

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT #11 TO THE  
GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

January 8, 1982  
Juneau, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council conducted a public hearing in Juneau on January 8, 1982 to receive testimony on Amendment #11 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The hearing was chaired by Gene DiDonato, with Council members Harold Lokken, Bart Eaton, Bob McVey, Ron Skoog, and Don Bevan in attendance. Council staff present were Jim Branson, Clarence Pautzke, and Peggy McCalment.

The hearing convened at 9:15 a.m. with about ten members of the public in attendance. Clarence Pautzke explained the proposed Amendment #11 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. Synopses of individual public comments are given below.

Paul MacGregor, representing the Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association, testified in favor of opening the Davidson Bank area to foreign longlining. He explained that prior to implementation of the FMP, foreign longliners had been allowed to fish in that area without restriction. He suggested that the potential for gear conflicts, which was the reason given when Davidson Bank was closed to foreign longlining under the FMP, would be practically nil.

Jim Branson asked Mr. MacGregor if the Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet Association has records of their sablefish catches when they previously fished Davidson Bank. Mr. MacGregor said he could get the information. Mr. Branson then asked if Japanese longliners would be interested in fishing just for sablefish in that area, without a catch of Pacific cod. Mr. MacGregor responded that he was sure they would. Bart Eaton asked for information on where they would longline for sablefish, and Mr. MacGregor said he would furnish that information at the March Council meeting.

There being no further testimony, the floor was opened to general discussion. Robert McVey asked for information on projections for the U.S. salt cod fishery. Mark Miller, ADF&G-Juneau, said he had heard that four large operations are anticipated off Akutan, each expecting to take about 500,000 pounds per day. Pelican Cold Storage is also considering an operation off the Shumagins.

Barry Bracken said that his report on the migratory patterns of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska would not be available for public review until the end of February. Based on the need for public review of this report, the comment period for Amendment #11 was extended from February 8 to March 5, 1982.

The hearing adjourned at 10:10 a.m.