

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Harold E. Lokken, Chairman  
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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



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

Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 265-5435

## MINUTES

### NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL EIGHTEENTH PLENARY SESSION August 24-25, 1978

The regular monthly meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was held in Anchorage, Alaska at the Captain Cook Hotel. An attendance roster of Council members, the SSC and AP and public is attached as Appendix A.

The Council meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 24th at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Harold Lokken. The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in the Council offices on August 22nd and again on August 23rd. The Advisory Panel met August 23rd in the Easter Island Room of the Captain Cook and again on the 24th of August.

The preliminary agenda for the Council meeting was approved and is included as Appendix B. Minutes of the July meeting were approved and are included as Appendix C.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Included as Appendix D.

#### SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Included as Appendix E.

#### ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

Included as Appendix F.

#### U.S. COAST GUARD REPORT

Rear Admiral Duin reported that since the last Council meeting a single report of violation and six citations had been issued. He said the Coast Guard was receiving the new C-130 aircraft for Kodiak and an additional cutter to increase their surveillance force off Alaska.

## UPDATE CURRENT FISHERIES

Craig Hammond, NMFS, reported a total of 511 individual foreign fishing and support ships were engaged in fisheries off Alaska during July. Beginning in early August the Japanese factory ship KASHIMA and six pair trawlers began fishing for yellowfin sole and flounder east of the Pribilof Islands. The Soviets began a modest effort in flounder in the same area in early August.

Foreign effort for groundfish and sablefish continues to remain at a reduced level compared to 1977 off Southeast Alaska and the Yakutat area. The PMP longline closure east of 140° W has been a primary cause of this reduced effort. As of August 22nd there were 251 foreign vessels on the grounds off Alaska; 227 Japanese, 11 South Korean, 12 Soviet Union and 1 Taiwanese. In the Gulf off Southeast Alaska, 1 Japanese stern trawler and 1 cargo vessel operated, in the Yakutat area, 4 Japanese longliners and 2 stern trawlers; in the Kodiak area, 1 Korean and 3 Japanese stern trawlers and 1 Japanese longliner; in the Chirikof and Shumagin area, 7 Japanese longliners and 2 stern trawlers. Stern trawlers reported catches predominantly of pollock and flounder in the Gulf. Along the Aleutian chain 26 Japanese stern trawlers were operating, taking predominantly rockfish other than POP. In the eastern Bering Sea 9 Soviet stern trawlers are operating east of the Pribilofs for flounder. A Japanese factory ship is also targeting on the flounder and yellowfin sole in that area.

Phil Chitwood, NMFS, reported the Japanese had taken 14,164 tons of their 15,000 ton quota for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea. One factory ship and 4 independent vessels were still in the area. Based on the current catch rates, it is estimated the factory ship will have taken its quota by September 12th and the independent vessels by September 1.

In the longline fishery for Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska west of 157° the Japanese have taken 1,505 mt. The Shumagin area continues to be the major fishing area accounting for 1,029 mt.

The South Korean fishery in the Bering Sea has reported catches for Pacific cod, flounder and squid in the Bering Sea which do not agree with observer reports and NMFS estimates. Based on the latest observer information, NMFS estimates they have surpassed their quotas of squid, flounder and Pacific cod, but have a remaining 27,000 ton balance of pollock. NMFS is now preparing recommendations on allocations to allow the Koreans to continue fishing. The current regulations require that once a quota is reached in one species, all fishing is to cease by that country. NMFS recommended two possible solutions: (1) Because the Soviet Union has taken a very small percentage of its allocation this year, (as well as last year), they may be asked to voluntarily reassign a small portion of their quotas to allow the South Koreans to continue fishing; (2) reallocate amounts available from quotas unharvested last year, which were conservatively estimated, reduced by an appropriate

natural mortality. A reserve would thus be created under which the U.S. could reallocate to settle the problem for the balance of the year.

Mr. Price, State Department Representative, said the State Department was encouraged with the latter suggestion and would look into it.

RELEASE OF RESERVE FOR GROUND FISH IN THE GULF OF ALASKA FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF 1978, EXCLUDING POLLOCK

The SSC suggested the Council release the reserve of Pacific cod, flounders and blackcod outside the special closed area in Southeast Alaska. They noted the reserve for Pacific ocean perch could be released but by withholding this reserve a more rapid rebuilding of POP stocks in the Gulf of Alaska could be accomplished.

The AP supported the release of reserves for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska for the remainder of 1978 for blackcod, flounder and Pacific cod. They did not recommend a release of POP and rockfish reserves.

