSC might opt for higher (to 88) figure than team wants (60,000) based on argument that existing bio-mass should be exploited.

4.7.11 Idiot Rockfish (genus Sebastolobus)

4.7.11.1 Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

Both species of Sebastolobus (S. alascanus - S. altivelis) are found in the Gulf of Alaska and are most commonly associated with the deepwater catch of sablefish.

Scant data exists from which to form an assessment of stock strength but additional information based on observer reports and foreign fisheries data is expected to be available early in 1980.

Based on the existing information available, the Maximum Sustainable Yield is estimated to be 3,750 metric tons.

4.7.11.2 Equilibrium Yield (EY)

Not applicable -- MSY attainable

6.1 1st paragraph -- change "ten" to "eleven"  
-- change "nine" to "ten"

-- change 6th paragraph to read:  
Neither rattails nor idiot rockfish were considered in the development of OY for "Other Species." Therefore, the creation of these new species categories does not require a downward adjustment of the OY for "Other Species."

Appropriate changes in all tables concerned:

Table 58-61-62-63-64

Page S-1 -- add 3,750 to OY total  
-- add appropriate amount to DAH total  
Page 1-2 -- table of contents addition  
Page 3-29 -- Sec. 3.5.2 -- 2nd paragraph -- change "seven" to "nine"  
Page 3-30 -- -- after "pollock" add "rattail"  
-- after "rattail" add "Sebastolobus"  
Page 4-24 -- add 4.7.11 per 1st entry above  
Page 4-24 -- add section listing 4.7.12 "Other Species"  
Page 7-1 -- add Sebastolobus to TALFF listings

VII-3.3 GOA GROUND FISH CONSIDERATIONS

(From PDT meeting of 8/7-8/79)

The GoA PDT met in Seattle August 7-8, 1979.

Information which should be considered for the FMP in general and the proposed amendment to extend the plan includes the following:

1. Establish a line-item OY for Idiot Rockfish (Sebastolobus)-- OY would be set at 3,750. (The catch of Sebastolobus, associated with deep-water catches of blackcod poses a potential threat to the foreign blackcod longline fishery by threatening the OY in the "Other Species" category, into which Sebastolobus is counted.)
2. Increase the OY for Atka mackerel from 26.8 to 28.7 mt. (28.7 represents the conservative Soviet figure for EY for this species.)
3. Increase the OY for Pacific cod. (This determination will come from the SSC based on stock assessment information from 1977-78 NMFS trawl surveys and Soviet data.) Cod is relatively short-lived and the opportunity to take advantage of the existing bio-mass would be served by an increased OY.\*
4. The PDT has determined that there is no reassessment imminent for blackcod. CPUE data to be available later from the Japanese fishery may indicate the OY should be lowered.
5. The Japanese may not attain their sablefish quota for 1979 and have requested a carry-over for the shortfall to the next fishing year. The PDT recommends no carryover be allowed.

PDT Participants -- Jim Balsiger (team leader), Robert Stokes, Phil Rigby, Steve Hoag, Loh-Lee-Low, Bob Simon, Barry Bracken, Bob Alverson (AP), John Harville (NPFMC), Robin Chlupach (AP), Mike Hershberger (Staff), Bert Larkins, Miles Alton, Harold Lokken (NPFMC), Dan Ito, Eric Brown.

\* Present OY range = 34.8-69.1 mt (1,000s).

1979 estimate = 88-178 mt based on 2 years' data (NMFS trawl surveys 1977-78.)

Soviet estimate based on trawl w/associated hydroacoustic survey is 67.6 mt (1000s). The PDT concensus is an OY figure of 60,000 mt. MSY, OY & ABC would be equal at the 60,000 mt figure.



August, 1979

DAH WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONSGENERAL STATEMENT

1. In order to bring the plan into conformity with the Processor Preference Amendment (P.L. 95-354), the Council should amend the GOA FMP with the policies and estimates contained in the report. Some estimates, however, may need to be modified.

FORMULAS AND DEFINITIONS

DAH is the expected Domestic Annual Harvest.

