

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman  
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue  
Post Office Mall Building



Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 271-4064

Certified By: *Donald H. Rosenberg*  
Date: *March 9, 1981*

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES: February 24-25, 1981  
Anchorage, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage, February 24 and 25, 1981. Members present were:

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman  
Richard Marasco, Vice Chairman  
Al Millikan  
Larry Hreha  
Ed Miles  
John Burns  
Jack Lechner  
William Aron  
John Clark (alternate for Steve Pennoyer who resigned January 1981)

The SSC subgroups for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska FMP's met Monday, February 23rd, with members from the PDT's and also members from the Advisory Panel groundfish FMP subgroups. The SSC subgroups reports which were presented to the SSC on Tuesday, February 24th.

## E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

The SSC reviewed the Amendment #1 dated October 7, 1980 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP. With regard to the proposed amendments to the Sections 11 and 12 of the plan (i.e. optimum yield and allocation procedures), the SSC recommends Option 1 as proposed by the PDT. This option provides a range for OY from 1.4 to 2.0 million metric tons. The SSC was concerned by the method for releasing the reserves which is provided for in Option 1. We find that the release method proposed provides less flexible than that in Option 2. The Option 1 release mechanism offers less possibility for the orderly attainment of OY. The SSC therefore recommends the adoption of the release procedures provided in Option 2. The SSC notes that there is a lack of a well defined, orderly procedure for moving from the Initial TAC to Final TAC in both Options 1 and 2.

The SSC reviewed the proposed change to Section 14 (i.e. management regime) to the FMP. The proposed management objectives were found to be satisfactory as was the proposed change in the fishing year making it the same as the calendar year.

With regard to domestic fishery area restrictions, the SSC concurs with the PDT that domestic trawlers be permitted to operate more freely in Areas A and B. However, the SSC strongly recommends that new and expanding domestic fisheries in these areas be required to utilize gear which would have the least adverse impact on non-targeted resources. The SSC is concerned about the potential adverse impact that these developing fisheries could have on the resources in these areas. As an example, an expanded domestic trawl fishery in the Halibut Savings Area may be detrimental to the goal of reducing incidental catch of halibut. The SSC also notes that any such restrictions should involve a careful analysis of relative costs and benefit from both a conservation and socioeconomic standpoint.

The SSC concurs with the recommendation regarding Domestic Fishery in-season adjustment of time and area and with the recommendation regarding foreign area restrictions. The SSC supports the recommendation regarding the procedures for foreign fishing in-season adjustment of time and areas. These procedures involve authority and flexibility granted to the NMFS Regional Director.

The SSC reviewed the proposed amendment closing the INPFC Areas I and II to all trawling from October 1 to March 31. The SSC considers that time/area closures are an extreme approach to the solution of the prohibited species issue. Although time/area closures are the easiest management regime to enforce, they are the least flexible and may preclude realization of optimum yield from the fishery. Time and area closures may be best suited for short-term relief of specific problems relative to protection of single species. In the instance of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery complex, an array of prohibited species are involved including salmon, crab, herring and halibut. The SSC finds that this proposed time/area closure will not serve to protect halibut. Therefore, the possible gains which accrue to one species and the users of that species are offset by potential losses to another species.

The SSC therefore, although not in unanimous agreement; recommends against the proposed time/area closure.

The SSC continued its consideration of this important matter of the incidental catches of prohibited species in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area. Our conclusions are as follows:

1. considering all sources of high seas interception of chinook salmon, there is a very significant removal of fish which would otherwise return to Alaskan streams and rivers to spawn;
2. an important component of foreign fishing efforts which intercept chinook salmon of Alaskan origin is the trawl fleet operating in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area;
3. from a biological perspective, the best available data for the salmon stocks in question indicate that a conservation issue (i.e. severely depressed stocks) does not exist at this time;

with regard to domestic fisheries were... The NBS considers that the proposed amendments... The NBS also notes that the proposed amendments... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

The NBS concurs with the recommendation regarding... The NBS also notes that the proposed amendments... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

The NBS reviewed the proposed amendments... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

The NBS therefore, although not in unanimous agreement... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

The NBS concurs with the recommendation... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

considered all sources of high level information... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

an important component of foreign fishing effort... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

From a biological perspective, the most available data... and that amendments are not essential to another species.