The Council unanimously approved a motion made by Council Member Charles Meacham to accept the recommendations of both the Advisory Panel and the SSC to release 8,120 mt of Pacific cod, 6,700 mt of flounder and 2,200 mt of sablefish with the understanding that the sablefish must be taken west of 140° West longitude. The motion also included holding the reserves of Pacific ocean perch and other rockfish because of the depleted status of that species complex.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR THE BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLAND GROUND FISH  
FISHERY FMP

The SSC reported they had reviewed the BS/A groundfish plan and found it satisfactory. They recommended a change in the section dealing with statistical requirements imposed on user groups. They also suggested a more general system outlining the minimum requirements for all domestic vessels operating in the area and felt the Council should consider more carefully an option defining POP and other rockfish, recognizing the poor statistics of this resource and the number of years required to rebuild the stocks.

Mr. Bert Larkins, NMFS, asked Council approval for two additional options to be added to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish Plan for comment at the public hearings in October. The proposed options would expand the discussion area for gear restrictions in various parts of the Bering Sea. These options, recommended on the basis of requests by the Japanese Longline and Gillnet Association, propose two things: (1) sets up a range of options for gear closures in the winter halibut savings area, (2) proposes a longline sanctuary along the Aleutian Islands from 172° West to 179° East.

The Council moved to include these options in the plan for public review and comment.

#### AP MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Council Subcommittee on Advisory Panel Appointments met on Thursday, September 24th and recommended Ms. Shari Gross, Executive Director of United Fishermen of Alaska and Bob Blake of the Cordova Aquatic Marketing Association be named to fill two vacancies on the Advisory Panel. These two appointments will expire in October, at which time the entire 25-member Advisory Panel will be considered for reappointment. October marks the end of the current two-year term of the Advisory Panel members. The Council unanimously approved a motion to appoint Ms. Gross and Mr. Blake to the Advisory Panel.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to adopt a new AP membership policy effective December, 1978 that considers absences from three consecutive meetings without a reasonable excuse an automatic resignation.

#### U.S./U.S.S.R. FISHERY AGREEMENT

The SSC reviewed the draft agreement proposed by the U.S.S.R. to allow a pollock fishery by U.S. fishermen within the Soviet 200-mile zone. They felt the language in Article 10 should be changed so as not to make research mandatory by changing the wording from "shall" to "allow". Dr. Alverson said that because of other commitments, the scientists may not have time to devote to this. He also said the section concerning research vessel entry into the Soviet zone could be expressed in a more specific way.

The AP supported the SSC recommendation on the fishery agreement with the U.S.S.R. to not make research mandatory and change the words from "shall" to "allow".

The Council then discussed the proposed U.S./U.S.S.R. agreement and unanimously favored a motion by Vice Chairman Tillion that the Council report to the State Department it is in favor of this agreement with a suggested language change in Article 10 as recommended by the SSC; i.e., delete "shall", insert "allow".

#### HALIBUT FMP

Dr. Alverson told the Council that the SSC had reviewed the halibut plan and made several minor recommendations to the management plan development team, and had added an option to reallocate part of the traditional Canadian catch to U.S. fishermen or hold back part of the Canadian catch to help faster rebuilding of the halibut stocks.

The Advisory Panel recommended accepting the halibut plan as written and urged the Council to distribute it to the public as soon as possible.

The Council then approved the first draft of the Halibut Fishery Management Plan to go forward for public review and comment. The draft provides for seasons and quotas off Alaska similar to the 1978 IPHC regulations, but restricts the fishery to U.S. fishermen. The plan will not be implemented if a new U.S./Canadian agreement is reached for this fishery prior to April 1, 1979.

#### ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

The Council approved an additional public hearing on the FMP for the High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175 Degrees East Longitude, for October 5 in Ketchikan, Alaska. This action was the result of requests from the fishing industry for more time to comment on the plan after the close of their fishing season September 20. The Council noted the hearing would be cancelled if there is sufficient opportunity for testimony at the other hearings.

#### TANNER CRAB FMP

The SSC recommended the Council implement its existing management plan for Tanner crab as soon as possible with the necessary date changes made. Additionally, Alverson said the SSC recommended the Council annually consider a complete review of the plan's basic management strategies which would take into account the most recent biological and economic data.

The SSC also asked that the ADF&G and NMFS be asked to forward the most recent statistics for Tanner crab stocks to the Management Plan Development Team.

