

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

Council Considers Salmon and Groundfish at February Meeting

The Council met in Sitka the week of February 4. Meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on the 6th, they considered salmon management measures for 1985 using the recently completed U.S.-Canada salmon negotiations as guidelines, and shelf rockfish management in Southeastern Alaska. The Council, on the 5th, 7th and 8th, reviewed the Japan-U.S. industry agreement on joint venture and direct groundfish purchases and revised its estimates of groundfish needed for the domestic fisheries. They recommended minor foreign fisheries for pollock and cod in the Gulf of Alaska but warned foreign representatives that 1985 would be the last year for foreign fishing in the Gulf. Major allocations to foreign fishing were recommended for the Bering Sea and Aleutians, but the Council stood firm on its 20-mile closure to foreign trawling around the Aleutians passed last December.

The Council reconsidered the controversial and complex issues surrounding the treatment of incidental catches of U.S. fully-utilized species by domestic trawlers working in joint ventures and by foreign fishermen. The Council also voted to allow the directed sablefish fishery in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska to use only hook and line longline gear.

The Council also approved additional joint ventures for 1985 thus bringing the total tonnage to over 900,000 mt. A 1986 meeting schedule was set and a new 25-member Advisory Panel was announced. These and other items are discussed in this newsletter.

March Council Meeting to be Held in Anchorage

The North Pacific Council will hold its next meeting March 27-29 at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. Originally scheduled to meet with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on shellfish management, changes in the Board schedule have foreclosed that possibility. Because of budgetary restraints they will finish their spring meeting on March 24. The Council is unable to shift their meeting to accommodate them because there is no meeting space available and because of prior commitments by several Council members. The Council will review Board action on Tanner crab to see if any action will be required by the Council in 1985 and Board action on king crab for conformity with the framework FMP for that species. The decision documents and analyses that will form the basis for proposed groundfish amendments during 1985 will be reviewed by the AP, SSC and Council. Following that meeting the groundfish amendment package will be sent out for public review with a final decision scheduled for the May Council meeting.

Council Announces New Advisory Panel Members

The Council announced the names of the 25 members newly appointed to the Advisory Panel. The Council's AP Nominating Committee met several times over the past two months to screen over 50 applicants. Though the Council had set a limit of 20 for the AP, the Nominating Committee recommended a full slate of 25 to give a well-balanced representation of industry, gear-type and geographical needs.

The Advisory Panel represents major segments of the fishing industry, both catching and processing, subsistence and sport fishermen, and consumers. They review and make recommendations on major issues before the Council.

Those appointed to the panel for one-year terms expiring in December 1985, are:

Robert Alverson, Seattle	Eric Jordan, Sitka
Terry Baker, Edmonds	Richard Lauber, Juneau
Alvin Burch, Kodiak	Nancy Munro, Anchorage
Joseph Chimegalrea, Bethel	Daniel O'Hara, Naknek
Barry Collier, Seattle	Alvin Osterback, Sand Point
Larry Cotter, Juneau	Don Rawlinson, Seattle
Greg Favretto, Anchorage	Julie Settle, Anchorage
R. Barry Fisher, S. Beach	Cameron Sharick, Anchorage
Ronald Hegge, Sitka	Walter Smith, Seattle
Oliver Holm, Ouzinkie	Tom Stewart, Petersburg
Bob Hunter, Anchorage	Richard White, Seattle
Pete Isleib, Juneau	Dave Woodruff, Kodiak
	John Woodruff, Seward

SSC Elects Officers

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reelected Don Rosenberg, Director of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program, and Dr. Richard Marasco, Director of the Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division of the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle, Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year. The eleven-member SSC advises the Council on scientific and technical matters relating to Council functions and is composed of leading scientists in biology, economics, statistics and social science.

Council Meeting Schedule for 1985-86

The Council approved tentative meeting dates for 1986. Following are the dates and locations of Council meetings for the remainder of 1985 and for 1986.

