

Mr. McKernan questioned whether or not the report stated that a foreign processing ship could process both domestic and foreign product. Mr. White responded that if a foreign processing ship possessed a permit authorizing it to engage in a particular fishery, that vessel's permit does not prevent it from processing both domestic and foreign product. Commander Giffin suggested that a specific difference be made between transport vessels and processing vessels in the case of freezing or chilling for transport of product. Mr. Bart Eaton asked for clarification as to whether or not a foreign vessel could process its own foreign caught fish and also receive fish from American fishermen. Again, Mr. White stated that permits issued to date do allow such action. Commander Giffin continued by asking "if a species is not mentioned in the permit, does that mean that anything not mentioned is permitted, or does it have to be specifically prohibited to be prevented?" Mr. White responded that permits issued to date do limit a vessel to engaging in a particular fishery, and that any species included in that fishery by the preliminary management plan are permitted species. Any species not included in the fishery which the vessel is authorized to engage in, is a prohibited species.

Mr. Bart Eaton then asked if domestic fishermen could sell tanner crab out of season to foreign processors. Mr. McKernan stated that Alaskans probably could not, because of State laws but Washington fishermen could. Mr. Brooks, in discussing processing as an identified definition of fishing questioned why the quota was not applied to a processor if it is considered a fishing vessel. Mr. Mace wondered about fishermen off Oregon and Washington selling black cod out of season to a licensed foreign processor inside the Fishery Conservation Zone.

Advisory Panel Report

Keith Specking, Chairman of the Advisory Panel, presented the Panel's report. He told the Council that the Advisory Panel had discussed possible locations for public hearings in August and recommended Dillingham and Anchorage as additions to the list. He also said that where and when possible, the public hearings scheduled for the same location as Council meetings should precede the Council meetings by one day.

Specking reported that the AP wished to meet one day prior to the June and July regular Council meetings to discuss management plans and other business and that they had scheduled the first meeting for June 22nd at 1:00 p.m. in the Council office.

Councilman McKernan then suggested the Council hold its regular August meeting in Kodiak. There was general agreement and it was so moved that the August meeting be held in Kodiak on August 25th and 26th.

It was also agreed that if public hearings for Alaska Tanner Crab and the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plans were held in August, that a public hearing on August 24th (one day prior to the Council meeting) should be scheduled in Kodiak. *add. page 21*

Bering Sea Clam Fishery

The proposed Bering Sea clam fishery was discussed with Mr. Brooks, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, stating that it would be extremely difficult to develop a clam management plan. He felt that the proposed summer research schedule would not encourage a commercial fishery before 1979. Mr. Brooks also stated that because a commercial fishery was at least two years away there was no rush to develop a clam management plan.

Mr. McKernan suggested that the matter be deferred until the Scientific and Statistical Committee presents its report on this matter to the Council.

Dr. Lee Alverson, Chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, in his SSC report discussed the clam study in the eastern Bering Sea. He said the study would involve 44 sampling areas, each area equal to 400 square miles. The project was designed, he said, to assess the environment, the life history of the clams, the status and distribution of clams and will include remote underwater photography of potential benthic impacts. He also said the study would analyze paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and will test PSP analysis. The research project is scheduled to be concluded by late summer or early fall.

As reported at the last Council meeting, the clam study is being conducted jointly by the Alaska Department of Economic Development, the Sea Grant Program, NMFS, Alaska Health and Social Service, the Alaska Department of Commerce, New England Fish Company, Borden Company, Howard Johnson Company, General Mills and Campbells Soup. The project will cost approximately \$175,000 and will last for 45 days.

Alverson reported that the SSC recommended establishing a core group to work with the clam project and ultimately develop recommendations for the Council as to (1) the need for a management plan and (2) the timing. The recommended individuals were Dr. John Burns and Mr. Bob Nelson from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Mr. Steve Hughes from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The core group was asked to report to the Council in the fall on the project results and their own recommendations for Council action.

The Council unanimously approved the SSC recommendation for the core group of Burns, Nelson and Hughes and further agreed to wait for their recommendations on the development of a clam management plan.