

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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PROPOSED AGENDA  
ADVISORY PANEL  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
CENTENNIAL BUILDING  
SITKA, ALASKA  
OCTOBER 2, 1979

The Advisory Panel will meet on Tuesday, October 2 and 3 (if necessary), 1979 at 9:30 a.m. in the Centennial Building. AP agenda item numbers correspond to the Council agenda.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- D-2 Report on Pribilof bottomfish meetings
- D-4 Clam leasing study update
- D-6 1980 meeting schedule
- D-8 Status report on Management Plans

F. OLD BUSINESS

- F-1 FCMA Oversight Hearings, Council testimony for October 11 and 12, 1979.
- F-2 St. George's Basin oil lease sale comments, deadline October 5, 1979.
- F-3 Management Plan scheduling committee report.

G. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

G-1 Troll Salmon FMP -- Amendments

Consideration of amendments for time and area closures, imposing a four-line limit offshore, filleting of salmon at sea, prohibiting hand trolling in the FCZ, and power troll limited entry in the offshore fishery.

G-2 Tanner Crab FMP -- Amendments

Amendments to reduce the ABC/OY for C. bairdi and C. opilio in the eastern Bering Sea, increase DAH and reduce or eliminate TALFF.

G-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish - Update and possible amendments

The status of Amendment 7 (approved at the August Council meeting) will be discussed. A request to change OY's for squid, other rockfish, other species, and Atka mackerel to Gulf-wide OY's has been received from the Japan Trawl Association. Discussion of management philosophies and policies for trawl and longline fisheries, particularly in the U.S. sablefish fishery.

G-4 Halibut FMP - Update and further action

This FMP never completed Secretarial review. Consideration should be given for further action in case the current U.S./Canada agreement does not continue and as a vehicle for limited entry if desired.

G-5 Herring Draft FMP - schedule for public hearings

Herring Draft FMP schedule for public hearings will be presented for approval.

G-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish FMP - Update

The status of the amendment approved at the August meeting will be discussed.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H-3 Joint Board of Fisheries/Council Meeting

A joint meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries may be desired to discuss cooperative management issues associated with our Herring, Tanner Crab and Troll Salmon Plans. The agenda, issues, mechanisms and timing should be considered.

I. CONTRACTS REPORTS PROPOSALS

I-3 A proposal for funding; To Assess the Distribution and Abundance of Certain Marine Mammal Populations (walrus) in Bristol Bay, by Bud Faye (University of Alaska).

AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM D

D-3 Support ships for joint venture operations:

The Panel considered the Executive Director's report and the request for comment concerning procedures for approving joint venture permit applications for joint venture support vessels.

The Panel unanimously approved the foreign application review procedure whereby the Executive Director routinely approved non-controversial applications and in this case for vessels in support of joint venture operations where the joint venture has already been approved by the Council.

D-5 Advisory Panel nominations:

The Advisory Panel wishes to review the list of nominees for the Advisory Panel vacancies.

ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

October 2, 1979

The Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened its meeting at 9:30 a.m., Monday, October 1, in the Centennial Building, Harbor Drive, Sitka, Alaska. Vice Chairman A. W. "Bud" Boddy presided in the absence of Keith Specking, chairman.

The following members were present:

- Robin Chlupach
- Bob Alverson
- Don Rawlinson
- Al Otness
- Bob Blake
- Oral Burch
- Ed Linkous
- Ray Lewis
- Joe Kurtz
- Sig Jaeger
- Chuck Jensen
- Rick Lauber
- Jack Phillips
- Truman Emberg
- Keith Specking

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. In addition to the scheduled agenda items, the Advisory Panel considered the question of the high seas salmon fishery and the upcoming INPFC talks in Tokyo. The AP wishes to bring to the attention of the Council a need to readdress the Council's old high seas salmon plan for the fishery east of 175 degrees E. longitude.

The AP therefore recommends that the plan be reexamined as an alternative for the high seas salmon fishery.

2. AP member and chairman Keith Specking unexpectedly announced his resignation from the Panel. Mr. Specking told the Panel his business schedule precluded further participation in AP activities. No action was taken by the Panel.

AGENDA ITEM F

F-1 FCMA Oversight Hearings:

The Advisory Panel reviewed the testimony prepared for the FCMA oversight hearings scheduled for October 11-12 in Washington, D.C. The issues addressed by the Panel were those raised by Congressmen Breaux and Forsythe in a recent letter to the Council.