The Advisory Panel recommended accepting the plan 'as is' with date changes as recommended by the Council staff. Regarding the Japanese request to be allowed to fish south of 58° North, and west of 173° East, the AP suggested waiting until after the 1979 fishing season to see how the American fishery is progressing. The AP also recommended no change in the 58° boundary line for foreign fishing and no retention by the Japanese of C. bairdi south of 58° North latitude.

The Council moved to implement the Tanner Crab Plan 'as is' for the 1979 season with a possible implementation date of November 1. This date will start a 'fishery year' with the opening of the first Tanner crab season. Further revision of the FMP will start at the September Council meeting with a target date of March 15 for revisions to be in effect. Changes in OY's will probably be necessary in some areas, including the Bering Sea, where a decline in the stocks of C. bairdi is expected through 1982.

## ADF&G HERRING RESEARCH CONTRACT

ADF&G herring biologists Irv Warner and Pete Jackson reported to the SSC, AP and Council on the progress of the Council research contract "Assessment of Spawning Herring and Capelin Stocks at Selected Coastal Areas in the Eastern Bering Sea." The Council expressed its satisfaction with the progress of the contract.

## BERING SEA SHRIMP FMP

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) presented a summary of their shrimp management strategies to the SSC and AP. Dr. Alverson stated that it was not possible for the SSC to make an in-depth evaluation of the management program being used by ADF&G at this time and that it was difficult to see how the SSC could comment on the relationship of contemporary strategies to what might be done in the Bering Sea. They felt it was necessary for the team to proceed with development of the plan using available expertise and information.

Because of the complexities of pandalid management, the SSC felt a shrimp workshop should be organized for early 1979. This workshop should be sponsored by NMFS, ADF&G, Sea Grant and the North Pacific Council with a steering committee consisting of Don Rosenberg and D. L. Alverson of the SSC, Oral Burch of the AP, Jim Moore of Kodiak and Jack Lechner of ADF&G. The workshop should include people from all countries having pandalid fisheries and would provide an opportunity to analyze processing and fishing techniques as well as management strategies.

Paul Anderson, NMFS, Kodiak, presented an overview of the pandalid shrimp survey in the Bering Sea this summer and a progress report on FMP development. They had sampled only 54 stations due to bad weather in a survey area selected on the basis of previous Japanese commercial catches and Soviet research activities from the early 1960's to the 1970's.

A draft plan is scheduled for Council review next month.

The Council moved to accept the SSC recommendations to organize a shrimp workshop in Kodiak next January to be sponsored by NMFS, ADF&G, Sea Grant and the North Pacific Council and appointed the suggested steering committee to plan the workshop.

## SSC MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Alverson said he would not be able to serve another term on the SSC and that the Committee had unanimously recommended Steve Pennoyer as Chairman beginning in October and Dr. Frank Fukuhara of the NWAFC to fill Dr. Alverson's seat on the SSC. Members Alan Millikan, Ed Miles, George Rogers, Jack Robinson, Donald Bevan and Donald Rosenberg indicated a willingness to continue serving on the Committee and Mr. Jack Lechner, ADF&G was recommended as a replacement for Carl Rosier. The Committee

felt it was desirable to have a marine mammal specialist on the SSC and would have a recommendation in September.

The Council confirmed Dr. Frank Fukuhara of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center as Dr. Alverson's replacement on the SSC and appointed Steve Pennoyer as Chairman effective in October. They tabled the matter of increasing the number of scientists on the Committee until a later date.

#### VISIT TO PRIBILOFS BY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Council has been invited to participate in a tour of St. Paul Island and the proposed harbor site. It is being sponsored by the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association. The group will consist of Corps of Engineers officials, members of the Congressional Subcommittee which handles harbor appropriations, NMFS and Coast Guard. The Council recommended Don Collinsworth, ADF&G, to represent the Council on the tour.

#### MANAGEMENT PLAN PRINTING

The Council unanimously approved a motion recommending a change in the printing and publication of FMP's. Plans will be printed in two volumes: Volume I to include the entire FMP and DEIS, and Volume II a summary of the FMP and DEIS. Volume II would serve as the basic document, speeding review time and cutting printing costs.

#### FOREIGN FEE SCHEDULE

The AP reported it had studied the Foreign Fee Schedule and noted the comment period ends August 29, 1978. Recommendations of the AP are: (1) to increase the Pacific Ocean perch price to the same as rockfish (\$378 per ton); (2) herring should be priced for two seasons: April 15-June 15 at \$991 per ton (herring with roe); and the rest of the year at \$100 per ton.