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

DNP is a portion of DAH and is that portion of the U.S. harvest entering non-processed fish markets (bait or fresh).

JVP is included in DAH and is the portion of the U.S. harvest (if any) delivered to foreign processing vessels.

$OY = DAH + RESERVE + TALFF$

$DAH = DAP + DNP + JVP$  (if any)

$RESERVE = 20\% OY$

$TALFF$  (initial) =  $OY - RESERVE - DAH$

- (a) Within DAH - DAP, DNP, and JVP should be reevaluated periodically in light of their respective harvesting and processing experiences and projections. Adjustments, if needed, should be made within DAH assigning the highest priority to DAP and DNP.

- (b) DAH - At 6 months and 8 months unused or surplus DAH should be reallocated to TALFF.

(c) RESERVE - The RESERVE is intended to be used for DAH if needed. An assessment should be made (at 6 and 8 months) to determine if amounts in DAH will be adequate for the year. If the RESERVE will not be needed for DAH it should be reallocated to TALFF.

#### ESTIMATES

##### Processing

The 1979/80 domestic and joint venture processing estimate for the Gulf of Alaska is 121,000 metric tons: 20,000 metric tons for domestic processors, 4,000 metric tons for non-processed fish (DNP) and 97,000 metric tons for joint venture processors. The estimate lacks precision and could be refined -- probably downward.

##### Harvesting Estimate

A 1979/80 DAH harvesting estimate for the Gulf is probably between 32,800 metric tons and 119,000 metric tons. The estimate does not include the intent of those fishermen from the West Coast (excluding Seattle) or from areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.

MIH

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 1979

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee  
and Advisory Panel

FROM: Mark I. Hutton, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report of the DAH Meeting in Juneau

The DAH Working Group met in Juneau on August 14th, primarily to review (a) the latest NMFS survey of processors in the Gulf and Bering Sea and to (b) discuss new DAH concepts. The meeting was chaired by Dr. George Rogers and attended by Phil Chitwood (NMFS), Bruce Hart (ADF&G), Mike Stanley (NOAA-GC), Janet Smoker (NMFS), Phil Rigby (ADF&G) and Mark Hutton (NPFMC).

I. Consideration of the Final Regulations Implementing the Processor Preference Amendment

The Working Group had planned to consider the final implementing regulations for the Processor Preference Amendment but learned the regulations were still under review in Washington. The final regulations were expected to be significantly different (NMFS personal communication) than the interim regulations and for that reason the DAH Group felt that their assessments of processor intent could only be judged by the intent expressed in the amendment and some facets of the interim regulations.

3

## II. The Latest NMFS Processing Survey

An analysis of the recently completed NMFS processor survey revealed (a) the domestic processors intend to process approximately 20,000 metric tons of groundfish in the Gulf in 1980, (b) approximately 4,000 metric ton will be used for bait and fresh sales - DNP, and (c) joint venture companies intend to process approximately 97,000 metric tons. Surveys showed that the overall U.S. processing capacity had increased from 203,000 metric tons in 1978 to 220,000 metric tons for 1979/80. Incomplete or late responses to the survey were handled by using estimates from the May/June NMFS survey or by informal communications.

The estimated amounts for joint ventures and domestic processors were reluctantly accepted at "face-value" by the Working Group. They felt that modification in the survey estimates were probably possible if more information were available: i.e. (a) What is the Council's policy on the sablefish fishery? Should sablefish be taken by domestic trawl over foreign longline? What are the exact numbers of U.S. boats to fish for joint ventures? Why are 1979/80 processing estimates so much larger than the 1978/79 catches?

## III. An Industry Survey of Harvesting Capacities

The Working Group reviewed the results of a survey of the king crab and shrimp fishing organizations and the two joint ventures to determine the number of boats that intend to fish for bottomfish next year. The telephone survey queried the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owner's Association, United Fishermen of Alaska, Kodiak Shrimp Trawlers, Korean Marine Industrial Development Corporation and Marine Resources, Inc. Each group were asked: how many boats from your organization intend to fish bottomfish next year under the current markets; if the markets were unlimited and the price the same; or if the markets were unlimited and the price paid for fish increased? The questions and the estimates were independent of any information needed for DNP-bait estimates.