The Panel had no additional comments on the responses to Questions #1  
#2  
#3  
#4  
#5  
#7  
#8  
#9  
#10  
#12  
#13  
#14  
#15  
#18  
#19

Concerning #6 (logbooks), the Panel raised the issues of (a) the confidentiality of logbook data, (b) mandatory vs. voluntary aspects of logbooks and fishermen/processor differences.

Agreement was reached on the proposed comment language with one change --

The change is to insert "and voluntary" in the 1st sentence to read:

"A well designed and practical AND VOLUNTARY (for the fishermen) logbook with adequate guarantees of confidentiality supported by interviews by fishermen is valuable in some fisheries."

Concerning #11 (EO 12044), the Panel enthusiastically agreed with the recommendation of the working group that EO 12044 was not necessary for fishery management plans.

Concerning #16 (observer coverage), the Panel discussed extensively observer coverage needed off Alaska. A motion was passed to strike "adequate" concerning the 20% coverage mentioned in the comment. The sentence would then read: "Twenty percent coverage is considered minimal." The Panel noted that it must be difficult to determine the precise percentage of coverage which would be necessary to manage the fishery but feel that a minimum of 20% coverage is needed for all fisheries in all areas at all times of the year.

Concerning #17 (foreign fishing penalties and violations), the Panel agreed with the recommendation in the report but believed it was further necessary to question the Japanese Fishery Agency as to their role in assessing penalties against violators of U.S. law including incidences which may come to the attention of the agency after the ship has left U.S. waters.

The Advisory Panel wished to add two comments to the list of responses:

OTHER BUSINESS

21 With the existing and anticipated increase in fishing activity in the Bering Sea, it is increasingly evident that the Coast Guard's interfacing mandates of surveillance, enforcement and Search and Rescue has fallen in its commitment in the Bering Sea.

The use of long range helicopters for surveillance and med-evac response is now based out of Kodiak. We strongly endorse that a helicopter be based at Cold Bay, which is immediate to the most active fishing grounds.

The shortfall in Coast Guard response has been most evident in med-evac cases. Requests for assistance in injury cases have a delay response of 6-20 hours and in some cases injuries have had a graver crippling effect because of this delay.

Vessels active in the Bering sea exceed 200 in number through May (in crabbing principally) with growth anticipated in the bottomfish industry.

Other domestic traffic involves gillnetters in the Bristol Bay area and tugboats transiting the area.

Vessel density is growing, risk factors in winter are high, and the area is remote. There are clearly a number of negative reports on Coast Guard response time and these will grow as the fishery increases.

The top priority for Coast Guard response is the saving of life at sea, Search and Rescue, surveillance and enforcement, in that order.

The surveillance and enforcement has been budgeted for by the Congress, but the saving of life at sea has been neglected and is a concomitant need neglected to date.

22 When the Panel considered the herring FMP agenda item and learned of the problems with the EIS, they discussed the nature of the problem and that of the internal NMFS review procedures. The Panel felt strongly that the issue of review procedures has been inconsistent, untimely and does not assist the Council in its work of preparing fishery management plans and their amendments. They requested that this general subject be somehow addressed in Washington during the oversight hearings.

F-2 St. George Basin lease sale

The Advisory Panel reviewed the report prepared on the St. George Basin oil lease sale. They agreed with all aspects of the report and especially the indefinite postponement of the sale.

Citing incomplete research results, the desirability of permanent deletion of four areas from the proposed sale tracts (St. Paul, St. George, Pribilof Canyon and Davidson Bank) and a concern for the possibility of oil spills in an area of great economic and biologic importance, the Panel believed it would be wise to postpone the sale indefinitely.

Regarding option #2 proposed in the memorandum (an alternative option), the Panel believed it was unwise to express this point of view as a fall-back position because of the possibility of that position assuming a position of acceptance in the minds of the reviewers.



### F-3 Scheduling sub-committee report

The Advisory Panel reviewed the scheduling sub-committee report and had the following recommendations:

1. That the clam FMP development schedule be approved.

The Advisory Panel believed that the proposed date of implementation of 1981 was appropriate because no fishery is planned for 1980. One remaining problem was identified concerning PSP requirements which the Panel believed should be seriously addressed before the draft enters the Council review process.

