

Public Testimony

C-2 Legislative Matters

Ted West, Westwind Fisheries & Alaska Joint Ventures, is in favor of closing loopholes allowing foreign involvement in fishing companies in the U.S., but Americans should have every opportunity to grow - buying foreign-built vessels can be a much more economical way for American fishermen to expand.

C-4 Halibut Regulatory Proposals

Mike Zacharof, Pribilof Aleutian Fishermen's Assn., presented a proposal to the Council to implement exclusive area registration in the halibut fishery around Atka Island to provide better access for the small boat fishermen in the area.

Jeff Stephan, United Fishermen's Marketing Assn., told the Council his organization has recommended to IPHC that Areas 3A & 3B have check-in and check-out procedures because of some problems with early and late fishing. They also are recommending tank inspections 48 hours before and after the season.

Phil McCrudden, North Pacific Fisheries Assn., pointed out that there may be a point (in reference to size of vessel) at which it's not expedient or necessary to inspect holds. Inspecting all vessels may be too expensive to administer. They are also concerned about the way the late opening was administered last year in Area 3B. The weather was particularly bad and there were a lot of smaller vessels which were unable to haul all their gear. The program which allowed them to radio in, come in and offload their fish to tenders, make a report and then go back to haul their gear and shake the existing fish, worked very well and they're hopeful that it can continue.

Kathy Kinnear, Kodiak Longliners Assn., said their Association is in agreement with tank inspections for vessels over 5 nt in Areas 3A & 3B with check-in points in Dutch Harbor.

C-5-7 DAP Needs, JVP, Foreign Allocations

Mr. Shima, Japan Fisheries Agency, reviewed for the Council the current industry agreement between Japan and the U.S. industry and urged the Council to release allocations to Japan as recommended in the agreement.

#### D-1 Crab Management

Thorn Smith, Arne Aadland, Wally Pereyra, NPFVOA. Their group supports federal management of crab in both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutians, preferably under one combined FMP.

Arni Thomsen, Jeff Stephan, Alaska Crab Coalition and UFMA. They were on the Crab Management Committee and support the recommendations made to the Council, basically to deal only with the BSAI complex at this time.

Phil McCrudden, North Pacific Fishermen's Assn., would like to see the Gulf excluded from the Tanner Crab FMP and stay with management primarily by the State with federal oversight.

Bill Woods, Sea Alaska Products, was also on the Committee and voted to recommend that Tanner and King crab in the Bering Sea be included in a framework FMP with oversight by the State. If this concept works then perhaps it could be extended to the Gulf.

#### D-2/3 Groundfish Issues

Harold Sparck, Qaluyaat and Kokechik Fishermen's Association, proposed a closure on trawling in Bering Sea Statistical Area 514 from May through July of each year to protect cod stocks for local fishermen.

Fred File, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn., said the domestic fishery for cod is becoming more economically feasible and that the Council should not allow any TALFF for cod in 1987.

Jack Knutsen, FVOA, agreed with the Advisory Panel's recommendations on the TAC for blackcod. It's important to protect the smaller fish for the future so they would support the 400 to 1,000 m depth restriction.

Bob Alverson, FVOA, said their organization supports a 20,000 mt quota for blackcod in the Gulf and Bering Sea. They don't feel it's prudent to increase it until the survey next year. They support the AP's position on the PSC limits for halibut in the Gulf and the 2,000 mt halibut mortality limit.

Paul Fuhs, Mayor of Unalaska, requested the Council to consider establishing a 100-mile zone around Unalaska and Dutch Harbor from which all but U.S. fishermen would be excluded. This would give U.S. processors priority and expedite their development. He also expressed continuing concern over the reflagging issue and supports closing any loopholes which would allow foreign vessels to be reflagged in the U.S.

Lee Daneker, Fishing Company of Alaska, recommended that the sablefish quota be set at 25,000 mt, which is the recommendation of the plan team and the SSC.

Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Fishermen's Assn/Hokuten Trawlers, asked the Council to support the TAC figures recommended by the plan team for the Bering Sea/Aleutians and that the figures not be manipulated downward for the sole purpose of eliminating TALFF. He told the Council that the most important species for the small trawler group is Greenland turbot and that the 20,000 mt recommendation from the plan team and SSC is a very large reduction from this

past year and feels the DAP estimates for 1987 are high. He requested that all of the Greenland turbot for initial TALFF be allocated to Japan.

Ray Olson, FVOA, agreed with the Advisory Panel's recommendations on sablefish.