March 27-29, 1985	- Anchorage
May 22-24, 1985	- Anchorage
Sept. 25-27, 1985	- Anchorage
Dec. 4-6, 1985	- Anchorage
Jan. 8-10, 1986	- Juneau or Sitka
March 19-21, 1986	- Anchorage
May 21-23, 1986	- Kodiak
Sept. 24-26, 1986	- Anchorage
Dec. 3-5, 1986	- Anchorage

Council and Board Concur on Treaty, Salmon Troll Season

The Council has sent a letter to the State Department asking for rapid ratification of the proposed U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty. The Canadian Fisheries Minister had already approved the treaty and both governments are hoping to have it ready for final ratification when President Reagan meets with the Canadian Prime Minister in Quebec on March 17.

Following the lead of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Council has recommended salmon troll season dates for 1985. A 10-day opening is scheduled for June 3-12, followed by a 32- to 45-day opening beginning July 1. Area closures will be implemented about July 20 if the chinook catch rate is higher than anticipated. A 10-day all species closure is also expected about August 15 to allow coho salmon to move inside toward terminal harvest areas. The 1985 harvest guideline of 263,000 chinooks includes an anticipated sport catch of about 22,000.

Council Votes for a Longline-Only Sablefish Fishery in Eastern Gulf

The Council reviewed an emergency rule request from the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association for a longline-only (i.e., hook and line) sablefish fishery east of 147° W. longitude. Fishermen representing all gear types used in this fishery testified on this issue. Since boats using pot gear for sablefish have already taken over 20% of the Southeast optimum yield (OY) and there have been serious ground preemption and gear conflicts the Council agreed that an emergency exists and voted for the gear restriction.

The Council reviewed the Gulf of Alaska sablefish fishery and noted that in the past almost all of the OY has been taken by fishermen using longline gear. These fishermen also participate in the hook and line halibut fishery and rely heavily on these two fisheries for their livelihood. Disruption of this fishery and the dependent local communities by the added pressure of an expanding pot fleet was considered unacceptable in the short term. A mixed-gear fishery may be possible but only after a thorough analysis of management alternatives.

Management proposals submitted to the Council for the 1985 groundfish plan amendment include several which focus on sablefish gear issues. Proposals range from restricting just the Eastern Regulatory Area to restricting all waters off Alaska to only longline gear. The Council gave these proposals a high priority for further analysis. They will be given to the Council prior to beginning public review at the March 1985 meeting.

Council Recommends Fish for Chips

When the Council adjourned their December meeting, many questions were left unanswered concerning Japanese intentions for purchases in joint ventures and from U.S. processors for 1985. To protect U.S. industry needs for groundfish, the Council set high estimates of groundfish tonnages that would be used in joint ventures and by U.S. processors. Accordingly, the amounts available to foreign fishermen were set low.

Following the December Council meeting U.S. and Japanese industry representatives met to negotiate purchase commitments for 1985. The Japanese agreed to purchase 460,000 mt of groundfish in joint ventures and 35,000 mt round weight of processed products (surimi) (140,000 mt over the next two years) from U.S. processors in 1985. The value of the sales will exceed \$100 million. It will employ more than 50 U.S. trawlers and their crews and more than 200 processing workers in Alaska.

The Japanese commitment is a significant share of the projected harvest of 1,200,000 mt by U.S. fishermen. In accordance with the Magnuson Act's Fish and Chips Policy on foreign allocations the Council recommended the Japanese receive a large groundfish allocation in the Bering Sea and a minor allocation of cod and pollock in the Gulf of Alaska. The Council retained its 20-mile closure to foreign trawling around the Aleutians and warned the Japanese and other foreign fishermen they can expect the Gulf of Alaska to be closed to directed foreign fishing next year. Major decisions made in February by the Council concerning foreign and domestic groundfish fishing in 1985 are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Domestic Annual Harvest Estimates Revised for 1985

As a result of the U.S.-Japan industry agreement and changes to joint venture permit applications, the Council reexamined its estimates of groundfish to be harvested by U.S. fishermen for U.S. processors (DAP) and sold over-the-side to foreign processors (JVP) in 1985.

