APPENDIX I SEPTEMBER 1984 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Summary of Public Testimony

Agenda C-1 - Halibut Fishery Management

Kevin B. O'Leary, Sunrunner Alaska Corp. He is opposed to movement of management away from the IPHC. He thinks they have had a lot of experience and management by any other agency would further complicate the process. Fishermen are already dealing with a myriad of agencies and they don't need more confusion. He is also against any form of limited entry in the halibut for black cod fisheries at this time. The impact of limited entry in these two fisheries would impact other fisheries as well. National policy has been one of deregulation. The halibut fishery should be managed from a biological point of view and the IPHC can do this.

Charles Christensen, Petersburg Vessel Owners. He would like to see some kind of limited access in the fishery in the future to spread the season out for everybody involved in that fishery. He doesn't feel that there enough statistics on the stocks and thinks that spreading the season out over a longer period of time would help the IPHC get a better idea of what's out there.

Richard Thummel, F/V WINDRUNNER, Kodiak. He said that the regulation that requires any fisherman wishing to longlining any species who wants to participate in the halibut opening to quit fishing 5 days prior to the opening is not fair. Fishermen participating in other fisheries do not have such a restriction. Sablefish fishermen cannot maximize their fishing time and increase their boat's overall efficiency because of this regulation. He proposes the implementation of tank checks on all longlining vessels and then abolish the existing regulation. This management tool is by and large welcomed by fishermen as the best way to ensure a fair start.

Spike Jones, F/V SNOW KING. He is against the Council taking over the management of the halibut fishery. He thinks the IPHC is doing a good job and feels the fishery should be managed on a biological basis, not a political one.

Eric Manzer, Kodiak longliner. He thinks that most of the Council's management goals for the halibut fishery were largely met during this season. Limited entry in the halibut fishery would discourage U.S. fishermen from expanding in the black cod and other fisheries in the Westward area. He favors the current management system by the IPHC.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn. They support the current management regime with the IPHC and do not feel the Council should interfere with the process. The 60-40 split is a problem for the Southeast but hopefully that is going to be solved. That is not in the scope of the Council to deal with. Feels that good quality product was available to the consumer from the time the Canadians began fishing in the spring right into October because of the openings in the Bering Sea.

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Ludler Dochtermann, Kodiak fisherman. He is opposed to limited entry and doesn't think the IPHC is doing a good job. To his knowledge, there has not been a stock assessment in Area 3B for several years. The number of fish available at this time is unbelievable and the ones they were catching were full of Tanner crab. He suggested some openings during the winter months to spread out the effort. Giving the first opening to the Canadians flooded the market and depressed prices for the Americans.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. The Council should be aware that the fleet is much more a longline fleet now rather than just a halibut fleet and are utilizing the black cod species fully. The Council should now be thinking about disincentives to keep the market from being flooded, and keeping the quality and efficiency at a premium.

Robert J. Gustafson, F/V ALASKA, Kodiak. He prefers to have IPHC remain the managers of halibut with the Council's assistance. He is against any form of limited entry for halibut or black cod. He does not agree that there were quality problems with halibut this year.

Harold Thompson, Sitka. Mr. Thompson thinks the only way to improve quality is to reduce the amount of gear at one time or shorten the seasons, which is impractical. He's in favor of some sort of limited entry in the halibut fishery. It's not fair for the longliners to have pressure coming out of other fisheries that are limited, such as salmon, when the reverse is not true.

Sig Mathisen, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. He concurs for the most part with the halibut management goals adopted by the Council but it's one thing to have the goals and another to implement a management strategy to achieve them. Don McCaughran from the IPHC has said that the IPHC doesn't have the tools to do anything about Council management goals and has suggested the Council take some action in management of the fishery. He thinks the Council should implement limited entry for this fishery as soon as possible.

Gary Painter, Kodiak. Management of halibut is well within the scope of the Council, however at this time he would like to see the continuing cooperation between the Council and the IPHC. He feels if fishermen are able to move freely between fisheries and areas the entire fleet will have a more stabilizing influence. Avoiding small, specialized fleets and at the same time promoting flexible fleets able to endure cyclic fluctuations should be a prime goal of the Council. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in harvesting a national resource.