Jim Hubbard, F/V "Bering Enterprise," pointed out that the exploitation rate proposed for Pacific ocean perch in the Gulf is less than 1% of the available resource. They have seen what they consider a pretty healthy stock reflected by their catch rates and feel this is exploitation rate is too low. In regard to Pacific cod, they agree with the AP's recommendation.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longliners, said he felt a 300,000 Pacific cod TAC is justifiable and that there is no scientific reason why it couldn't be set larger. He also pointed out that that foreign fishery is conducted well away from where the domestic fishery is conducted.

Arni Thomsen, Ron Peterson, Kris Poulsen, Alaska Crab Coalition. Mr. Thomsen said he is concerned about the TAC for other flatfish. The major portion of this fishery will take place in Zone 1 of the Bering Sea and he reminded the Council that the intent of Amendment 10 was to curtail the impact of trawling on the king crab stocks in that area. Last year there was substantial bycatch of crab in Zone 1 and they feel that the redevelopment of the king crab fishery in Zone 1 is equally as important as the developing trawl industry. Ron Peterson is concerned about the bycatch of crab in the rock sole fishery. Mr. Paulsen had the same concerns.

Jerome Selby, Mayor of Kodiak, asked the Council to reserve the pollock in Shelikof for domestic fisheries. He also asked the Council to hold back some reserves for release later in the year so processors have fish available after the end of the roe season.

John Sevier, Alaska Pacific Seafoods, assured the Council that Kodiak processors are able to handle the harvests that come their way.

Craig Gilmore, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, is concerned about the bycatch of halibut in the Bering Sea and suggested a cap on the amount of bycatch allowed.

Ed Fuglvog, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn., supported the 20,000 mt TAC for sablefish in the Gulf. The conservative approach is why they have had a good fishery for three years and he would like it to stay that way.

Gary Embree and John Bruce, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, supported the AP and SSC recommendation for a 20,000 mt quota for sablefish in the Gulf. They don't feel the longline survey supports increasing the TAC for 1987.

John Bruce expressed concern about halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea. He reminded the Council of the IPHC's testimony last year which indicated that a high percentage of the halibut taken in Alaska comes from the nursery area in the Bering Sea. Mr. Bruce was concerned that increased effort in the rock sole fishery may result in an increase in halibut bycatch and urged the Council to enforce halibut bycatch caps. The PSCs now in force in the Gulf seem to have curtailed the catch of halibut and he feels this would work in

the Bering Sea. He also said that their union supports tank inspections and that something has to be done to curtail "ghost fishing."

Hae-Joo Park, North Pacific Fishing, Inc. The factory trawlers are rapidly developing the POP and rockfish fisheries and are capable of harvesting approximately 70,000 mt of these species. The TACs proposed right now in the Gulf of Alaska would cover only 35% of industry needs.

Dick Pace, Great Land Seafoods, supported Paul Fuhs' proposal for a DAP priority zone around Dutch Harbor. He stressed that this is needed now, in time for the 1987 fisheries.

Ted Evans, Steve Hughes, Alaska Factory Trawlers, Natural Resource Consultants. Mr. Evans was concerned about the large TAC for Pacific cod recommended by the plan team; he prefers a more conservative exploitation rate. Mr. Hughes evaluated the model used by the plan team to prepare their TAC recommendations. He feels that the method the plan team used tends to emphasize the high and low extremes and feels that his approach would provide more stability.

Paul Clampitt, FVOA, supports the AP recommendation of 20,000 mt TAC for black cod in the Gulf and 4,000 mt in the Eastern Bering Sea and 3,700 in the Western Bering Sea. He is concerned about raising the Eastern Bering Sea quota to allow the draggers to continue fishing after the target quota has been met. Also supports splitting the allocation along the 400 to 1,000 m depth in the Gulf, and urged caution in raising the blackcod quota.

Sara Hemphill, reported her findings during her recent trip to France. She feels that there will be some interesting and innovative marketing opportunities for seafood products in the European market in the future.

Jim Crutchfield, Natural Resources Consultants, presented his report on cod marketing and allocations. In summary, he told the Council that the market for cod worldwide is very strong and that there should be room for all the cod Alaska fishermen wish to produce.

Clem Tillion, summarized the agreement between the Japanese and U.S. fishing industries, which were:

- (1) That the U.S. delegation would use its best efforts in securing the maximum allocation to Japan of such species as Pacific cod, turbot, yellowfin sole, other flounders and pollock within the available TALFF in 1987; this allocation should exceed Japan's historic percentage and be released fully and in a timely manner.

- (2) That the U.S. delegation will assist in securing bycatch allowances at a reasonable level sufficient to permit the harvest of target allocations.