2. King Crab

The Advisory Panel learned that a fourth schedule had been proposed for the development of the king crab plan. That schedule called for the SSC and Council review in March 1980 with plan implementation scheduled September 1, 1981 and was approved by the Panel. According to that schedule, the Panel felt that public hearings scheduled in the early summer would be timely and might even include the possibility of a king crab public hearing around the May Council meeting in Kodiak.

3. Herring FMP

The Panel deferred comment on the herring FMP and addressed the schedule for the development of the plan under Agenda Item #G-5.

The Advisory Panel also considered and approved the recommendation in the report to change the fishing year for both the BS/A and GoA groundfish FMPs to September 1 - August 31.

G-1 Troll Salmon FMP

The Panel considered the proposed amendment to the FMP and learned that an expanded public hearing schedule would most likely be necessary. Panel member Ed Linkous told the group that the problems of the FMP could not be solved without additional hearings at which the trollers could explain why the proposals, as listed, might not be appropriate for the fishery. The Advisory Panel believes that public hearings should be held in Ketchikan, Sitka, Pelican, Petersburg, and Juneau before decisions are made on the FMP amendments.

G-2 Tanner Crab FMP

The Advisory Panel met in joint session with the Scientific and Statistical Committee at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 3, 1979 to consider the report of Dr. Jerry Reeves, NMFS, concerning the 1979 Tanner crab survey. Dr. Reeves reported that survey results indicated a 30% decline in both legal and pre-recruits of C. bairdi continuing a decline noted from last year.

As a result of the survey Dr. Reeves told the group that:

- a. C. bairdi ABC = 27 million lbs., with ABC expressed as a range of 22-33 million.
- b. C. opilio stocks were estimated to be roughly the same as in 1978 (perhaps with fewer pre-recruits).

ABC calculated as 126 million lbs., expressed as a range of 103-153 million lbs.

The opilio estimate is based on a 104 mm size limit and an exploitation rate of .58. Additionally, the survey took into account the removal by commercial fishing of crabs during 1979 and an estimate that 50% of the pre-recruits would enter the fishery in 1980.

The ABC estimate is divided with 122 million lbs. south of 58° N. latitude and 4 million lbs. north of 58°. Dr. Reeves, however, explained that the estimates north of 58° do not coincide with the experiences of the Japanese fleet fishing that area.

The Advisory Panel then convened separately to discuss the Tanner crab issues. Actions resulting from that meeting are as follows:

1. The AP approved the following motion concerning C. opilio OY:

"That the OY in the Bering Sea be 27 million lbs. for C. bairdi and 126 million lbs. for C. opilio."

2. The AP approved the following motion concerning DAH for C. opilio:

"That the DAH for C. opilio in the Bering Sea be set at 129,630,000 lbs." The Panel felt the report presented by Sig Jaeger was the best indicator of expected domestic harvesting capabilities in the absence of drastic changes in markets or an unexpected distribution of the resource.

3. The AP approved the following motion concerning TALFF:

"Since DAH exceeds OY, there can be no TALFF for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea."

G-2 continued

4. Concerning the implementation of the provisions of the Processor Preference Amendment to the Tanner crab FMP, a motion to accept (as written) the Processor Preference Amendment material was passed unanimously.

G-3 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Advisory Panel reviewed amendment material associated with the sablefish OY. Foremost, the Panel would like to invite a representative of the plan development team to the next AP meeting to explain in detail the status of the sablefish resource and the findings of the management plan drafting team.

The Panel listened to Jake Phillips and Scott Stafne who reiterated a point of view that serious localized depletion might be occurring in some Southeastern Alaska sablefish areas.

They felt that the Southeast Alaska OY should be significantly reduced and that additional time/area closures and/or gear restrictions concerning foreign fishing might be appropriate.

Because of the serious nature of this resource problem, the AP would like the Council to consider in December an amendment reducing the blackcod OY.

Additionally, the Panel wishes to reiterate that it has been asking for a reduction in the blackcod OY for two years based on industry data. They wish to remind the Council that the drafting team's proposal of a 10,550 mt OY closely approximates their earlier request.

G-4 Halibut FMP

1. The Advisory Panel reviewed proposed enabling legislation for the new Halibut Convention allowing the SOC to implement limited entry in the halibut fishery. In the course of this discussion they learned from Harold Lokken that Congressional ratification of the treaty has been postponed due to other pressing international foreign affairs but is still expected to be signed.