4. that the magnitude of foreign interception of chinook salmon may be contributing significantly to problems with respect to the management of the chinook resource and has reduced the yield that could be taken by domestic fishermen; and
5. environmental features of the region present severe difficulties in assessing escapement, thus requiring a conservative approach to assure proper management of the resource. This problem is exacerbated by the large offshore incidental catch of chinooks of undetermined origin.

The SSC recommends the following:

1. That the prohibited species amendment dated February 25, 1981, by the PDT be released for public review immediately. Additional comments on this proposed amendment are provided later in this report.
2. That all possible efforts be made to achieve a satisfactory, long-term solution to the problems of incidental catches of prohibited species including chinook salmon; and
3. That the resulting management regime for protecting prohibited species be put in place by October 1, 1981.

The SSC determined if it would recommend any other time/area closure as an interim management measure.

By majority vote the SSC does not recommend time/area closures as a desirable interim measure for addressing the problem of incidental catch of prohibited species in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands foreign trawl fishery.

The majority concluded that when the data on the impact of alternative time/area closures were examined, it became apparent that some domestic fishermen would benefit and others would lose from any such action. Given this fact, it is impossible on scientific grounds to conclude that one outcome is preferable to any other.

The minority view point was as follows:

The conservation of prohibited species in the Bering Sea is of utmost importance to the continued productivity of the species and stocks involved. The present magnitude of the incidental harvests of prohibited species is cause for concern. Conservation of salmon, herring, halibut, and crabs is adversely affected by the trawl fisheries of the Bering Sea which take these fish in large quantities. The high seas mixed stock harvest of salmon and herring seriously complicates the inshore/terminal area management for these species. The conservation and wise use of salmon and halibut is frustrated by the harvest of small immature fish and the loss of productivity of the stocks involved. Furthermore, high rates of harvest of prohibited species results in unacceptable waste (dead loss) which is contrary to acceptable conservation practices.

that the assignment of foreign inspectors of domestic salmon waters  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

2. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

The following are the findings:

1. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

2. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

3. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

4. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

5. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

6. The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

The following are the findings:

The assignment of the manager of the district office to the field  
constituted a significant problem. The assignment of the manager  
of the district office and his staff to the field was  
made by the Board of Directors.

Until such time as a permanent solution to this problem is in effect, some steps should be taken to address the problem on an interim basis. Specific time and area closures of the Bering Sea trawl fisheries are seemingly the only interim measures available to the Council which may affect the harvest of prohibited species. In the absence of interim time and area closures for the protection of prohibited species, there will be no mechanism by which the rate of incidental harvests or the absolute incidental harvest can be reduced. Therefore, in order to prevent the continued high rate of incidental harvests of prohibited species in the Bering Sea, it is recommended by the minority that a four-month closure (November through February) be instituted in either

1. INPFC Areas I and II, or
2. Statistical blocks numbered 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The preferred option by the minority is the closure of statistical blocks 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

The data prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest and Alaska Fishery Center indicate that the closure of Areas I and II result in greater reductions in the harvest of prohibited species. The savings resulting from each of these area closures for the four-month period is as follows:

|             | <u>Closure of<br/>Areas I and II</u> | <u>Closure of<br/>Statistical Blocks<br/>1, 4, 5, 6 and 8</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Groundfish  | 1-2% Decrease                        | No Change   |
| Halibut     | 1-5% Increase                        | 11% Increase  |
| King Crab   | 2-6% Decrease                        | No Change   |
| Tanner Crab | 8-9% Decrease                        | No Change   |
| Salmon      | 55% Decrease                         | 39% Decrease  |
| Herring     | 74% Decrease                         | 67% Decrease  |

The SSC unanimously urges the Council to submit for public review, the proposed Amendment #3 to this plan. The SSC recommends that the schedule for review of proposed Amendment #3 be established to allow the selected amendment to become effective by October 1, 1981.