Ron Hegge, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assn., Sitka. He realizes it's difficult for fishermen from Kodiak and other areas where an excess of effort is not a problem to understand why the fishermen of Southeast favor limited entry. He hopes that they can try to understand the problem and work together to try to get some kind of control of the situation. Increased effort by people not experienced in the fishery does create handling problems. ALFA feels that if the Council could add something to IPHC's management, they would support that effort.

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Danny D. Graham, F/V ELDAN, Kodiak. He feels the IPHC does a good job and doesn't think management of the halibut fishery should be taken away from them. He believes in free enterprise and opposes limited entry.

Pete Hannah, Kodiak fisherman. In favor of retaining IPHC as management agency for halibut. Against limited entry in any form; thinks fishermen will economically regulate themselves. Fishermen should be considered as a whole, not just as a longline fisherman, etc. He doesn't see any justification for the allegations of poor quality. He didn't see any problems this year that were any different than others. Processors can control quality by refusing to accept fish. for poor quality. He against limited entry.

John Finley, Kodiak. He cited some biomass figures from IPHC and Ron's report. Really didn't have anything much to say except that halibut eat crab and wondered if this has anything to do with the decline in crab.

Andy Wikan, Petersburg. He feels the IPHC has been doing a fair job in management of halibut but only because they had the cooperation of the fishermen. Now there are so many boats that voluntary measures won't work any more. Small boats can't take all that fish in one day; it's not far to the customer and it's not fair to the people who work in canneries. He would favor the Council getting into the management of halibut.

Edwin Fuglvog, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. Favors Council management of halibut resource, however the IPHC should be retained to set quotas and areas. The fishery has become "insane" and it's going to get worse if the current trend continues. Having all the product come in at once affects quality and prices. The short, intense fishery also affects crew safety.

Agenda C-4 - Joint Venture Policy

Mick Stevens, ProFish, Intl. It may time for the Council to do away with the term "joint venture" as it relates to the fishing operations they've come to know. They feel "joint fishing operation" might be more appropriate because "joint venture" has a broader business connotation involving relationships between commercial entities. Most of the joint fishing operations are not true "joint ventures" in the business term. He has some question about the Council's request for each joint venture to submit a written description of how their operation will meet each of the Council's criteria. It's not clear how the Council expects to receive those comments. Because of the competitive nature of this ranking system operators will probably try to design their operation to receive the highest ranking and therefore the information probably would not be coming to the Council until the last minute. The overall approach to any joint venture operation. It's also not clear how the Council will deal with applications received following the December Council meeting. He would suggest that the Council adopt a more modern joint venture fishing policy at this time, opting for simplicity. The point system is too complex. He also suggested that the Council establish a workgroup of Council members and industry representatives to begin addressing the broader issue of allocations within the context of the developing domestic fishery.

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Urray D. Graham, P/V W.DAN, W.ddak. To focus the TERC dees a good tob and doesn's think marchement of the hallbut fisher about he taken away from them. He believes in true cuterprise and appears limited entry.

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Larry Cotter, ILWU. When is the onshore industry going to some of the product from these joint venture operations? The joint venture policy should require some required involvement with the shoreside processing industry. He also suggested that the Council might look at a separate draft policy on allocations.

Barry Collier, NPFVOA. Mr. Collier summarized the extensive written comments submitted for Council notebooks. He encouraged the Council to evaluate comments from industry and strongly recommended that the Council not hastily endorse a policy that could be burdensome and overwhelming in complexity. He suggested that the Council/Industry workgroup readdress this issue and explore all options to the extent possible. Any policy will have to be reviewed periodically because of the rapidly changing industry. On foreign fishing allocations, industry sees the strategic use of TALFF by government as perhaps the single-most important indicator of what kind of support U.S. harvesters and processors can expect.

Dennis Peterson, Ocean Spray Fish. The question of benefits accruing to American industry must include as one facet of the total evaluation process as it is at the very heart of what they are all striving for - a healthy, viable American industry. Provisions such as past histories for paying the fishermen partners, end use of products and product estimation, proposed employment of U.S. personnel, co-marketing plans, and good faith efforts to negotiate prices paid for over-the-side products with their American partners are of prime importance.

<u>Jay Hastings</u>, Japan Fisheries Assn. He would not like to see a joint venture decided by certain criteria. Some countries may not be able to compete with other countries in submitting joint venture applications. Applications have to be judged on a case-by-case basis. He suggests eliminating the point system and place more emphasis on the applicants' merits.