4

The results were as follows:

INTENT TO HARVEST

	<u>Conditions</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
a.	Current markets, current prices vessels)	28,000 to 115,000 mt (16-24
b.	Unlimited markets, current prices vessels)	36,000 to 115,000 mt (20-24
c.	Unlimited markets, increased prices vessels)	99,000 to 288,000 mt (75-85

The estimates were based on harvest ranges and catch rates of 60 (F/V DAWN & DUSK) to 120 metric tons (F/V WILD MARY) per week, 30 to 40 weeks fishing for shrimp trawlers and 10 to 15 weeks fishing for crab vessels -- and includes both those vessels associated with joint ventures and those associated with American processors.

The Working Group believes that the Processor Preference Amendment requires an assessment of both catching intent and processing intent to establish whether there is a surplus catching capacity available for joint ventures.

The Group concluded that the "harvesting intent" survey was probably incomplete but still valuable to the Council in pointing out the need to consider harvesting intent and not maximum harvesting capacities. They felt that the estimates from the harvesting survey were valid and should be considered a starting place for an analysis of the surplus harvesting potential for joint ventures. They also felt that the combined use of historic/present/expected fishing trends and market conditions would lead to the most accurate prediction of the potential for U.S. boats in the bottomfish fishery for 1979/80.

#### IV. New DAH Concepts

A DAH amendment package implementing the Processor Preference Amendment (P.L. 95-354) was adapted by the Working Group covering the following points:

##### 1. Definitions

DAH is the expected domestic annual harvest

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

DNP is a portion DAH and is that portion of the U.S. harvest entering non-processed fish markets (bait or fresh).

JVP is included in DAH and is the portion of the U.S. harvest (if any) delivered to foreign processing vessels.

OY = DAH + RESERVE + TALFF

DAH = DAP + DNP + JVP (if any)

RESERVE = 20% OY

TALFF (initial) = OY - RESERVE - DAH.

2. Within DAH, the three elements -- DAP, DNP, JVP -- be treated as subquotas to be reviewed periodically for any changes that may occur during the year. As periodic reassessments are made of the progress of the U.S. industry the amounts in each category may be shifted back and forth assigning the highest priority to (1) domestic annual processing, and (2) domestic non-processing, and the lowest priority to (3) joint venture processing.
3. DAH, as DAH is periodically reexamined (6 to 8 months) any unutilized or unneeded DAH should be allocated to TALFF.
4. The amount in RESERVE (20% OY) is to be held in the event the amounts in DAH were not enough to handle the U.S. effort. At six and eight months the DAH should be reviewed to determine whether the RESERVE will be needed to supplement DAH for the rest of the year.

5. The amounts in RESERVE can be reallocated to TALFF if it is determined (at 6 and 8 months) that it will not be needed to supplement DAH.

MIH

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Scientific & Statistical Committee addressed the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish amendment package and also discussed the proposed Secretarial amendment. We wish to encourage the Secretary to extend the plan year through October 31, 1980 using a Secretarial Amendment if that is the only means of extending the plan in a timely manner. No other part of the Secretarial amendment was addressed, rather the Committee recommends adoption of the Council amendment package with the following comments:

Part 1

The Committee adopted the amendment to extend the FMP through October 31, 1980 as an expedient means of not allowing the plan to expire. They noted this was not the most desirable way of dealing with a plan year and expect that the series of spring amendments will address a multiple-year concept.

Part 2

The Committee reviewed the four subparts to the amendment implementing the provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment with the following comments:

- a. Redefine DAH and RESERVE - The Committee did not disagree with any formula presented but did expand the definition for DAH and JVP. DAH they felt was the expected domestic annual harvest that will be utilized. JVP, they felt, is that portion of DAH which is available and expected to be delivered to foreign processing vessels by U.S. ships. Essentially the comments focused on the relationship of fishing intent with processing intent and the need to consider each in the derivation of the other. For example, they felt that DAP estimates must be closely linked with known fishing intent.