- (3) Both parties will strongly encourage their governments to establish a mechanism to allow entry into the Japanese markets of U.S.-caught and/or U.S.-processed bottomfish products; both parties will encourage the two governments to reach agreement by April 1, 1987. During this

period, the Japanese side agrees that U.S. processed bottomfish products shall have substantially unimpeded access to the Japanese markets.

(4) The Japanese industry will convey to the Japanese government the industry's request to reduce all tariffs and duties to zero on seafood products caught and processed by the U.S. industry.

(5) The Japanese delegation agreed to purchase and take delivery of U.S. harvested bottomfish in over-the-side joint venture operations arranged on an individual company-by-company basis as follows: pollock - 812,500 mt; and species other than pollock - 67,500 mt.

(6) Japanese joint venture processors will be provided with adequate import quotas for all legally retainable species harvested in U.S. joint ventures.

(7) The 1986 commitment of the Japanese delegation to purchase 100,000 mt of U.S. harvested and processed pollock products is incorporated into the 1987 agreement.

(8) The Japanese delegation will make available, through INPFC, data regarding the origins and harvest levels of pollock harvested in the international waters of the Bering Sea.

(9) Both sides agree to support the concept of a conference on marine debris sponsored by the fishing industries of the North Pacific.

Annie Burnham, Greg Baker, Wally Pereyra, briefed the Council on the results of the Korea/U.S. industry meeting, which were:

(1) The Korean delegation agreed to continue to use its best efforts to encourage the Korean Government to reduce tariffs, relax licensing procedures and otherwise modify import procedures to increase further American fisheries exports to Korea.

(2) The Korean delegation will use its best efforts, on a company-by-company basis, to purchase U.S. harvested groundfish from joint venture fishing operations in the following targeted amounts: Pollock - 642,000 mt; Other species - 120,700 mt. Both parties expressed their support of the pooling concept currently used.

(3) The Korean delegation agreed to continue to provide catch information on harvests in the international waters of the Bering Sea.

(4) Both parties agreed to pursue additional equity ventures on a company-to-company basis.

(5) Both parties agreed to support and participate in the forthcoming conference on marine debris and to provide appropriate information on a timely basis.

(6) The U.S. delegation agreed to recommend to the Council and concerned U.S. government authorities that, should TALFF availabilities appear during the 1987 season, Korea be given allocations at the 1986 level, 22%.

(7) The Korean industry agreed to make their best effort to process all legally retainable species of commercial value in joint venture operations. Both parties agreed to work jointly to seek markets, both within Korea and elsewhere, for these products.

(8) The U.S. delegation agreed to exert its best efforts to supply sufficient and best possible catcher boats for joint venture operations.

Greg Baker, Alaska Dept. of Commerce, reported on a recent meeting of the Alaska/Japan Fisheries Cooperative Development Committee in which the market access issue was discussed. The Alaska side proposed that the Japanese side provide some accommodation to Alaska-processed products within the existing IQ system. Subsequent discussions with the North Pacific Longline Gillnet Assn. with regard to their response to this request, specifically regarding Pacific cod, have resulted in a total of 10,000 mt of import quota to be made available to U.S. producers of codfish and codfish products on a priority basis.

Wally Pereyra, ProFish Intl. Mr. Pereyra's testimony focused on the DAP priority proposal made by Mayor Paul Fuhs of Unalaska. Mr. Pereyra said that he is sympathetic to the concerns of the parties involved, but is concerned about the impacts this proposal would have and urged the Council to give it serious consideration before making any decision. If implemented, he feels this proposal could close down winter pollock operations involving up to 100 U.S. trawlers. It could also result in an underharvest in 1987 and create a surplus to be allocated to TALFF later in the year. Another possible impact would be that foreign vessels would fish more heavily on the stocks in the donut hole area. If the Council considers this proposal, Mr. Pereyra said it should be done in the amendment process, not through permit conditions.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline & Gillnet Assn., told the Council that at least 50,000 mt of Pacific cod would be need to sustain their operations in 1987. He mentioned the industry agreement and pointed out that the longliners have participated in the annual longline survey for 13 years and that they have cooperated with domestic fishermen so as not to inhibit their fisheries.

Larry Hendricks, Captain Ole's Seafoods, told the Council he is currently fishing blackcod and grey cod and is trying to ship grey cod into Japan; however, he is having problems with IQs and tariffs.