In the Gulf of Alaska, pollock JVP was decreased by about 81,000 mt from December. DAPs for pollock, Pacific cod, flounders, thornyhead rockfish, squid and other species were increased to follow through on the Council's intent to strictly limit the amount of groundfish available for foreign fishing in the Gulf. The new apportionments are shown in Table 1. The Council earmarked the cod and pollock TALFFs for the Japanese as a result of their commitments to purchase fish from U.S. joint ventures and processors. Japan will initially receive 25,000 mt pollock in the Gulf but this may be increased another 23,000 mt if not needed by U.S. fishermen. To avoid bycatch of U.S. fully-utilized species, Japanese trawlers were directed to use off-bottom trawls. Japanese longliners were given 10,000 mt of Pacific cod but directed to fish in waters less than 150 fathoms to minimize bycatches of fully-utilized species, particularly sablefish. The 35,000-58,000 mt foreign allocation for 1985 is a significant reduction from last year's final TALFF of 320,037 mt.

In the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands significant changes were made also, primarily for Bering Sea pollock DAP and JVP which were reduced by 194,000 mt and 242,192 mt, respectively. The DAP estimates for Pacific ocean perch were raised and shifts between DAP and JVP were made for rockfish.

The Council specified that Japan should receive an allocation of 865,000 mt (all species) to bring their total allocation up to 900,000 mt in accordance with the industry agreement. The 1985 apportionments approved by the Council for the Bering Sea and Aleutians are shown in Table 2.

2/8/85

TABLE 1
COUNCIL APPROVED
GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH
1985 OYs, DAPs, JVPs and TALFF (mt)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>OY</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>TALFF</u>
Pollock	W/C	305,000	44,371	212,500	23,129	25,000 ^{1/}
	E	16,600	13,280	0	3,320	0
Pacific cod	W	16,560	2,539	3,209	3,312	7,500 ^{2/}
	C	33,540	19,901	4,431	6,708	2,500 ^{2/}
	E	9,900	7,920	---	1,980	0
Flounders	W	10,400	7,398	922	2,080	bc ^{3/}
	C	14,700	8,292	3,468	2,940	bc ^{3/}
	E	8,400	6,720	---	1,680	0
POP	W	1,302	1,302	0	0	0
	C	3,906	3,906	0	0	0
	E	875	875	0	0	0
Sablefish	W	1,670	1,670	0	0	0
	C	3,060	3,060	0	0	0
	W. Yakutat	1,680	1,680	0	0	0
	E. Yakutat	1,135	1,135	0	0	0
	S.E. Outside	1,435	1,435	0	0	0
Atka mackerel	W	4,678	0	3,742	936	bc ^{3/}
	C/E	bycatch only				
Rockfish	Gulfwide	5,000	5,000	0	0	bc ^{3/}
Thornyhead	Gulfwide	3,750	2,990	10	750	bc ^{3/}
Squid	Gulfwide	5,000	3,990	10	1,000	bc ^{3/}
Other species	Gulfwide	<u>22,430</u>	<u>16,544</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>4,486</u>	<u>bc^{3/}</u>
TOTAL		471,021	154,008	229,692	52,321	35,000 +bc ^{3/}

^{1/} TALFF to be allowed to Japanese surimi trawlers; reserves to be released to Japan if not needed by DAH.

^{2/} TALFF to be taken by Japanese longliners, fishing within 150 f.

^{3/} Incidental catches to be determined by NMFS in support of Japanese pollock and Pacific cod fisheries.

TABLE 2
COUNCIL APPROVED
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
GROUNDFISH APPORTIONMENTS FOR 1985

<u>Species</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>TAC</u>	<u>ITAC</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>JVP</u>	<u>Initial TALFF*</u>	<u>Final TALFF</u>
Pollock	BS	1,200,000	1,020,000	17,680	393,584	608,736	788,736
	AI	100,000	85,000	10,540	13,966	60,494	75,494
POP	BS	1,000	850	660	120	70	220
	AI	3,800	3,230	3,300	340	0	160
Rockfish	BS	1,120	952	600	22	330	498
	AI	5,500	4,675	30	960	3,685	4,510
Sablefish	BS	2,625	2,231	2,275	100	0	250
	AI	1,875	1,594	1,305	420	0	150
P. Cod		220,000	187,000	100,000	63,190	37,000	56,810
Yellowfin S.		226,900	192,865	1,770	82,200	108,895	142,930
Turbot		42,000	35,700	0	5,000	30,700	37,000
Flatfish		109,900	93,415	1,200	62,500	29,715	46,200
Atka mackerel		37,700	32,045	0	37,600	0	100
Squid		10,000	8,500	0	70	8,430	9,930
Other species		<u>37,580</u>	<u>31,943</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>28,943</u>	<u>34,580</u>
TOTAL		2,000,000	1,700,000	139,360	663,072	916,998	1,197,568

*NMFS has increased some values from Reserves.

