

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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MINUTES
SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
November 28-29, 1978

The SSC meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Pennoyer at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 1978. Following members were present:

Steve Pennoyer
Jack Robinson
Don Rosenberg
Jack Lechner
Al Millikan
Frank Fukahara

Don Bevan and Ed Miles joined the meeting on Tuesday afternoon and George Rogers was present on Wednesday, November 29th. The SSC also met on Thursday, November 30th from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

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The report was not available but will be mailed later in December and considered by the SSC in January. The report will be made available to the King Crab Management Team shortly and the delay is not expected to effect the development of the plan.

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This date would give agencies and the public time to summarize their remarks and findings for presentation to the Board of Fisheries at their meeting in early April.

There are problems with organizing a workshop of this scope in the time allotted and it was suggested that the Workshop Committee should proceed as presently scheduled, see what kind of responses they get and if necessary accept some delay, perhaps to early March.

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The steering committee had recommended that a questionnaire be developed to assess various users' needs for information as a basis for deciding the scope and contents of the systems being developed. We reviewed a draft questionnaire and decided that the results would probably not provide the desired direction. The contractor, based its own experience and advice from the steering committee, should develop the system capable of delivering all the basic fish ticket data. Formats and types of summaries provided to various users can be determined later. Additional programming required for special reports may be subject to charges to users.

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The SSC has requested that the team review plan content and scheduling with the Committee at the January meeting.

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The SSC does not think this will solve the problem since some species OY's will still be very small. The real answer probably lies with examination of need for different area OY's by individual species plus some added flexibility for the Regional Director to implement these changes. This does not seem technically feasible for implementation in this plan draft.

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Amendment #13 - This amendment was delayed by the processor until the January meeting.

Amendment #14 - Suggestion rejection. Escape clause now exists for Regional Director to change release if data is presented that it is not appropriate. Schedule puts affected individuals on notice that they must substantiate their expected harvest periodically and guards against need for massive last minute reallocations.

Squid - 2000 - 3300 mt - No real data on rationale given originally in setting at 2000. Testimony presented by Mr. Larkins suggests an OY of 5000 mt would be acceptable and would in essence eliminate the allocation problem. The SSC recommends this change.

Coded Wire Tag Recovery

Committee notes real problem is a lack of planning and responsibility taken by those marking fish for the recovery effort. Some form of coastwide coordination of this is needed and the Committee suggests that the two Councils, State and Federal Government perhaps in coordination through PMFC get together and determine how recovery effort should be funded.

The Committee agrees the Council should support this project for one more year with the understanding that the State is planning on funding a recovery effort in 1980 and pending the study suggested above for coastwide recovery funding. We do note that a large number of native

Alaskan chinook and coho marked fish are returning in 1979 which may not be recovered and analyzed without this support. We do, however, understand that the State provided some funding to this project in 1978 and the total \$156,000 request does not allow for this. State representatives present indicated that this support was a mixture of project contributions some of which are not available in 1980. Nevertheless, this amounted to some \$30,000 and significant amounts may be available this year. We suggest the Council request the State provide hard estimates of the funds available by the January meeting and agree in principal to fund the balance less \$44,000 from the Pacific Council for this year only, dependent on availability of the total research funding budget which we did not have available. Amounts less than full funding will result in some reduction in sampling but not knowing the level the Council might be willing to fund, we were not able to explore this aspect.

University of Washington Proposal - "Stock Identification of Troll-Caught Chinook Salmon off Southeastern Alaska by Scale Pattern Analysis.

We note that the proposal is not for stock identification but a feasibility study and assessment for applying the technique of scale pattern analysis to stock identification of troll-caught chinook salmon off S.E. Alaska. In view of the need for immediate data on stock identification and that the micro-wire tag recovery project is providing data now we assign the micro-wire tag recovery program a higher priority.

PICES

We support concept and generally agree with the first draft Charter detailing exchange of scientific information but avoiding a direct management discussion. This Charter will have input from other countries in January.

CERTIFIED BY: _____
Steve Pennoyer, SSC Chairman

DATE: _____

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CERTIFIED BY: _____
Steve Pennoyer, SSC Chairman

DATE: _____

appendix E

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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MINUTES
SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
November 28-29, 1978

The SSC meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Pennoyer at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 1978. Following members were present:

Steve Pennoyer
Jack Robinson
Don Rosenberg
Jack Lechner
Al Millikan
Frank Fukahara

Don Bevan and Ed Miles joined the meeting on Tuesday afternoon and George Rogers was present on Wednesday, November 29th. The SSC also met on Thursday, November 30th from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Review of King Crab Management Strategies

The report was not available but will be mailed later in December and considered by the SSC in January. The report will be made available to the King Crab Management Team shortly and the delay is not expected to effect the development of the plan.