The SSC found that the issues involved with the protection of prohibited species to be very complicated. Marasco and Terry in their report stated,

"The incidental catch of the groundfish fishery off Alaska includes halibut, salmon, and crab. The retention of the incidental catch of these high-valued species is prohibited in order to eliminate the incentive groundfish vessels would otherwise have to target on them. However, this prohibition does not provide an incentive to avoid incidental catch; and the stress associated with capture, holding, and release is

Each of these is a separate section of the report. It is suggested that the sections be arranged in the following order: 1. Introduction; 2. Objectives; 3. Methods; 4. Results; 5. Discussion; 6. Conclusions; 7. References; 8. Appendixes; 9. Glossary; 10. Index.

1. INTRODUCTION
2. OBJECTIVES

The following is a list of the sections of the report. It is suggested that the sections be arranged in the following order: 1. Introduction; 2. Objectives; 3. Methods; 4. Results; 5. Discussion; 6. Conclusions; 7. References; 8. Appendixes; 9. Glossary; 10. Index.

The following is a list of the sections of the report. It is suggested that the sections be arranged in the following order: 1. Introduction; 2. Objectives; 3. Methods; 4. Results; 5. Discussion; 6. Conclusions; 7. References; 8. Appendixes; 9. Glossary; 10. Index.

1. INTRODUCTION  
2. OBJECTIVES  
3. METHODS  
4. RESULTS  
5. DISCUSSION  
6. CONCLUSIONS  
7. REFERENCES  
8. APPENDICES  
9. GLOSSARY  
10. INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION  
2. OBJECTIVES  
3. METHODS  
4. RESULTS  
5. DISCUSSION  
6. CONCLUSIONS  
7. REFERENCES  
8. APPENDICES  
9. GLOSSARY  
10. INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION  
2. OBJECTIVES  
3. METHODS  
4. RESULTS  
5. DISCUSSION  
6. CONCLUSIONS  
7. REFERENCES  
8. APPENDICES  
9. GLOSSARY  
10. INDEX

The following is a list of the sections of the report. It is suggested that the sections be arranged in the following order: 1. Introduction; 2. Objectives; 3. Methods; 4. Results; 5. Discussion; 6. Conclusions; 7. References; 8. Appendixes; 9. Glossary; 10. Index.

The following is a list of the sections of the report. It is suggested that the sections be arranged in the following order: 1. Introduction; 2. Objectives; 3. Methods; 4. Results; 5. Discussion; 6. Conclusions; 7. References; 8. Appendixes; 9. Glossary; 10. Index.

The following is a list of the sections of the report. It is suggested that the sections be arranged in the following order: 1. Introduction; 2. Objectives; 3. Methods; 4. Results; 5. Discussion; 6. Conclusions; 7. References; 8. Appendixes; 9. Glossary; 10. Index.

sufficient to assure that most of the incidental catch does not survive to enter directed domestic halibut, salmon, or crab fisheries."

The SSC would like to point out to the Council that the PDT has presented in this amendment package an innovative and, in the long-term, beneficial approach to the problem of protecting and enhancing the status of prohibited species. The SSC strongly leans toward the option involving the establishment of incidental allowable catches (IAC) together with imposition of a fee schedule for incidentally-caught prohibited species. We believe that such a management measure would provide ample incentive for foreign fisheries to adopt or develop procedures to significantly reduce the incidental catch of prohibited species. It was noted that this option will require continued, adequate level of observer coverage.

The SSC would like to commend those individuals and agencies which were involved in the preparation of the report entitled "Reducing the Incidental Catch of Prohibited Species by Foreign Groundfish Fisheries in the Bering Sea." This report was the major guideline used by the SSC to review this critical issue.

#### E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The PDT, in developing Amendment #10 to the Gulf of Alaska FMP, attempted to provide a solution to several points of concern associated with groundfish activities in the Eastern Regulatory Area. Issues addressed were:

1. the present condition of Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) stocks;
2. the present condition of sablefish stocks;
3. reported gear conflicts and ground preemptions.

The SSC examined the following information and data prior to the formulation of their recommendation:

1. Gulf of Alaska POP catch data;
2. POP CPUE data for the Southeastern and Yakutat areas;
3. foreign groundfish catches taken from the GOA;
4. sablefish CPUE data for the GOA;
5. results of a Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center report on the abundance of sablefish by Zenger and Hughes; and
6. reports containing information on the number of occurrences of gear conflicts as well as the magnitude of the losses incurred.