Mr. McKernan stated the proposed fee for Pacific squid of \$938 seemed excessively high for the rather low value species taken in the commercial fishery off Alaska. The Council recommended asking Washington to look into this matter but otherwise approved a motion supporting the AP recommendations.

#### RELEASE OF UNUSED DAH - HERRING

Alverson told the Council that the SSC, in noting the differences between the reported catch of herring from foreign fleets and the reports from observers, would not recommend release of 2,000 ton of the unused DAH for herring in the Bering Sea.

The AP also recommended not releasing the 2,000 mt of herring in the Bering Sea for allocation to foreign fishermen.

The Council unanimously approved a motion made by Charles Meacham to retain the 2,000 mt of herring in the Bering Sea based upon the recommendations of the SSC and AP.

#### INPFC NOMINATIONS

The Council was advised that Mr. Toshio Isogai, Executive Director of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission was leaving to return to a position with the Japanese government. They asked the Executive Director to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Isogai for the fine job he has done.

The Council endorsed Mr. Roy Jackson, a former Executive Director of the Commission, as Mr. Isogai's replacement. They also discussed recommendations for seats on the Commission (2 from Alaska) and recommended the present Commissioners, Mr. Elmer Rasmuson and Mr. Robert Thorstenson, be reappointed if they so wish. If not, they recommended Harvey Samuelson and Ed Huizer as replacements. The Executive Director was asked to write Mr. Rasmuson and Mr. Thorstenson asking if they wished to be reappointed and if not, advise them of the Council's recommendations, including the recommendation for the position of the Executive Director.

#### ALEUTIAN ISLAND CLEAN-UP STUDY

The AP recommended the matter of the Aleutian Island Clean-up Study be dropped as the damage to the environment could be greater by removing World War II debris than by leaving it in place.

The Council discussed the study which Tetra-Tech, Inc., is doing for the Corps of Engineers on a clean-up program of World War II debris in the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula. The Council concurred that this program could do more environmental damage than good and that any clean-up should be done on a case by case basis. They felt there would probably be only marginal direct affect to the fisheries if such a clean-up occurs.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Donald McKernan, Chairman of the Council Subcommittee on Finance, reported the Subcommittee had reviewed proposed research contracts for 1979 and the administrative budget for fiscal year 1980/81. McKernan told the Council that approximately \$419,000 had been identified for research contracts, largely continuation of ongoing programs funded by the Council. The subcommittee recommended the tag recovery program for chinook and coho salmon off S.E. Alaska be shared for funding and direction with the Pacific Council.



After reviewing the results of the audit by the Director of Office of Audits, Department of Commerce, McKernan said they felt that the audit was a very carefully conducted one which made some suggestions with respect to the general operation of the office and bookkeeping. There were no major changes suggested in the audit report, only suggested correction of some procedures which follow more closely with Office of Management and Budget and Federal Government regulations. McKernan said the Committee felt the Executive Director was taking these suggestions into account.

The subcommittee, McKernan reported, also discussed the research project "Study to Determine the Socio-economic Effects of Commercial Fishery on Villages of Western Alaska" and request by Dames & Moore to offset additional expenses incurred over and above the \$80,826 total price of the contract. The Executive Director had earlier asked Dames & Moore to participate in some of the management plan drafting team meetings for the eastern Bering Sea Herring FMP and to coordinate various aspects of their study with a herring steering committee from the Western Alaska Resource Council. The cost to date for this participation and coordination was \$4,339.00 which after considerable discussion and debate the Committee, McKernan said, recommended the Council approve. An additional request for \$10,945.11 for surveying eleven additional villages beyond those specified in the contract was also considered. The Finance Committee recommended the Council not approve that request as the changes in the contract should have been presented to the Council earlier for formal contract amendment.

The Council approved the subcommittee report and recommendations.

#### DAH GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP - 1979

The AP said they had reviewed the request from KMIDC/Davenney for 130,000 mt of pollock for the KMIDC/Davenney joint venture in 1979 and did not consider it realistic.

Mr. Robert Davenney of Davenney & Associates, and Mr. Robert Ely, attorney for the Korean Marine Industrial Development Corporation (KMIDC) asked for the DAH to include their projected catch of 130,000 mt of pollock in the Gulf of Alaska in 1978/79.

The Council discussed the merits of placing 130,000 mt of pollock into the DAH as opposed to the reserve. It was generally felt that the matter should be handled carefully and with concern for the future reallocation process as the TALFF for 1978/79 would initially be drastically reduced from 1978 levels. The difficulty, the Council felt, would be in accurately predicting what the DAH should be without unduly restricting joint ventures and unfairly reducing the TALFF.