In considering a proposed addition to Sec. 5 of State Department Draft Halibut Convention Implementing Legislation the AP felt strongly that:

1. Only limited entry regulations should be promulgated.
2. Any limited entry initiative should originate with the Council.
3. That the Council's recommendations should be for its area of jurisdiction only.

The Panel believes that the following language change achieves those objectives:

(c) The Secretary may promulgate limited entry regulations applicable to nationals or vessels of the U.S., or both, which are more restrictive than regulations adopted by the commission. Such regulations shall not discriminate between residents of different states. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various U.S. fishermen, such allocation shall be (1) approved by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (2) fair and equitable to all such fishermen (3) reasonably calculated to promote conservation and (4) carried out in such a manner that no particular individual, corporation or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges.

2. The Advisory Panel unanimously recommends reactivating the halibut DFMP to keep it up to date if problems develop with the IPHC in 1981 or later.

G-5 Herring FMP

The Advisory Panel listened to the problems associated with the NMFS rejection of the EIS and that impact on the public hearing schedule, as well as the overall development of the plan. The Panel was dubious of any potential for any public hearings in January. They felt that the public hearing schedule previously thought to occur in November would have been more appropriate and timely in the Council's attempted coordination with the Board of Fisheries. No additional comments were made on locations for public hearings beyond those places listed on the FMP memorandum.

H-3 Proposed joint NPFMC - BOF meeting

The Advisory Panel concurred with the proposed joint meeting of the Board of Fisheries and the Council in early December, and also felt that the Tanner crab amendments, troll salmon amendments and the Bering Sea herring FMP were appropriate agenda items. The first week of December was felt to be most appropriate.



## I Proposals, Reports, Contracts

- I-1 Contract 79-4 (An Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fishery Data, ADF&G)

After reviewing the issues of the contract, the Panel indicated that they wished to have Ed Linkous work with the contract monitoring committee throughout the progress of this contract.

- I-2 (A proposal for funding from the CFEC to keypunch and re-edit 1975-78 halibut ticket data)

The Advisory Panel endorsed the proposal for funding and agreed the information would be valuable to the Council.

- I-3 (A proposal for funding to assess the distribution and abundance of certain marine mammal populations in Bristol Bay by Dr. Faye)

The Advisory Panel reviewed the proposal from Dr. Faye and agreed it may have a significant bearing on some of the unanswered marine mammal issues surrounding our Bering Sea FMP especially clams. The Panel, however, was concerned that this one-year study might be used to make inferences about the distribution and abundance of marine mammals for which the data was collected in an atypical year. The Panel has expressed these concerns to the SSC and has asked for their expert advice on the research design and proposed analysis of results.

- I-4 (A request for a proposal to provide for information which will indicate whether access to the halibut fishery in Alaska should be limited.)

After reviewing the draft RFP, the Panel agreed with the language in the request for proposal and believes it should be released and that the study should be conducted. They wished to include members Alverson and Otness on any Council subcommittee reviewing the proposals and monitoring the contract.

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September 27, 1979

## ADVISORY PANEL NOMINEES

1. Alvin Burch  
Manager  
Alaska Shrimp Trawlers Association  
Kodiak, Alaska
2. \*Albert L. Comiskey  
Chief, Environmental Services Branch  
National Weather Service  
Anchorage, Alaska
3. Paula Easley  
Executive Director  
Resource Development Council  
Anchorage, Alaska
4. Gilbert Gunderson  
Board of Directors, Sealaska Corporation  
Executive Committee member, Tlingit & Haida Central Council  
Anchorage, Alaska
5. Jim Guiney  
Icicle Seafoods  
processing worker  
Petersburg, Alaska  
nominated by International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union
6. R. Eldridge Hicks  
Ruskin, Barker & Hicks  
Attorneys at Law  
fishery expertise  
Anchorage, Alaska
7. Eric Jordon  
commercial fisherman  
active in local fish advisory board  
Sitka, Alaska
8. Herman Kitka, Sr.  
Vice Chairman  
Northern Southeast Regional Acuaculture Assn.  
Sitka, Alaska