Additionally, the SSC received extensive testimony by agencies and industry personnel.

The SSC, based upon the examination of these data and public testimony, finds and makes the following recommendations:

1. With regard to Pacific Ocean Perch that there is a conservation issue, that the POP stocks in this area are severely depressed. The SSC therefore recommends that the ABC and OY for POP in the Eastern



...to ensure that all of the essential information is  
...to ensure that all of the essential information is  
...to ensure that all of the essential information is

The SSC would like to begin with the Council that the SSC has presented  
in their memorandum regarding an executive and in the long-term, beneficial  
approach to the problem of providing and containing the amount of pro-  
vided services. The SSC strongly favors the idea of providing the  
establishment of individualized educational services (IAC) which will improve  
the quality of education for individual students. We believe that such a management  
strategy would provide a more effective and efficient way to provide  
services to students. It is our hope that the SSC will continue to work  
with the Board of Education to develop procedures to significantly reduce  
the financial burden of individualized services. It is our hope that the  
action will require continued, adequate level of financial coverage.

The SSC would like to discuss those individuals and agencies which were  
involved in the preparation of the report entitled "Reducing the  
Financial Burden of Individualized Services by Providing Essential Services in  
the Home." This report was the major submission used by the SSC to  
review this critical issue.

#### Staff of Alaska Department of Education

The SSC, in developing its recommendations, has received information from  
several sources. The following information was provided by the Board of  
Education, the Alaska Department of Education, and the Alaska Department of  
Social Services.

1. The present condition of Alaska (1982) shows
2. the present condition of Alaska (1982) shows
3. the present condition of Alaska (1982) shows

The SSC received the following information and data from the  
Department of Education:

1. 1982 of Alaska for each year
2. 1982 of Alaska for each year
3. 1982 of Alaska for each year
4. 1982 of Alaska for each year
5. 1982 of Alaska for each year
6. 1982 of Alaska for each year

Additionally, the SSC received extensive information from the  
Department of Education.

The SSC has also received information from the Department of  
Education and the Department of Social Services.

The SSC has also received information from the Department of  
Education and the Department of Social Services.

Regulatory Area be reduced from the present ABC of 29,000 mt and the present OY of 14,400 mt to an ABC of 875 mt. We also recommend the OY be set equal to ABC.

2. That DAH for POP in the Eastern Regulatory Area be set at 500 mt. It is the intention of the SSC that this DAH would be used only as an incidental catch to facilitate development of a domestic groundfish fishery.
3. TALFF for POP would therefore be 375 mt in the Eastern Regulatory Area. This would avoid difficulties associated with the addition of POP into the prohibited species category.
4. That foreign trawl fishing be conducted only in mid-water, meaning that trawl gear (doors and nets) shall not be in contact with the seabed and that trawl gear shall consist only of mid-water trawl doors and nets without roller gear.
5. It was noted this method of protection for POP from the foreign trawlers will require a significant increase in the foreign observer coverage. The SSC concurred that in the event the increase observer coverage was not made available, then the only immediate relief for the POP stocks was to close the Eastern Regulatory Area to foreign trawlers.
6. With regard to the sablefish resources, the SSC did not find a conservation issue exists. The SSC concluded that the ABC should remain at 10,500 mt and the OY at 7,100 mt. The SSC believes that the reduction in the foreign catch of sablefish and halibut will occur as a result of the mid-water gear restrictions.
7. In addition to the above, the SSC recommends that efforts be directed toward improving communication between foreign and domestic vessels.

In summary of the four proposed options, the SSC recommends Option 3 modified as follows:

- a) Foreign trawling in the Eastern Regulatory Area will be only with mid-water trawl gear, meaning trawl gear (doors and nets) shall not be in contact with the seabed. Trawl gear shall consist only of mid-water trawl doors and nets without roller gear.
- b) POP TALFF for the Eastern Regulatory Area = 375 mt.
- c) POP DAH = 500 mt.
- d) Sablefish OY will not be increased over current OY.
- e) Present sanctuaries in the Eastern Regulatory Area will be continued.