Phil Chitwood, Marine Resources Co. Urges the Council to reconsider the portion of the policy which requires a withholding of 50% of JVP will be withheld until July 1 for a mid-year review of the the operations. This would not take into account seasonality of fisheries, coordination of one fishery with another, or quality of fish.

Thorne Tasker, Alaska Joint Ventures. He feels there will be a major increase in effort next year in Atka mackerel in the Sequam area and feels organization will be necessary or there will be chaos. The Council should take action on a policy to make some semblance of order before it becomes chaotic; his suggestions concur with Mick Stevens.

John Schmiedtke, Nordstern. Wanted to inform the Council that there are GIFA problems again among European countries. Also, they lost one-half million dollars on their joint venture operations last year.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn. Suggested that compatibility of joint ventures with domestic operations should not be placed in the "medium" category of priorities. This is an insult to American fishermen; they should be the first priority. Kodiak is a high traffic area for joint ventures and they have had some problems; some joint ventures are easier to deal with than others and those "good neighbors" should be rewarded.

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Barry Fisher, Highliners-Alaska Fish, Inc. Council should also consider the benefits that are going to accrue to all segments of the community as a result of a joint venture.

Alan Guimond, Chairman, New England Fishery Mgmt. Council. Mr. Guimond briefed the Council on the joint venture policy of the New England Council. His written comments were mailed to all Council members following the meeting.

Agenda D-2 - Tanner Crab

Barry Collier, NPFVOA. NPFVOA submitted and support Proposals #2, #3, and #4. The also support Proposal #5 to change the pot storage area.

<u>Sig Mathisen</u>, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. They prefer proposals for superexclusive areas in Southeast Alaska and favor retaining exclusive areas as they were before the court injunction. If the Board decides not to go with the superexclusive areas, they would suggest that seasons be opened simultaneously. Exclusive areas and pot limits do not address problems in the long term, but they do help for the short term which is important to the fishermen at this time.

Alvin Osterback, Sand Point Advisory Committee. Small-boat fleets are not capable of moving on to other areas; they have few other industries and rely on the fishery to make a living. They support the superexclusive area for the South Peninsula.

Hubert McCallum, Sand Point Advisory Committee. Opposed to rescinding the superexclusive area in South Peninsula. If there was going to be an effective pot limit it would have to be 100-120 pots as most boats now only set 100-125 pots. If the limit was 150, small boats would be forced to buy more gear to compete.

Al Osterback, Sr., Sand Point Advisory Committee. Agrees with two previous Sand Point Advisory members' testimony. He mentioned that there is no representation on the Council, AP or Board of Fish for the Sand Point area.

Ole Harder, Kodiak. Doesn't think a pot limit over 100 pots would be effective or enforceable.

Agenda D-3/D-4 - Groundfish, BS/AI, GOA

Ole Harder, Kodiak. Prefers longline gear for the black cod fishery but fishermen who have been using pots should have "grandfather" rights.

Harold Thompson, Sitka Sound Seafoods. Sablefish is one of their major products. In favor of an amendment to prohibit pot fishing off Southeastern for sablefish and the entire Gulf. The feel the quality of longline-caught sablefish is superior and refuse to buy pot-caught sablefish. They are concerned that if pot fishing is allowed to develop, the longline fleet would quickly be displaced.

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Facery Casher, Weblitzers-Alacia high. Inc. Consail should also condicer the hearth that the are going to recrue to all segments of the organisty as a result of a joint tenture.

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Danny Graham, F/V ELDAN, Kodiak. Approves a longline-only fishery for sablefish. It's important to get a handle on the problem now before too many people invest in pot gear. Grandfather rights would guarantee people who have already made large investments in other types of gear that they could still fish that gear.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. He feels the Council can ease the pressure on the halibut stocks by establishing sablefish as a longline fishery. This fishery is totally utilized by domestic industry; harvested, processed and marketed with the product going into U.S. markets. If this fishery is not made a longline-only species, there could be conservation problems and socioeconomic problems.

Richard Thummel, Windrunner Fish. Inc., Kodiak. All of the Council's goals for management of halibut could be applied to the sablefish fishery with the exception of Goal #4. He agrees with a longline-only fishery for sablefish but feels grandfather rights for other gear should be preserved.