\* applied for last AP vacancies

9. \*David R. Milholland  
former president  
Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association  
commercial fisherman  
Anacortes, Washington
10. \*Harry R. Mitchell  
retired U.S. Air Force, telecommunications  
fulltime commercial fisherman  
Anchorage, Alaska
11. Ed Naughton  
Alaska Representative  
KMIDC  
Anchorage, Alaska
12. Sharon Newsome  
Staff member  
Alaska Trollers Association  
Ketchikan, Alaska
13. William H. Scott  
-Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, & Co.  
CPA  
-Honorary Consul for Denmark in Anchorage (bottomfish)  
Anchorage, Alaska
14. Harris Teo  
Chairman  
Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission  
Portland, Oregon
15. \*John J. Trautner  
-self-employed  
Alyeska Management Services  
-Vice president  
Camero Trading, Inc. and Alaska Sea Pack, Inc.  
commercial salmon processing operation  
Girdwood, Alaska
16. Craig Wiese  
Instructor of Marine Science  
Marine Advisory Program  
University of Alaska  
Cordova, Alaska

17. David M. Woodruff  
-Manager, part-owner  
Alaska Fresh Seafoods  
-Chairman, ADF&G Advisory Board  
Kodiak, Alaska

18. Marvin Yoder  
Manager  
Norton Sound Fishermen's Cooperative  
Unalakleet  
Ketchikan, Alaska

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Certified By: S. Pennoyer  
Chairman

Date: 10-30-79

DRAFT MINUTES  
SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE  
October 2-3, 1979  
Sitka, Alaska

The SSC meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on October 2, 1979 by Chairman Steve Pennoyer. The following SSC members were present:

Steve Pennoyer, Chairman  
Jack Robinson, Vice Chairman  
Al Millikan  
Dr. Richard Marasco  
Dr. Ed Miles  
Dr. Frank Fukuhara  
Dr. Robert L. Burgner  
Don Rosenberg  
Jack Lechner

The Chairman welcomes Dr. Robert L. Burgner and Dr. Richard Marasco, the two new members of the Committee.

The following items were discussed by the SSC but were not on the Council's agenda.

#### FMP Development Team Membership Review

The SSC reviewed a list of Development Team Members and appointed or reconfirmed an SSC Subgroup to review each of the plans. The Subgroups are as follows:

#### Clam FMP (This group had been appointed previously)

Don Rosenberg (Leader)  
Jack Robinson  
Jim Balsiger

#### King Crab FMP

Frank Fukuhara (Leader)  
Jack Lechner  
Jack Robinson/Steve Pennoyer  
George Rogers  
Robert L. Burgner

Tanner Crab FMP

Frank Fukuhara (Leader)  
Jack Lechner  
Jack Robinson/Steve Pennoyer  
George Rogers  
Robert L. Burgner

Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish & Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP's

Richard Marasco (Leader)  
Ed Miles  
Jack Robinson  
Al Millikan

Halibut FMP

Steve Pennoyer (Leader)  
Ed Miles  
Don Rosenberg

Herring FMP (This Subgroup had been appointed previously)

Al Millikan (Leader)  
Steve Pennoyer  
George Rogers

Troll Salmon FMP

Robert L. Burgner (Leader)  
Don Rosenberg

The SSC also discussed composition of the Plan Development Teams after implementation of the Plan, and the role of the PDT in plan review. In terms of plan amendment, the present teams which developed the plans may no longer be appropriate to the amendment process. It is possible that each agency should identify their manager responsible for amendment proposals and coordinate this through the Council staff. The Council schedule for amendments needs to be better formalized and coordinated with various other agency and regulatory body requirements. Teams are still appropriate to address questions from the Council or SSC on specific study needs. However, composition of these teams may vary with topic.

King Crab FMP Update Report

In a memorandum dated August 20, 1979, the Plan Review Team consolidated the comments of the SSC membership for consideration by the PDT of the King Crab FMP. The PDT responded to the SSC's comments in a memorandum dated September 24, 1979. On September 25, 1979 a meeting was held in Seattle between the two groups to determine the procedure by which the PDT would further proceed with the completion of the King Crab FMP.

The Plan Review Team's principal concerns dealt with the Plan's lack of alternative management schemes and the adequacy of the data to support current king crab management regimes which were proposed for continuation in the FMP.

The meeting was not successful in totally reconciling the differences in viewpoint between the PDT and Review Team. The meeting did, however, clarify the respective team views and set some guidelines for redrafting the FMP.

It was conceded that to satisfactorily answer all questions raised by all reviewers might not be accomplished within a reasonable time frame because of inadequacies in the data base, our relatively short history of experience in king crab management and the voluminous data base and literature which has not yet been examined.

All present at the meeting agreed it was desirable to have a King Crab FMP in place for the 1981 season. Therefore, further analyses should be confined to existing data. Much of this analyses should be contained in the model studies now being done by Drs. Marasco and Reeves.