- b. Redefine Procedures - Again the Committee felt that DAH was an estimate of the expected domestic annual harvest that will be utilized and can be comprised of three elements, DAP, DNP and JVP. They felt that DAH must be reevaluated bi-monthly through the eighth month to determine whether reserves would be needed to handle excessive DAH or whether surplus DAH would be available to TALFF. The Committee felt that the reserve should also be assessed bi-monthly through the eighth month to determine if amounts in DAH will be adequate for the year.
- c. New Estimates - DAH and Reserve - The Committee discussed at great length the formula  $DAH = DAP + DNP + JVP$ . They agreed that JVP is only allowed if the estimated U.S. harvesting capacity exceeds the estimates of DAP and DNP. They were mostly concerned that DAP was not tied to the actual number of vessels that would be fishing for a processor. The Committee chose to accept an Advisory Panel recommendation that the JVP estimate be lowered to 25,000 tons. They noted then, (?) the resultant 49,000 ton DAH did fall within a survey range of likely U.S. harvesting and intent and capacity. The reduction in JVP, they felt, did not diminish the overall DAH capability as 74,000 tons were still in reserve and fully capable of handling all estimates of DAP, DNP and JVP. They noted that this recommendation unilaterally reduced the JVP estimates to 26% of the original estimate.

The Committee listened to Mr. Paul MacGregor representing the North Pacific Longline Gillnet Association who asked the Committee to carefully consider the total DAH request for sablefish, especially in the eastern district. Mr. MacGregor pointed out that the DAH appeared unattainable in light of this year and last year's catch data. He asked the Committee to consider placing an amount of DAH in reserve. The Committee noted that the Advisory Panel action to reduce the JVP for sablefish in all areas placed additional amounts to TALFF. We noted that foreign longlining is prohibited east of 140° West

longitude, that that proportionate amounts of OY and DAH may not, be available for any release to TALFF. The SSC asked the Plan Drafting Team to look at the matter and consider what changes may be necessary to the plan to accommodate areal divisions of OY, DAH, RESERVE and TALFF. We feel that the release of sablefish reserves in other areas should be carefully considered in view of the U.S. catches to date. The Committee took no action on the request by Mr. MacGregor but noted the Drafting Team will be working on the problem.

- d. Provisions for Review - The Committee studied the recommendations of the DAH Working Group for the reassessment and possible release of RESERVE and DAH at six and eight months and concurred with the idea of establishing a mechanism in the plan to periodically review and, if appropriate, release DAH as well as RESERVE to TALFF. The Committee noted that a bi-monthly review schedule during the first 8 months would not restrict the Council's flexibility as much as the proposed 6 and 8 month schedule. The Committee recommends that the DAH and RESERVE review schedule be handled bi-monthly through the eighth month and at other times as needed. The Committee adopted the following language from the errata which says, page 6, Section 611.92 (b) (ii) reserves and DAH (A) apportionment of RESERVES and DAH amounts. As soon as practicable after each of the following dates and on other dates as required the Regional Director shall review and if appropriate, allocate to the TALFF a percentage of the reserve and DAH amount set out in Table 1 of this section for each species in each fishing area: January 2, March 2nd, May 2nd, and July 2nd.

### Part 3

The Committee reviewed, with Dr. Balsiger from the Management Plan Drafting Team the recommended changed OY's and concurred with the recommendation to increase the Atka mackerel OY to 28,700 metric tons and to increase the Pacific cod OY to 60,000 tons. Both estimates were based on new survey information.