John Coyne, Arctic Mist/Sea Spray. He owns pot boats that fish off the Washington coast. Banning pot fishing in Southeast seems to be in conflict with the Magnuson Act national standards against discrimination among residents of different states. He also does not agree that longline-caught sablefish is of a better quality than pot-caught.

Bob Alverson, Fishing Vessel Owner's Assn. They endorse the concept of a longline-only fishery for sablefish in Southeast. It's up to the Council to maximize the economic value of this fishery.

Neil J. Huff, Sitka. Supports Amendment 12 but would like to include all federal waters in Gulf and Bering Sea.

Ed Fuglvog, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. Supports Amendment 12 in the Gulf. At present the black cod fishery is primarily longline and they have demonstrated that it can catch the quota. Thinks the Councils should eliminate the gear conflict problem before it becomes more serious.

Russ Sleipness, F/V ZENITH. Supports the concept of Amendment 12.

Ken Tison, Sitka. He moved out of California because of gear conflicts with pot gear. Supports adoption of Amendment 12, but to apply to the entire Gulf.

<u>Jim Hubbard</u>, Sitka. Pots and longlines are incompatible. Supports Amendment 12 for the entire Gulf.

Ron Hegge, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assn. He is convinced that there is adequate justification for Amendment 12. Mr. Hegge cited several instances of fishermen's claims for lost gear as a result of derelict pots. He also thinks buyers want the consistency of longline-caught black cod.

<u>Dave Woodruff</u>, Alaska Fresh Seafoods, Kodiak. Asked the Council to consider increasing the black cod OY in the Gulf. The fishery was shut down with very little warning this year and he suggests better communication between the processors and NMFS to monitor the catch statistics.

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John Coyne, Arctic Mist/New ipray. He owns not boats that fish of the Washington coast. Banning pot fishing in Southeast seems to be in confirst with the Magnuson Act national standards against discreptionistion among residents of different states. We also down not opped that longline-caught sabiofish is of a better qualicy than pot-caught.

hob Alverson. Mishing Vessel Owner's Assn. They endouse the content of a longitue-orly lishery for sablefish in Scuthesst. It's up to the Council to maximise, the economic value of this Mishery.

Mail ... Hrff. Strke. Suppores Amendment 12 but would like to diclude all feders) waters in Gulf and Bering Sea.

Ed Diglyog, Patentinus Venuel Courrel Aren. Supports Amerdrant 12 in the Gulf. At present the black cod Eleheny is primarily longifue and they have Lemonstrated that it can gatch the quots. Thinks the Conneils should withinste the perfect problem before it becomes more serious.

luss Sleiprecs, F/V ZENITH. Supports the concept of Amendment 12.

Ken Tison, Hitks. He moved out of California because of gent to the mith pot gent. Supporte adoption of Amendment 12, but to apply to the end entire Gulf.

Itm Nubbard. Sitka. Fors and Longlines are incompetible. Surports Amendwant il for the autica Gulf.

Ron logge, Alaska Longline Sishermen's Assr. He is convinced that there is sdequate justification for Arradment 12. Mr. begge vised removal instances of fighermen's rising for lost year as a result of derelict pots. He also plinks buyers, went the consistency of loggline-caught black cod.

Dave Woodbuil, Alenta Bresh Scoloods, Kodiele. Asked the classed to crusided increasing the black end Of in the Gali, the rishery was shut fown this very little warming this year and he engasts better communication between the processors and MMFS to mention the cubch statistics.

Charles Christensen, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn. Would like entire sablefish allocation in the Gulf to be hook and line only. Increased pot fishing could impact the economy of the area. It's important for the Council to address these problems before sablefish becomes as heavily fished as halibut.

<u>Kelly Brennan</u>, KAMISHAK QUEEN/ECLIPSE. Mr. Brennan presented a petition requesting the Council implement a fleet rationalization program for the sablefish fleet.

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Charles Christensen. Perersburg Vessel Cymers Acen. Would like entire cablefish allocation to the Gulf to be book and the early. The cased pat fishing could impace the economy of the crea. It's important for the Council to address there problems before subiofiel becomes as heavily fieled as helibut.

Kelly Brennen, KAMSHAK QUEFR/RULIPSE. Mr. Bromen presented a petatric requesting the Corneil implement a tiest reviouslination program for the sablafiel floor.