ADVISORY PANEL Motions and Rationale October 1-3, 2024 - Anchorage, AK

Motion 1 - Pelagic Trawl Motion

The AP recommends that the Council prioritize scheduling of the Pelagic Trawl Gear Innovation: Discussion Paper agenda item to allow for meaningful discussion on the potential to limit seafloor contact and the review of options for changes to the performance standard.

Motion failed: 9/11

Motion 2 - Chum Salmon Outreach

The AP recommends the Council prioritize Chum Salmon outreach and engagement activities and accept potential community invitations in preparation for the February 2025 Chum Salmon Bycatch meeting.

Motion passed unanimously: 20/0

Motion 3 - Pot Cod LAPP rationalization

The AP recommends prioritizing the Pot Cod LAPP which is currently in the "batter's box" and initiating a cooperative rationalization program for the GOA trawl pollock and cod fisheries.

Motion passed: 15/5

Motion 4

Move to approve the June 2024 minutes.

Motion passed unanimously: 20/0

Rationale in support of Motion #2

- There are several wide-reaching engagement opportunities that Council members and staff can attend, either formally or informally. We recommend accepting invitations that may be coming from tribes or tribal organizations to attend their tribal convenings. To-date these invitations have not been extended so this comment is not meant to signal that staff has declined invitations. For example, Tanana Chiefs Conference hosts bi-annual conventions that bring together the tribal leaders from Interior Alaska, primarily from the Yukon River. It is recommended that Council members and staff seek out and attend these regularly scheduled meetings to build communication pathways and effective two-way engagement.
- Similarly, Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention takes place Oct 17-19, 2024 and is the largest representative annual gathering in the United States of Native peoples. There is also a AFN Subsistence Workshop at the Tribal Unity gathering on Oct 16, 2024, which is open to the general public with online registration. These convenings around subsistence are excellent learning opportunities for Council members and staff to better understand the current situation with subsistence resources in Alaska and how the lack of resources is affecting subsistence ways of life.
- There is a lot of knowledge sharing, networking, and relationship building that occurs at these tribal convenings which will be invaluable to the Programmatic Evaluation process and engagement. Relationship building is a key component of effective communication, outreach, and engagement and building these relationships now will serve the process well moving forward
- An AP member recommended the Council consider reestablishing the Community Engagement Committee to support outreach efforts, facilitate cross-cultural communication, and provide a platform for discussing contentious issues like chum salmon bycatch

Rationale in support of Motion #3

- Both fisheries have been asking for improved management through a cooperative rationalization program for many years and under today's economic environment and with the uncertainty of markets and climate change, participants believe they need improvement management.
- Rationalization programs have proven that ending races for fish improves safety, minimizes by catch, and improves fishery stability. We should continue prioritizing these programs.
- The GOA trawl fisheries were promised cooperative management tools when their Chinook hard caps were put into place in 2012, but have never received that program. The closure of the CGOA pollock fishery due to exceeding the Chinook cap in September 2024, which has caused extreme economic hardship to vessels, processors, and the community of Kodiak, could have been prevented if the management tools available through a cooperative program had been given to participants.
- Development of a LAPP for these sectors is in line with the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force and State of Alaska Fishery Priorities
- While these two fisheries are in different stages (the Cod LAPP is in the batters box and there is no current action for GOA trawl) if the Council chooses to move forward with one or both recommendations they could do so under separate motions/actions
- The joint motion was put forward as a signal of support across gear types and fisheries

Rationale In Opposition to Motion #3

- Though some members of the AP appreciate the intent of this motion as well as the collaboration to create it, these are very different issues. Other issues with a lot of public comment were not addressed or voted down at this meeting and it is concerning to introduce very heavy analytical tasks with too many items already pending in the "items not yet scheduled" section of the three meeting outlook.
- AP members noted support of both aspects of the motion, but considered that the scope of each would be large and struggled with both being combined into a single motion. Both aspects of this motion are important to industry, to both harvester and processor needs, and have the potential to lead to more effective and efficient prosecution of the respective fisheries. However, the actions suggested support different fleets with out a clear overlap, and so would likely be separated were the Council to take action on either at the current meeting.