Council Addresses Bycatch Issues for Fully-Utilized Species

The issue of bycatches of fully-utilized groundfish species such as sablefish, Pacific ocean perch (POP), and rockfish by foreign and domestic trawlers has been very contentious. In December the Council allocated 10% of the sablefish, POP, and rockfish optimum yields (OY) by regulatory area as bycatch to joint ventures. This decision led to considerable controversy in the fishing industry, especially among U.S. longliners whose primary target species were sablefish. While in Sitka the Council clarified its December decision and again considered the bycatch situation for joint ventures and also for domestic trawlers and foreign fleets.

To temporarily resolve the problem, the Council followed the recommendations of an ad hoc industry group comprised of longliners from Seattle, Southeastern and other parts of Alaska, and joint venture trawlermen who operate in the Central and Western Gulf. The industry recommendation allows joint venture trawlers a larger incidental catch of sablefish than did the Council's December action, 790 mt compared to 473 mt (10% of the Western and Central area OY). Joint venture bycatches will be treated as prohibited species and must be discarded. They will not count toward OY which has been set below equilibrium yield to rebuild stocks. These additional bycatches outside OY will reduce the rebuilding rate for sablefish stocks. Once the bycatch limits are reached, joint ventures must cease fishing. Joint venture catches of POP and rockfish were treated similarly. Foreign fishermen also are limited and must discard their bycatches. In addition foreign trawlers were directed to use off-bottom trawls and foreign longliners for Pacific cod were restricted to waters less than 150 fathoms deep, both measures designed to reduce the bycatch of species fully-utilized by the U.S.

In contrast to joint ventures and foreign fisheries, sablefish bycatch by U.S. factory trawlers and domestic trawlers delivering to U.S. processors is counted toward the OY. These harvestors (DAP) were allocated 5% of the OY or about 247 mt of sablefish from the Western and Central Gulf. The remaining 95% was allocated to the U.S. pot and longline fishery. Unlike joint venture or foreign bycatch, that taken by DAP trawlers may be retained and sold to U.S. processors.

The Council views its February action as only a temporary fix to minimize disruption of the developing U.S. groundfish fisheries. The Council has assigned a high priority to finding a longer term solution to the bycatch problem by February 1986.

In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, joint venture trawlers may retain their catches of sablefish, Pacific ocean perch and rockfish, and strict limits are set on the amounts that may be taken. When that limit is reached, all joint ventures in the management area must stop fishing. Foreign fisheries will have minimal allocations of certain species such as POP, sablefish, rockfish and Atka mackerel. They too must stop all fishing when their allocations for bycatch are reached.

Voluntary Restraints on Foreign Groundfish Fishing
Continued in the Bering Sea

Representatives of the foreign groundfish fleets have again agreed to refrain from fishing in the triangular 2,342-square mile area north of Unimak Pass which was proposed originally by the Council as a U.S. Fishery Development Zone. The area is extremely rich in groundfish resources, particularly pollock and cod, and is close to shore-based processors.

This voluntary abstention was originally hammered out for 1984 by U.S. and foreign industry representatives early last year. It requires foreign vessels to refrain from directed trawling in the area from June 1 through September 15. Current regulations now close the area to foreign trawlers from December 1 through May 31.

U.S. Groundfish Catch Expands In 1984 And Will Be Higher In 1985

U.S. fishermen made major inroads into the groundfish fisheries off Alaska in 1984. Eighty U.S. trawlers in 22 foreign-U.S. joint venture operations harvested 581,000 mt of groundfish. Another 50,000 mt was harvested by U.S. factory trawlers and U.S. trawlers delivering to American processors. The U.S. catch exceeded 1983's performance by nearly 230,000 mt. U.S. fishermen took one-third of the groundfish harvested off Alaska in 1984 and the ex-vessel value was \$107 million, up nearly \$30 million over 1983.