#### B-8 SSC Appointments

The SSC recommends that Dr. John Clark be appointed to the SSC vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Steve Pennoyer. Dr. Clark is the chief fisheries scientist of the Commercial Fisheries Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Dr. Clark brings to the committee, in

Regulatory Area be reduced from the present 500 to 100 and the  
percentage of 10,000 reduced to 500. It is also suggested that  
the percentage of 10,000 be reduced to 500.

That the 500 in the Eastern Regulatory Area be set at 500 and  
in the Western of the 500 that this 500 would be used only as  
an additional ratio to determine development of a domestic  
groundwater survey.

That the 500 would otherwise be 100 in the Eastern Regulatory  
Area. This would be a different ratio associated with the addition of  
500 and the specified species category.

That foreign travel fishing be conducted only in winter, meaning  
that travel gear (boots and hats) shall not be in contact with the  
rocks and that travel gear shall consist only of an inner travel  
boots and hats without outer gear.

It was noted that this method of providing for the foreign  
waters will require a significant increase in the foreign water  
coverage. The 500 compared to the 1000 the increase observed  
coverage was not made available, thus the only benefit realized for  
the 500 stocks was the close can Eastern Regulatory Area to foreign  
waters.

With regard to the applied research, the 500 did not find a  
convention issue either. The 500 concluded that the 500 should  
remain at 0.500 and the 1000 at 1.000. The 500 believe that  
the reduction in the foreign water of applied and habitat will  
be done as a result of the mid-water gear restrictions.

In addition to the above, the 500 recommended that efforts be  
directed toward improving communication between foreign and domestic  
waters.

In regard to the 500 proposed effort of the 500 recommended effort  
modified as follows:

- (a) Foreign travel in the Eastern Regulatory Area will be only with  
inner travel gear, meaning travel gear (boots and hats) shall not  
be in contact with the rocks. Travel gear shall consist only of  
inner travel boots and hats without outer gear.
- (b) 500 TARE for the Eastern Regulatory Area = 500 and  
(c) 500 500 = 500 and  
(d) 500 500 will not be increased over current 500.  
(e) Present arrangements in the Eastern Regulatory Area will be maintained.

500 Arrangements

The 500 recommended that the 500 be appointed to the 500 committee  
created by the Washington of the State Government. Dr. Clark of the  
Biology Department of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game, Dr. Clark being the coordinator in

addition to his fisheries science expertise and knowledge about Alaskan fisheries, the necessary linkage to the Department's staff and scientists to insure the continuation of the committee ability to fully utilize the full expertise of the department.

The SSC also recommends to the Council that Dr. Steve Langdon be appointed to the SSC vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. George Rogers. The SSC in reaching this recommendation review resumes and recommendations for seven scientists who had indicated a willingness to serve on the SSC. The Committee was impressed and pleased by the interest shown, and the task of making a recommendation was difficult in light of the impressive background of the individual reviewed.

Dr. Langdon is with the Department of Anthropology of the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Dr. Langdon's background and Alaskan experience will complement the existing expertise on the Committee. His Alaskan experience includes both research on the State's limited entry system and on native subsistence issues.

The SSC received a request from Mr. Burns that he be allowed to have an alternate on the SSC. Dr. Burns indicated that his schedule during the next few months would preclude his participation in the SSC. He felt obligated, unless he had an alternate, in resigning from the Committee. The Committee wishes to continue to have Dr. Burns' expertise in the area of marine mammals and ecosystem matters, and, therefore, recommends that Dr. Burns be allowed an alternate.

#### C-1 Joint Venture Data Workgroup Report

The SSC reviewed the report of the Council's workshop to evaluate the need to collect additional data from domestic fishermen and to determine what method would be most effective. The SSC encourages the development of a logbook program to gather additional data. We encourage that the development of the program take place, if possible, in conjunction with the logbook program being developed by the Pacific Council and in cooperation with already existing logbook programs. The SSC has identified three members (Millikan, Lechner, and Marasco) who are willing to work on a Council task force to undertake development of this program. The SSC did note that to be effective, the results from such a logbook program must be made immediately available to the industry.