As a result of revisions, some of which will be keyed to the results of the Marasco-Reeves simulation studies, the time schedule for completion of the first draft of the King Crab FMP has now been rescheduled from January of 1980 to March, 1980. This should provide sufficient lead time for implementation of the Plan for the 1981 season.

#### SSC Meeting

The next SSC meeting will be in Anchorage on November 27th for one day only (if possible). There will be a Subgroup review team meeting in Juneau on November 19th to discuss the Salmon Plan. The November 27th meeting was decided on in order to avoid conflicts of commitments with the Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings the week of the Council meeting.

#### Review of OTA Staff Planning Paper Entitled "Future Needs in Ocean Research Technology"

The SSC undertook a preliminary review of the Office of Technology Assessment Planning Paper on the Study of Future Needs in Ocean Research Technology. Frank Fukuhara of the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center informed the Committee that the document is currently under review of the Center's Ocean Research Staff and that their review will be made available to the Committee. The SSC therefore decided to withhold detailed comment until the Center's staff review is available to the Committee.

FCMA Oversight Hearings, (Council Agenda Item F-1)

The Committee reviewed the report of the September 11th meeting of the Working Group to Develop Council Testimony for the October Congressional Oversight Hearings. They reviewed each individual item and had no problems with any of the recommendations except (5) regarding data on the nature and extent of the recreational harvest being sufficient for the preparation of fishery management plans. The SSC feels that it is adequate for now, but see it as a possible problem much later.

The SSC again brought up the matter of reimbursement for certain SSC members who are not representatives of any agency. They feel that they could be reimbursed for their time.

SSC Comments on the Scheduling Subcommittee Report (Council Agenda Item F-3)

The SSC reviewed the Scheduling Subcommittee Report. We approved the proposed schedule for the development of the Surf Clam and the amended schedule for the King Crab Fishery Management Plan. The annual review cycles for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea Groundfish Fishery Management Plans were also approved. The SSC pointed out that although the report assumes the review will be undertaken by the Plan Drafting Teams, the basic question of whether the responsibility for monitoring the fishery should be taken by a team, an agency or an individual has not yet been addressed. The availability of personnel for the review and monitoring of fishery management plans will depend on the administrative schedule of the State and Federal management agencies.

The SSC recommends that the annual review cycle be reviewed by the management agency to ensure that the proposed review schedules are in accordance with their agency requirements. Our Committee review of plan amendments will be facilitated by our formulation of SSC study groups for each plan and the schedules as given are acceptable to our work.

Tanner Crab FMP Amendment (Council Agenda Item G-2)

The SSC met jointly with the AP and reviewed the status of the Tanner crab resource in the eastern Bering Sea. The Committee and the Panel received a presentation by Dr. Jerry Reeves and was provided a paper by the National Marine Fisheries Service on the 1979 assessment of the Tanner crab stocks in the eastern Bering Sea. We also received and discussed the AP subcommittee's report on the preliminary estimate of 1980 U.S. catch and processing capacity for C. opilio. Additionally, we had a presentation by ADF&G staff on the status of the 1979 crab fishery including timing of catch and price and the expansion of the fishing fleet.



A representative of the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry made a presentation and provided data to the SSC on the Japanese Tanner Crab eastern Bering Sea 1979 season and their projections for the 1980 U.S. catch.

The SSC noted the following:

1. The NMFS survey estimated that ABC for C. bairdi is down 30% from the 1978 estimate to 27 million pounds with a range of 22-33 million pounds. For C. opilio the total ABC is estimated to be 126 million pounds with a range of 103 to 153 million pounds. These estimates are similar to the 1978 estimates.

The survey indicates that the ABC north of 58°N is estimated to be 4 million pounds. During the testimony of the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry verbal testimony was presented that their data indicated the population north of 58° was similar to the 1979 fishing season. No written report or data was provided.

The Committee accepted the NMFS estimates for ABC as the best available data.

2. That the ADF&G fleet data indicates that there has been a 40% increase in the vessels in the king crab fishery this fall. It is expected that this increase will also occur in the Tanner crab industry.

3. That the NMFS report indicates a 30% decline in the C. bairdi population.

4. That a relatively low price is being paid U.S. fishermen for king crab this season which will probably increase the U.S. fishermen's interest in the Tanner crab fishery.