The total groundfish catch off Alaska in 1984 was 1,943,000 mt or about 400,000 mt higher than the average total catch of 1,548,500 mt for 1977-83. The total foreign catch in 1984 was 1,312,000 mt, or about 125,000 mt less than the 1977-83 average of 1,436,500 mt. This indicates that the foreign fleets have been very successful in maintaining their catch levels since 1982 despite the large increase in U.S. fisheries. U.S. catch has increased by 425,000 mt in the past two years while foreign fisheries have remained nearly the same at 1.27 - 1.34 million metric tons of groundfish. Therefore there has been little displacement of foreign fisheries in the past two years.

However, this balance should change for 1985. Joint venture catches are projected to reach about 900,000 mt and U.S. factory trawlers and fishermen delivering to U.S. processors may harvest nearly 300,000 mt. Therefore projected U.S. harvest will be nearly half of the Alaska-wide groundfish OY (2,468,566 mt). From 1985 on, each increase in tonnage to U.S. fisheries should result in a commensurate decrease to the foreigners.

More Joint Ventures Approved for 1985

In February the Council approved joint venture requests from Japan, Korea, Poland, Portugal, and Iceland. Alaska Contact and Japan Medium Trawlers were approved for 18,400 mt of pollock, cod, and flatfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutians and the Gulf of Alaska. Poland and Quest Export Trading Company were approved for 10,000 mt pollock in the Gulf of Alaska. Korea Won Yang Fisheries and Arctic Joint Venture Fisheries were approved for 37,000 mt mainly of pollock. In addition, augmentations were recommended for joint ventures for seven South Korean companies which will increase the combined Korean tonnage from 125,700 mt requested in December to 177,400 mt.

The Council also approved a joint venture between Iceland and Alaska Joint Venture Fisheries for 15,000 mt of cod and pollock. Iceland did not request any directed fishing privileges. Though the Council recommended approval, they were concerned with market competition from the products of the joint venture. Of the 10,000 mt Pacific cod requested, some may compete directly with U.S. products in the U.S. or overseas. In issuing the permits the Council requested strong assurances from Iceland and the U.S. partner that the product from this joint venture will not come back to the United States. The Council noted that Iceland accounts for 14-18% of annual U.S. imports for fish blocks and slabs.

The Council reviewed a Taiwanese request for joint ventures with Alaska Contact and St. George Tanaq for 9,000 mt. The Council had provisionally approved these permits in December contingent upon the Government of Taiwan taking steps to stop the illegal interception of salmon on the high seas. At the February meeting representatives of Taiwan described draft regulations (explained elsewhere in this newsletter) that will reduce the interceptions by the squid gillnet fleet. In addition, position information from the vessel tracking logs will be made available to U.S. officials. Therefore, the Council recommended approval but requested the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce closely review the final enforcement provisions and regulations before issuing groundfish permits.

The Council reviewed a Portuguese joint venture request between Solseca and Profish Alaska for 10,000 mt of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The Council recommended that this joint venture be allowed only 5,000 mt of cod and the remaining 5,000 mt be held in abeyance until Portugal approves an import quota for the purchase of at least 4,000 mt wet salted cod and there is a firm business commitment to purchase that amount from U.S. processors.

Finally, the Council reviewed a permit request from West Germany for 6,000 mt pollock in the Bering Sea/Aleutians. The FRIEDRICH BUSSE was the primary vessel that would have been involved in that joint venture and it was sold to a South Korean Company. Since there has been a lack of any recent activity on the part of West Germany on this permit request, the Council recommended denial and that the whole permit package be resubmitted when the Company is actually ready for a joint venture operation. This resubmission is anticipated after restructuring of the West German Company, perhaps in June or July.

With approval of these joint ventures the total tonnage that will be purchased by foreign processors from U.S. fishermen in 1985 is about 920,000 mt. This tonnage will probably be obtained; in the past joint ventures have performed to about 99% of their expectations. These 1985 expectations considerably exceed the joint venture catch of 581,168 mt in 1984 and 350,901 mt in 1983.