Mr. Carl Price, Department of State representative, stated he felt that whatever the procedure was it would be awkward to withdraw a portion

of TALFF in midyear. Therefore Price said it would be much more acceptable to allocate an initially low TALFF with the expectation of increasing the TALFF in an early, timely manner.

The Council passed a motion (with Chairman Lokken dissenting) which placed into a special reserve 100,000 mt of pollock and associated amounts of bycatch species. It is the Council's intention to review joint venture performance at the end of the year and re-evaluate the need for the special reserve, with any surplus to be released to TALFF at that time. The KMIDC/Davenney operation is expected to start in September so some performance data will be available by the end of the year.

#### CLAM RESEARCH

Dr. Alverson told the Council that the SSC had reviewed a memo from Steve Hughes (NWAFC) on the status of the eastern Bering Sea joint Industry/State/Federal clam study. Progress, Alverson said, had been made in studies of clam resource availability, catch rates, economic data, paralytic shellfish poisoning, and environmental impacts. All indications are that a clam fishery in the eastern Bering Sea is a real possibility.

The SSC recommended the Council Steering Group and MPDT very carefully consider the concept of a limited entry feature at the onset of this plan. It is an area, Alverson said, where not only the growth can be monitored but also the impact on the stocks and the environment, which a number of people in the Alaska community and elsewhere are likely to be concerned about. The SSC recommended adopting a slow growth, limited entry concept around an evaluation of the environmental consequences of the fishery.

#### DAMES & MOORE HERRING CONTRACT

The SSC felt that the financial overrun on the Dames & Moore contract was a problem which should be handled by the Contract Officer and the budget committee of the Council. The SSC did recognize that certain actions taken by Dames & Moore were in the interest of developing a better final report. The Committee felt that the Contract Officer and the budget committee should carefully evaluate the extent and scope of the work and whether or not required changes could have been anticipated.

#### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

##### North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association (NPL-GA)

The Council heard testimony from Mr. K. Yamagishi, Vice Chairman of the NPL-GA of Japan, in which he asked for the immediate release to Japanese longliners of blackcod and Pacific cod reserves in the Gulf of Alaska for the remainder of the 1978 operations. (Appendix G)

### Japanese Tanner Crab Industry

Mr. Ono testified in behalf of the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry, presenting their comments on the FMP for Tanner Crab off the Coast of Alaska for 1979. They asked that in the area south of 58° N, they be allowed to fish for the entire season west of 173° W, and between 173° W and 171° W, they be allowed to fish after the U.S. fishery has terminated. They asked that in the area west of 173° W, they be able to retain C. bairdi and in the area east of 173° W, would return all C. bairdi.  
(Appendix H)

### KMIDC/Davenney

Mr. Robert Davenney of Davenney & Associates reported on the KMIDC/Davenney joint venture program. He stated there were seven boats ready to fish in September.

Mr. Davenney introduced Mr. Joe Ashlock who will be working with him in a joint-venture off the coast of the U.S.S.R.

### Robert L. Ely

Mr. Ely, attorney for KMIDC/Davenney commented on the Gulf of Alaska FMP for 1979, asking for 130,000 mt of pollock for 1979.  
(Appendix I)

### Scott Stafne

Mr. Stafne, attorney for the Alaska Trollers Association reported on the results of a survey their firm had conducted on salmon from domestic and international distributors.

### Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association

Mr. T. Moruira presented testimony asking for reconsideration of the foreign fee schedule. (Appendix J)

### Sara Hemphill

Ms. Hemphill reported briefly on the status of the blackcod fishery, stating the fishery is quite successful this year. She stated some of the blackcod fishermen are looking into freezing capacity and automated longlining operations.

### New England Fish Company(NEFCO)

Mr. J. D. "Pete" Harris of the New England Fish Company reported on the status of their bottomfish operation in Kodiak. He said if the amendments to the FCMA do become law, NEFCO can go forward with expansion,

which would require a total of 17,000 mt of pollock, cod, flatfish and other species for 1979. He stated they would keep the Council advised of their plans as they develop. (Appendix K)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m., Friday, August 25, 1978 with the next Council meeting to be held in Sitka, Alaska on September 28th and 29th.

Complete tapes of the Council meeting are available through Alaska Sound Labs at the price of \$2.00 per 60 minute tape. If interested in obtaining a set, contact the Council offices.