Shrimp Workshop

The SSC reviewed progress on the shrimp workshop tentatively scheduled for the the Elks Club in Kodiak on February 12, 13 and 14. Letters have gone out to different countries to request participation, but replies have just barely started to come back.

This date would give agencies and the public time to summarize their remarks and findings for presentation to the Board of Fisheries at their meeting in early April.

There are problems with organizing a workshop of this scope in the time allotted and it was suggested that the Workshop Committee should proceed as presently scheduled, see what kind of responses they get and if necessary accept some delay, perhaps to early March.

SSC Membership

The SSC reviewed two resumes from fisheries economists interested in participating on the SSC. We unanimously recommend Dr. James Crutchfield, an economist with the University of Washington, as the tenth member. Mr. Martin, the second nominee was found to be most qualified and highly recommended. Certainly choice of a world renowned expert of Dr. Crutchfield's calibre is no adverse reflection on Mr. Martin's ability. We thank him for his interest and hope to work with him in the future.

ADF&G Contracts Review

We reviewed the recommendations of the contract steering committee for the ADF&G Contract to develop a computerized information system, dated October 6. This report is now out of date and we understand a progress report will be made available to the SSC at the January meeting.

The steering committee had recommended that a questionnaire be developed to assess various users' needs for information as a basis for deciding the scope and contents of the systems being developed. We reviewed a draft questionnaire and decided that the results would probably not provide the desired direction. The contractor, based its own experience and advice from the steering committee, should develop the system capable of delivering all the basic fish ticket data. Formats and types of summaries provided to various users can be determined later. Additional programming required for special reports may be subject to charges to users.

The Committee pointed out that the question of data confidentiality had not been solved. The State currently cannot provide (present interpretation) individual fish tickets which may be necessary for research to the Council or NMFS. Methods for correcting this need to be pursued.

University of Washington/FRI Final Report - "Investigations on the Continental Origin of Sockeye and Coho Salmon in the Area of the Japanese Landbased Fishery"

We reviewed the report in respect to satisfaction of contract requirements. We noted Tasks 1, 4 and 5 were completed as requested. Tasks 2 and 3 were not completely satisfied due to no fault of the contractor. Methodology of applying scale character analysis to separation of sockeye continent of origin in the area of the high seas fishery was adequately assessed and important characters determined. It was not determined whether adequate samples were available to establish Asian standards annually or from the landbased fishing area to examine. We were verbally informed that cooperative data exchanges were planned between U.S./U.S.S.R and Japanese scientists and the NMFS plans to continue funding this work.

We recommend payment of the contract.

Comprehensive Salmon Plan for SE Coho and Chinook Salmon

The SSC reviewed a document presented by ADF&G as to scope, time frame and plan development team composition. We suggested some modifications to this document and the State is going to present a revised document to you. We understand that the Department has not yet presented this proposal to the Board of Fisheries. They will probably be considering this concept at their meeting in Juneau next week.

The SSC has requested that the team review plan content and scheduling with the Committee at the January meeting.

Bering Sea Shrimp FMP

The SSC reviewed the Bering Sea Shrimp FMP with Paul Anderson and Jerry McCrary of the Plan Development Team. We recommend the Council not send this plan out for public review at this time. We feel it is basically a well written document but there is considerable redrafting necessary and clarification of ABC and OY considerations are required. The SSC has requested the team consider a number of modifications which will require time to complete. There is apparently no necessity to send the plan forward at this meeting and the SSC suggests delaying final consideration to the January meeting.

Tetra Tech (Study on Effects of Hydraulic Clam Harvesting

The SSC reviewed three items relating to the Tetra Tech Contract:

- a. A revised events schedule for the contract, delaying submission of the final report and allowing for an inhouse review of the draft final report and subsequent defense (and/or changes) by the contractor. This is a no cost extension and the SSC feels this should be accepted.
- b. A proposal from Tetra Tech requesting an additional \$9,500 to conduct a stomach analysis profile from trawl-caught benthic fish in the study area. The SSC felt this might be interesting to know, however does not feel at this time that this is a research priority or would substantially contribute to developing the plan for clam harvest in the Bering Sea.
- c. A cumulative billing to date for all work done by Tetra Tech on this contract for \$87,778.37. The SSC stated they do not necessarily feel it is their responsibility to deal with billing unless it is a question of whether the performance to date on the contract justifies payment or not. The SSC notes that some 20% is being withheld pending final report completion and that amount seems adequate to cover the problems in performance experienced to date.