Part 4

The Committee studied the recommendation to create a new category for idiot rockfish (Sebastolobus) and establish an OY of 3,750 metric tons. The Committee listened to Mr. Jay Hastings who discussed the problems associated with the areal division of an incidental species, the further division for the allocations to each foreign country and the further division of the allocation within internal fishing groups. Because the creation of the new category for idiot rockfish is a direct result of the large incidental catch by the foreign longliners fishing sablefish not enough is known of the distribution of Sebastolobus to assign the OY to any particular area. Therefore, the SSC recommends that the OY for Sebastolobus be for the entire Gulf. *also species action at next meeting*

Part 5

The Committee adopted the amendment to establish a policy statement in the plan as proposed in the Council's amendment. They felt that it was an obvious and very straight-forward expression of the Council's intent to consider the request of any U.S. processor for some kind of time and/or area protection.

Part 6

The SSC earlier discussed the reporting requirements amendment for the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan. We wish to adopt the recommendation we made for the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan for the Gulf of Alaska FMP.

- (b) Reports - All processors of groundfish and buyers of groundfish whose purchases enter non-processed fish markets except fishermen buying for their own bait needs and persons delivering U.S. caught groundfish to foreign processor vessels shall report information required for periodic reassessment of JVP. The

regulations implementing this plan specify the information be reported and the time schedule for reporting.

The Committee considered a request by Mr. Paul MacGregor to carryover unharvested portions of the sablefish OY into the 1980 plan. After conferring with Dr. Balsiger, the Committee, as did Mr. Paul MacGregor, agreed that any new resource estimate would automatically take into account unharvested portions of the OY. The Committee took no action on the request.

*rep. Long*

August 19, 1979

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
P.O. Box 3136 DT  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

*Received 8/24/79  
from Jake Phillips  
to enter into the record.*

Gentlemen:

Being unable to attend the meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council in Anchorage, due to a fishing trip, I am sending this letter to express my feelings on a matter that is of great concern to myself and many others in this area.

I am a twenty-seven year-old long-line fisherman and life-long Sitka resident. Being a fisherman and having been raised on the ocean I feel a great sense of loss when I see bottom draggers fishing the same grounds that I fish for halibut and sablefish. It is a well-known fact that bottom-trawling is detrimental to the environment in the area being fished. How can we condone a fishery that is destroying the home and the food of a fish such as the halibut that appears to be making a start in rebuilding its stocks?

The particular fishery I am referring to has been taking place in the last few weeks approximately eight miles south west of Cape Edgecumbe where one American vessel, the California Horizon, is bottom-trawling for Pacific Ocean Perch. This, to me, seems a particularly wasteful fishery as it not only greatly affects the homes of the fish and other life forms living there; it will, if allowed to continue and expand, force the domestic long-line fleet out of existence.

I would like to know how a fishery crewed by people from another state that deliver their fish to a foreign vessel, can be allowed to severely set back, if not push out of existence, fishermen who primarily have local crews, outfit locally, and who, for the most part, sell their fish locally; thereby not only supporting large crews but providing an increasing income for many people in Sitka and other small southeast Alaska communities.

Another point I would like to have cleared up is: To the best of my knowledge, the joint trawling venture was originally supposed to be fishing pollock. A crew member of the California Horizon told me personally that their processing vessel rejected all fish except two varieties of rock fish both of which I believe are a type of Pacific Ocean Perch. They also state that they found fishable quantities of pollock but were told that the processor only wanted Pacific Ocean Perch. If this venture was originally designed to fish pollock I would like to know why they are now being allowed to fish Pacific Ocean Perch in an area that, for the first time in years, has shown an increase in halibut abundance and other important sea life, especially where this area has already been fairly heavily fished by the American long-line fleet some of whom are still engaged in sablefish fishing in the same area.

I am not a marine biologist but being a fisherman I have studied the ocean and its life forms considerably and am greatly concerned that the destruction of this area will greatly affect fish from other areas (depths) that we know move in and out of this area to feed. The area in question at this time has an abundance of coral, commonly known as one of the best places to fish halibut in the spring. In the deeper water just outside this area there is at times very good sablefish production. This, and the amount of Pacific Ocean Perch in the area reflects the importance of this area as feeding grounds for these and many other fish. I fail to see how the destruction of the ocean bottom, for the enrichment of a few people, is a proper way to harvest this valuable resource.