Taiwan Outlines Plans to Reduce Incidental Salmon Catch

Responding to a request from the Council in December, officials of the Taiwanese International Division of Agriculture briefed Council members on their plans to reduce high seas salmon interception by their squid gillnet fleet. The proposed regulations would not allow squid fishing within the 200-mile zone of the U.S. or any other country. Salmon caught east of 170°E longitude must be discarded immediately and, if a vessel's incidental salmon

catch exceeds 5% of the total catch, it must move 1° latitude south and continue by 1° increments, until the incidental catch of salmon drops below 5%. All squid vessels would be required to operate in such a way as to minimize their incidental take of salmon.

West of 170°E longitude, Taiwanese squid vessels could not target on salmon and could only fish one of the two areas prescribed for the cruise. The draft regulations also provide for preregistration of vessels prior to departure for the North Pacific fishing grounds. Vessels would be inspected to ensure that only legal gear is on board and they would be prohibited from selling their catch at sea or through any third country unless approved by fisheries authorities in Taiwan. Skippers of Taiwanese squid vessels would be required to keep daily records of precise fishing positions, gear used, total catch in weight, and fish composition for each operation and to keep informational material on satellite navigation for the entire cruise. These records must be turned over to fishing authorities before the vessel unloads its catch at the home port.

Proposed penalties for failure to comply with the regulations include suspension of the skipper's certificate for one to two years if the violation is found to be intentional. Unintentional violations, such as those caused by failures of navigational aids, would result in shorter suspensions. If a vessel is found to have retained salmon on board, the license of the fishing company involved also would be suspended.

These measures are only draft at this time and have not been approved by Taiwanese fishing authorities. However, the Council was encouraged by the efforts thus far and, as a result, approved two Taiwanese joint venture operations which had been conditionally approved in December pending evidence of Taiwan's effort to reduce the illegal catch of salmon on the high seas.

Net Discard Regulation

The Council voted to include in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutians fishery management plans provisions that prohibit U.S. fishermen from intentionally discarding fishing gear and other debris. The provisions will be treated like any other plan amendments. The proposed implementing regulation is as follows:

(A) No fishing vessel shall intentionally discard or abandon fishing gear, net fragments, or other articles which may interfere with fishing activities or cause damage to fishery resources and other marine animals. Exception to this rule will be permitted in case of an emergency involving the safety of the ship and/or crew or when officially authorized to do so.

(B) If abandoned or discarded fishing gear, net fragments, or other articles are encountered, or in the event of accidental or emergency placing of such article into the fishery conservation zone, the operator of the vessel shall make a reasonable attempt to recover the article or immediately report the incident to the appropriate official giving:

1. the name of the reporting person and his vessel;
2. the nature of the article;
3. the location of the article; and
4. the time and date of the incident.

A similar regulation already applies to foreign fishing in the FCZ.

U.S. Coast Guard Reports Enforcement Activities

The Coast Guard reported that in 1984 enforcement efforts totaled 871 cutter patrol days and 3,102 aircraft patrol hours for over 530,668 patrol miles. There were 459 boardings of foreign fishing vessels and 5,429 sightings of foreign fishing vessels by surface and air patrols. These combined efforts resulted in three seizures and the issuance of 67 reports of violation and 142 written warnings.

For the first month of 1985, the Coast Guard issued four reports of violation and five written warnings to foreign vessels. The Japanese tanker TENSHUN was issued a written warning for failure to submit the required activity message 24 hours prior to beginning/ceasing fishing operations within the FCZ. In addition, four Polish vessels were issued reports of violation for improperly maintaining logbooks.

Council/Board Public Hearing Set in Seattle

The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Council have tentatively scheduled a public hearing in Seattle on Saturday, March 2, at the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center Auditorium, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle, at 9:30 a.m. The hearing is set in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Statement of Principles between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries for management of domestic king crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutians. In addition, other fishery management plans may be on the agenda for discussion. A more detailed list of discussion topics will be available prior to the hearing. Please contact the Council office for further information.