Report From Bering Sea Herring FMP Drafting Team

Mssrs. Ron Regnart, Richard Randall, Louis Barton, Vidar Weststad and Jeff Skrade (for Mike Nelson) presented an oral and written briefing report on their progress to date to the SSC. They summarized life history, subsistence use, domestic and foreign fishery, status of stocks and management measures being considered in the draft plan. The SSC complimented the Team on their progress to date and their report. The Committee made some suggestions on plan content. The Team plans to mail the plan out prior to March Council meeting.

Proposal-Assessment of Spawning Herring Stocks At Selected Coastal Areas in the Eastern Bering Sea

The SSC reviewed a document from ADF&G detailing study objectives and general procedures to be followed in the second year of this Council funded project. The document will form the basis for drafting of a formal contract. The SSC suggested some modification but generally approved the document. The Council has already approved funding the second year.

The Department was still requested to present detailed season operational plans to the SSC for review when available.

Tanner Crab

NMFS representatives presented data to the SSC on the results of the 1978 Bering Sea Tanner crab trawl survey. The survey indicates a substantial reduction in the availability of legal male bairdi to approximately 1/2 of the 1978 level. Unresolved questions regarding the survey results include: lack of an explanation for apparent disappearance of so many crab from so many age classes since 1977 - even in sizes not available in the fishery and a similar drop in opilio numbers; opposite picture for king crab populations holding at a high population level; lack of data presented at this time on 1978 fishery performance in comparison with the survey results. Possible variability in availability of Tanner crab to the survey gear was discussed but no conclusions were reached.

It was the Committee's recommendation that no particular action be taken at this time. Managers and industry must recognize that the survey indicates a probable reduction in male crab over 135 mm in 1979, but the degree of this reduction is uncertain and fishery performance in season will probably form the basis for management of the harvest.

The Committee does want to point out that testimony presented on age class relative abundance still indicates that the downturn in Tanner crab abundance forecasted by Dr. Alverson is still in the picture starting in 1980 or 81 and extending for 2 or 3 years. Even if 1979 is not the start of the downturn and harvests turn out not to be as poor as the survey results indicate, the Council and industry should recognize that

there is a period of belt tightening ahead. No management strategy can eliminate this but questions of modifications in size limits and/or exploitation rates have been raised as possible ways to moderate effects of this decline on the fishery. Careful consideration of the effects of such strategies require more analysis of forecasted recruitment by year, reexamination of yield per recruit analysis and age and growth data studies. Tanner crab drafting team and agency members present indicated such analysis could be presented the Committee by this spring in advance of plan amendments for the 1980 fishery.

It was mentioned by an Advisory Panel member that it might be desirable to express OY as a range so fishermen did not feel the single point was a guarantee. It was also discussed that the OY number if not reached did not require reallocation to foreign fleets the following or same year if the reasons were primarily stock related. The Committee points out that other OY's in the plan are expressed as ranges. The upper end of the range under present interpretation is a ceiling but any lower figure is not restrictive on management. Some discussion needs to take place as to where forecasts of abundance are included in plans but in the long run it probably does not belong as an OY concept unless OY is reinterpreted as a forecast.

High Seas Salmon Fishery Final Plan Draft

The SSC had no time to completely edit the draft plan but did go over highlights regarding SSC concerns and Council recommendations made at the last meeting. We felt that the plan adequately addressed these requirements and should be sent forward. A few minor editorial changes were suggested.

AEIDC

A letter soliciting Council interest in a formal proposal to assess bottomfish processing capacity and intent of domestic processors from AEIDC was discussed. The Committee does not believe any data of long term usefulness not already being collected by others would result from such a study. A study by Frank Orth on market structure is due for spring of 1979 release which may answer some of these questions. The Office of the Governor has also commissioned studies on groundfish development. We recommend the Council take no further action on this proposal.

Domestic Groundfish Observer Report

The Committee reviewed the Annual Report from ADF&G with the project leader. The report does not present any detail on progress of a number of the contract tasks but verbal discussion indicated these tasks have been addressed, data is being analyzed and results will be reported to the SSC shortly.