North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

August 19, 1979

One last thing and I will quit taking up your valuable time: I just moved up from a 36-foot boat to a 58-foot boat. I am counting on a continuing long-line fishery to enable me to make a go of it. For a young man nowadays this is a large investment. My personal investment, including the boat price, loan fees, interest, gear, insurance etc., is approximately \$200,000. So far this year my boat has grossed almost that same amount. Almost every penny of this money has gone into the community here as crew wages, fuel expenses (now 74.5 cents per gallon), groceries (approximately \$1,000 per trip), bait, gear, boat improvements etc. My situation is just one of many similar ones. How is a young man, wanting to buy a long-line boat or move up the economic ladder to a larger boat, going to obtain financing to work in a fishery that is being wiped out, which is what I feel will happen in southeast Alaska if bottom dragging is allowed to continue and to expand which it surely will if something isn't done.

I'm sure you know that the long-line effort in the Gulf of Alaska has greatly increased and shows signs of providing a good living for a large number of long-line fishermen as it has in the past. It is my fervent hope that this will happen so that not only my children but their children will be able to make a living from this ocean without destroying the environment of the very fish they hope to catch.

I would like to add that this letter is not in any way meant as criticism of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council or its policies as I know that you have a broader perspective of the whole picture than I do. I hope this letter and the many others like it that you receive concerning this matter will enable you to see our side of this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Cushing  
F/V Ethel S

P.O. Box 186  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

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OUTLINE OF COMMENTS

SUBMITTED BY

NORTH PACIFIC LONGLINE-GILLNET ASSOCIATION

to the

27th Plenary Session of NPFMC

GULF OF ALASKA FMP  
(Agenda Item #VII-3)

Received 8/24/79  
for agenda VII-3

- (1) Sebastes OY: The North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association (NPL-GA) supports the establishment of a separate OY for Sebastes, the deep water component of the "other Rockfish" group. The establishment of this OY will help to alleviate the problems caused by low allocations of "other Rockfish" this year which threatened the premature closure of target species fishing operations. As Sebastes is taken as bycatch in blackcod (8% bycatch rate) and Pacific cod (1% bycatch rate) longline fishing operations, the NPL-GA requests that allocations of this new OY be given in proportion to blackcod and Pacific cod allocations.
- (2) Pacific Cod OY: The NPL-GA supports the Plan Development Team's recommendation to increase OY on Pacific cod to 60,000 mt. Although blackcod has been and remains the principal target species for Japanese longliners, increased allocations of Pacific cod will help to offset the drastic cutbacks the longliners have experienced in their blackcod fishery. (1979 allocation was approximately 1/3 of 1976 catch). Given the relative market values of blackcod and Pacific cod (blackcod is worth approximately three times the value of Pacific cod), an allocation of 20,000 mt of Pacific cod is necessary to offset the losses which have been experienced in blackcod allocations. We would, therefore, request that 20,000 mt of Pacific cod be designated for the directed longline fishery the council has established in the Gulf.
- (3) Blackcod allocations: Despite the prospects of some increase in Pacific cod allocations, blackcod remains the species upon which the Japanese longliners must rely to keep their fishery economically viable. As their initial allocation of the 1980 blackcod TALFF will be less than 1/2 of the 8,000 mt minimum necessary to allow profitable operation, it will be very important for reserve releases and DAH reallocations to occur at regular intervals in 1980--as soon as it is demonstrated that the resource will not be necessary for domestic purposes.

- (4) DAH/Reserve Concept and Release Mechanism: The NPL-GA supports the DAH Working Group's recommendation to base DAH estimates on prior years' catch (plus demonstrated increases in capacity and intent). Accurate DAH projections, coupled with adequate reserves to cover unexpected growth in the U.S. fishery and a viable reserve-release mechanism, provide an excellent opportunity to ensure adequate supplies of fish to U.S. fishermen without unduly disrupting foreign fishing operations or jeopardizing one of the primary objections of the FCMA--full utilization of fishery resources.