Kathy Kinnear, Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners Assn. Their association recommends a TQ of 70,000 mt for Gulf pollock, which is the low end of the plan team's exploitation range. Because the future of the resource is highly dependent on only one year class, a conservative management regime is necessary. On Gulf blackcod, they support a TQ of 20,000 mt; and support an apportionment to regulatory areas by the biomass distributions in the 200 to 1,000 meter zone.

Bob Alverson, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn., spoke about the codfish TALFF in Gulf. His members plan to fish for cod in the Gulf and although he does not support zero TALFF there, he would recommend that it be less than last year.

Bob Brophy, Icicle Seafoods, urged the Council to be very conservative in their determination of TALFF so that Americans will not lose the opportunity to sell into the Japanese market.

Mick Stevens, ProFish International, requested the Council allocate a minimum of 10,000 mt of pollock JVP in the Western and Central Gulf for 1987. He recommended an opening date of February 25 for the JVP pollock fishery in the Gulf because the highest CPUEs have been during the month of March and weather conditions are also better at that time. Also, in later weeks there are more smaller fish caught; this opening will have less impact on immature fish.

Alec Brindle, Columbia Wards Fisheries, feels it is incumbent on the Council, and the joint venture fleets, to work out a procedure whereby shoreside processors are able to get sufficient fish to run their plants to capacity.

Fred Kirkes, American President Lines, Ltd. They offer freight service in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak and fully support the DAP priority access proposal.

Bob Trumble, IPHC, recommended the Council maintain the 2,000 mt mortality limit for halibut for the Gulf in 1987 and that TQs be adopted to maintain that cap. Although they feel this may not be the most efficient way to protect the halibut, it is the only practical way at this time. The IPHC is also submitting a proposal for a bycatch cap on halibut in the Bering Sea.

Thorn Smith, North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn., is concerned about the DAP priority issue and feels that the proposal as submitted would put them out of business. They are willing to work with the affected parties and try to work something out. Mr. Smith also recommended that enough TALFF be allocated for the Japanese longliners for their first trip after the first of the year and that the Council monitor progress on the industry agreements before recommending additional allocations.

Bart Eaton, said he feels they could handle 5,000 mt of cod and 10,000 mt of pollock this year. He supports the DAP priority concept and also feels there should be no TALFF in the Gulf for 1987.

Eric Rosvold, Petersburg fisherman, expects to fish three of his boats on cod in 1987 and recommends no TALFF for cod in the Gulf.

Myrtle Johnson, KEG Fisheries Co-op, supports Japanese longliners request for 50,000 mt of cod.

Joe Nord, Allied Processing, Inc., said they are starting to process cod and requested an allocation of 10,000 mt. He's in favor of zero TALFF in the Gulf and supports the idea of DAP priority.

Mason Williams, F/V GULF MAIDEN, said cod prices are good and it's important that the stocks be reserved for American fishermen.

Al Osterback, Sand Point, said a lot of fishermen in the Shumagins are trying to get into the cod fishery. He generally supports the concept of DAP priority.

Richard Thummel, Provider, Inc., favors zero TALFF in the Gulf. If there is TALFF in the Bering Sea, then there should be pressure on Japan for market access.

Jeff Stephan, United Fishermen's Marketing Assn., said it is their opinion that a TALFF for Pacific cod would have detrimental effects on the opportunities for American fishermen and processors to develop the cod fishery. Also supports allocating the entire pollock TQ in the Gulf to DAP.

Ted Evans, Alaska Factory Trawlers Assn., said they support the AP's recommendation of zero TALFF for cod. They have about 20 vessels that will fish throughout the year with a capacity of ranging from 10,000 tons to 35,000 tons. At least six more factory trawlers will be entering the fishery during the year.

Terry Baker, Arctic Alaska Seafoods, also urged the Council to support the AP's recommendation of zero TALFF for cod.

Bob Morgan, Pacific Seafood Processors Assn., supports the proposal for DAP priority access in keeping with the dictates of the MFCMA.

Vic Horgan, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, supports zero TALFF in the Gulf. Mr. Horgan also urged the Council to support legislation that would prohibit reflagging of foreign vessels. In reference to TALFF in the Bering Sea, he would support some allocation if the resource is actually there and the Council isn't just juggling numbers.

Jerry Weaver, 3NC Fisheries Co-op, supports the Japanese longliners request for 50,000 mt Pacific cod.

Dave Harville, Dennis Cox, Al Burch, Vern Hall, Alaska Draggers Assn. They were surprised about the proposal for closures around Akutan and hope that if it is considered by the Council, that it be done in the regular amendment process so that all those affected will have a chance to comment. Their group does support the Japanese industry agreement.