Reporting

Levels of reporting requirements for harvests by domestic joint ventures and foreign fisheries for crab and groundfish were discussed. It was noted that these requirements are not consistent, e.g., a domestic fisherman delivering to a shore based processor reports under the State stat area system but under joint venture permits can later report harvests only by 1/2 by 1° areas. There was some discussion of the advantages of the State ecological zone stat areas vs. the INPFC system. Appropriate parties were requested to present an analysis of this problem at the January meeting.

Dames & Moore Socio-Economic Study

The SSC had no further recommendations beyond those made at the last meeting.

Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Committee received presentations from Mr. Jay Hastings, representative for the Japanese Deep Sea Trawlers Association and Mr. Carl Mundt representing the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association. Both groups presented written documentations supporting their views regarding the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP. We also reviewed the summary on amendments requiring action from the Council staff dated November 27, 1978 and other documents with Bert Larkins.

Amendment #1 - Japanese longliners are preparing further information regarding blackcod status of stocks which will be presented at the January meeting. They state that withholding of release of reserves in January will provide a buffer against any damage to the stocks prior to any modification of the OY. Mr. Larkins concurred in this view.

The Committee is also interested in receiving further analysis on rates of rebuilding at differing levels of OY relative to whatever final ABC is chosen. We have requested this analysis for the January meeting and suggest the Council defer action to that time.

Amendment #2 - Further data on Davidson's bank will be presented in January.

Amendments #3 & 4 - Based on testimony from Mr. Larkins a blackcod incidental catch rate of 1.5% seems high for joint ventures. 0.5% would be more appropriate for a true directed pollock fishery. Perhaps joint venture harvest should be considered part of DAH as an actual tonnage limit to be based on realistic appraisal of joint venture performance and use. It would appear that 1500 mt is far too high although we note one application is requesting 400 mt of blackcod as a permit allocation.

The Committee does want to note that restrictions on joint venture harvest in face of a large unused reserve constitutes an allocation to foreign and/or domestic longline gear instead of domestic trawl gear.

Amendment #5 - The Committee did not consider this proposed amendment as it was withdrawn.

Amendment #6 - In discussions with Mr. Larkins regarding the 25% winter month foreign trawl harvest restriction, it was brought out that the DAH reserve allocation procedure has probably rendered this restriction meaningless. Time/area closures and gear restrictions are the important measures for halibut protection. The 25% restriction may actually impair the ability to take late reallocations of reserves or DAH. The Committee recommends acceptance of this amendment.

Amendment #7 - The questions of modifying or eliminating the present 5 separate regulatory areas for groundfish harvest generated much discussion and confusion. It is evident that the present system causes foreign fleets much operational difficulty, particularly since final division of OY for minor species to the 5 areas and then national allocations results in some very small individual quotas they must work around. Mr. Larkins' opinion is that reduction to 3 areas would not have any significant biological effect.

The SSC does not think this will solve the problem since some species OY's will still be very small. The real answer probably lies with examination of need for different area OY's by individual species plus some added flexibility for the Regional Director to implement these changes. This does not seem technically feasible for implementation in this plan draft.

The Japanese have agreed to present more detailed information on their operational difficulties to assist choice of appropriate area changes and the team has agreed to examine possible effects of various area combinations for different species. This will be presented in January.

The present 5 areas were supported in public testimony for OY reasons - to prevent foreign concentration on specific areas perhaps adversely affecting domestic harvests. The Committee suggests sending the 3 area amendments out to public hearing for the January meeting, review of the analyses suggested above and a decision at that time.

Amendment #8 - The SSC recommends rejection of this proposal. We recognize the problem and indeed the Council has an incidental species committee looking at this problem. There should be other methods, perhaps in the manner species allocations are made, of dealing with this. Some relaxation of the regulation areas partially answers this on a temporary basis but in the long term other solutions should be sought such as regroupings of

areas and species coupled perhaps with flexibility in the Regional Director's administration of this section. These are beyond the present amendment's capacity. Presently this restriction is the primary deterrent against targetting and overharvest of non-target species.

Amendment #9 - The amendment was withdrawn and therefore the SSC did not consider.

Amendment #10 - This was an inadvertent omission by the team, recommend adoption.

Amendment #11 - This amendment was withdrawn therefore the SSC did not consider.

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