5. The AP subpanel report indicated that the U.S. industry will have both the harvesting and processing capacity (129.6 million pounds) to utilize the total ABC estimates for C. opilio (126.0 million pounds).

6. That the U.S. industry indicated that there is a possible depressent effect on the U.S. marketing potential of any Tanner crab TALFF.

The SSC did have concern with:

1. Last year's catch by Japan north of 58° was 3 times what the NMFS 1978 survey indicates was available to be harvested.

2. There is a total lack of data available to us on potential markets for U.S. C. opilio or the possible effects of a TALFF on those markets.

The SSC therefore recommends the following for Council consideration in view of the data presented and the uncertainties:

1. That the Council accept the NMFS estimates of ABC and that they set OY equal to ABC.
2. That the Council accept the AP subcommittee recommendation of DAH for C. opilio.
3. That the Council amend the plan to allow the Council to release DAH to TALFF in the event that a limited surplus is available. The best mechanism for doing so needs to be explored.
4. That the Council review U.S. fleet performance and marketing factors during the coming season and by May 1 assess DAH in regards to (a) U.S. ability to harvest the remaining OY taking into consideration such items as ice and weather conditions, and total fleet performance, (b) the area of the U.S. fishery, and (c) potential effects on the market of any foreign harvest.
5. If a TALFF is appropriate, the Japanese fishery north of 58° should be closely monitored to assess what part of the population is available in that area and the season shortened as appropriate.

I wish to emphasize that the Committee is very uncomfortable with a decision dependent on presently unpredictable marketing information. All we can suggest is that the Council adopt a mechanism to preserve its flexibility to respond to various situations.

#### SSC Charter Review (Council Agenda Item H-2)

The SSC reviewed the Charter and asks that Council approve consideration of an 11th member being added to the Committee. This would be a Marine Mammal Specialist. The SSC feels that the expertise now on the Committee is needed and that in order to have a marine mammal specialist on the Committee that the 11th member be approved. The SSC does have two resumes at present for consideration as that member. We understand Charter amendments may take three months for approval. We chose not to review candidates until at least Council concurrence for an amendment is assured.

Contracts, Reports, Proposals (Council Agenda Item I)

I-1 Contract 79-4; A Study and Analysis of Troll Salmon Fisheries Data by ADF&G: The Committee learned that this contract had been signed and that those portions of the contract which the SSC had questioned had been resolved. The SSC appointed a subgroup consisting of Dr. Burgner and Don Rosenberg to follow the progress of the contract. The full revised contract was provided us at this meeting and was not reviewed by the Committee as a whole.

I-2 A Proposal for Funding: To Key punch and Re-edit 1975-78 Halibut Fish Ticket Data: The SSC reviewed the proposal from the Limited Entry Commission. The Committee felt that the information gained for this study will benefit the Council in its future work on limited entry in the halibut fishery. The Committee recommended that the Introduction to the proposal be expanded to include the Council interest in this research. The Committee felt that the proposed funding level was reasonable and recommended that it be funded by the Council.

I-3 A Proposal for Funding: To Assess the Distribution and Abundance of certain Marine Mammal Population (walrus) in Bristol Bay by Bud Fay (University of Alaska). The SSC reviewed the proposal by Bud Fay and requested some additional reviews before any decision could be reached. Specifically, the Committee questioned whether a one year study could adequately survey and address the distribution and abundance of walrus in a meaningful manner. It appeared that significant fluctuations from year to year in the distribution and abundance of walrus in Bristol Bay may lead to incomplete or an inaccurate prediction.

The SSC has requested a review of the proposal by the Marine Mammal Section of the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center and by John Burns, ADF&G, Fairbanks.

Additionally, the Committee recommends that a subgroup of Jim Balsiger and Don Rosenberg be assigned to meet with Bud Fay to explore the concerns of the SSC. The proposal will be considered in December.

I-4 A Draft of a Request for Proposal (RFP): To provide information which will indicate whether access to the halibut fishery in Alaska should be limited. The SSC reviewed the draft halibut limited entry RFP and generally concurred with its purpose and work elements. The Committee did raise the question of clarifying the purpose of the study as it may relate to the goals and objectives of the Halibut Fishery Management Plan. Additionally, the Committee felt the work elements might need restating in order to provide a clearer picture to any potential contractor who may wish to submit a proposal. The Committee assigned a working group consisting of Drs. Marasco and Miles to work with Bruce Hart to address these concerns. A redrafted and complete RFP should be available in December.