#### F-1 Contracts

##### Contract 81-3

The final report on Contract 81-3, "A Comparison of Pacific Halibut and Tanner Crab Catches in (1) Side-entry and Top-entry Crab Pots, and (2) Side-entry Crab Pots with and without Tanner Boards," was received in late January 1981. The revised text incorporates most of the comments and criticisms contained in the SSC's review of the first draft and now constitutes a complete and acceptable report.

...to his fisheries science expertise and knowledge about Alaska  
fisheries, the necessary linkage to the Department's current and potential  
to improve the coordination of the committee's ability to fully utilize the  
full capabilities of the Department.

The SSC also recommended that the Department should have a  
representative on the SSC from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
appointed to the SSC to ensure that the Department's current and potential  
to improve the coordination of the committee's ability to fully utilize the  
full capabilities of the Department.

Dr. Jorgensen is with the Department of Anthropology of the University of  
Alaska, Fairbanks. Dr. Jorgensen's research interests are in the  
evolution of the human brain and the evolution of the human brain.  
His research interests are in the evolution of the human brain and the  
evolution of the human brain.

The SSC also recommended that the Department should have a  
representative on the SSC from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
appointed to the SSC to ensure that the Department's current and potential  
to improve the coordination of the committee's ability to fully utilize the  
full capabilities of the Department.

Joint Alaska Data Workshop Report

The SSC reviewed the report of the committee's workshop to evaluate the  
need to collect additional data from commercial fishermen and to determine  
what methods would be most effective. The SSC encourages the development  
of a logbook program to gather additional data. We encourage that the  
development of the program take place in partnership with the fishermen and  
the logbook program being developed by the Alaska Council and the Department  
with already existing logbook programs. The SSC has identified  
three members (William, Kenneth, and Raymond) who are willing to work on  
a committee to coordinate the development of this program. The SSC  
will continue to be effective, the results from such a logbook program  
must be made immediately available to the fisheries.

William

William

The final report on Contract 81-1, "A Comparison of Pacific Halibut and  
Tanner Chum Stocks in (1) Sitka and (2) Kodiak and (3) Sitka and Kodiak  
(4) Sitka and Kodiak with and without Tanner Stocks" was received in  
late January 1981. The revised report incorporates most of the comments  
and suggestions contained in the SSC's review of the first draft report  
and includes a complete and accurate report.

The research conducted suggests that halibut incidence Tanner crab pots could be controlled by gear modifications. The recommendation of the contractee is that further research be initiated to explore the suggested gear modifications and that observer programs be funded to assess the utility and effectiveness of such gear in the commercial fishery. The SSC recommends that the Council accept this report.

#### Contract 80-5

The SSC has reviewed the comments and additions to the final report for Contract 80-5, "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishing Off Alaska." The SSC recommends acceptance of the draft report and contractor comments as fulfillment of the contract. It was the SSC's opinion that the contractor had complied with the work statements to the best of his ability and that the contractor's inability to complete certain parts of the contract were due to circumstances beyond his control.

#### Contract 80-6

The SSC just received the modified final report and answer to our questions on Contract 80-6, "A study to Determine the Applicability of Limited Entry in the Halibut Fishing Area Off Alaska." The SSC will be prepared to make its recommendation at our next meeting.

### F-2 New Research Proposals

The SSC received the draft RFP to design of an experiment to evaluate the accuracy of herring aerial savings biomass estimates. The SSC was informed that ADF&G has received substantial support from the Alaska Legislature this year to carry out an internal evaluation of the herring assessment techniques. The SSC therefore recommends that this RFP not be released at this time. The SSC would prefer to wait until the results of the self evaluation are made available. We were informed that this should be by September 1981.

The SSC attempted to review the draft statement of work for the study to determine the stock origins of chinook incidentally caught in foreign trawls in the U.S. Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska FCZ. The SSC had some serious question regarding the magnitude of this study. Dr. Burgner, who drafted the RFP, was not able to attend this SSC meeting, and, therefore, the SSC was unable to have its concerns addressed. The SSC therefore is postponing its recommendation on this proposed RFP until our next meeting.

The SSC did review the draft RFP for the study on the compilation and evaluation of data on the feeding habits and food requirements of marine mammals in the Bering Sea. The SSC recommends some modification to the draft and recommends to the Council that the RFP be released as amended.

