

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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MINUTES
ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 1-2, 1977
ALASKA STATE COURT BUILDING
3rd & K
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

The regular meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was held in Anchorage, Alaska at the Alaska State Court Building, 3rd & K Streets, Dec. 1-2, 1977. The members present included:

Chairman Harold Lokken
Vice Chairman Clement Tillion
Carl Price
Donald Hales (Alternate for Gordon Watson)
Ronald Skoog
Bart Eaton
J.R. Donaldson
Henry Wendler (Alternate for Gordon Sandison)
Gordon Jensen
Elmer Rasmuson
Executive Director Jim H. Branson
Harry Rietze
Richard Goldsmith (Alternate for John Harville)
Rear Admiral J.B. Hayes
Charles Meacham

The Executive Director deferred to his written report (Appendix A).

The Council moved immediately to discussion of the Tanner crab FMP. Dr. Lee Alverson, SSC Chairman, explained the reasons for recent inconsistencies in the ABC for Tanner crab. The problem begins with accumulating data on a continuing basis. Compounding this was an

error in retrieving computer data and acting on that information to revise the ABC, suggesting changes in the FMP and finally completing the data analysis that determined that the original ABC estimates, rather than the revisions, were more reflective of actual stock conditions. The SSC recommendation is the original 89,000mt figure as printed in the FMP. Dr. Alverson told the Council that Tanner crab populations are declining due to reduced recruitment and that the decline would become evident in the 1980-81 fisheries.

A discussion followed between several of the Council members and Dr. Alverson on the OY figure for C. opilio north of the dividing line between the foreign and domestic fisheries (58 degrees North latitude). That line effectively separates the fisheries and reserves C. bairdi for the U.S. fishery. It was the opinion of the SSC that the figure of 17,500 mt for C. opilio north of the line is biologically acceptable. During the course of this discussion the Council was presented with the NOAA recommendations for altering the dividing line from 58 degrees. Robert McVey (NMFS Juneau) explained this as an effort to be responsive to foreign fleet needs. The discussion polarized on the ability of the U.S. fleet to utilize all available C. bairdi.

The SSC report is Appendix B & B-1.

TROLL SALMON PLAN

The SSC report on the Salmon Troll FMP supported further study of conditions in this fishery. The SSC recognized the weak data base from which the management regime had been drawn. Conclusions made on the basis of available data were judged correct, but additional information from the ADF&G and the Alaska Trollers Association alters certain conclusions about the fishery. The industry information was characterized as "good" information and useful for justifying modifications in the final FMP.

As a result, it was the recommendation of the SSC that there be a clarification of data used for proposed area closures on the Fairweather Grounds, with that action being deferred for the present pending future assessment. The problem of shaker (sub-legal) catches and mortality rates will be studied through the industry document (the "Sitka Plan") which has been made available to the SSC by the trollers group and by a proposed observer program.

Closure for the area west of Cape Suckling was recommended, noting that area needs further study, a portion of which should deal with the impact of closure on the coastal communities affected. A shaker problem had been tentatively identified in the Cape Fairweather area but improvement in the supporting data is needed to justify a closure. It is hoped this data will be gained through the 1978 field study, for which an RFP has been recommended by the SSC to the Council. Further investigations should assess the impact of catches on the Fairweather Grounds to the streams of Southeastern Alaska.

The SSC feels also that continuation of the tag recovery program (micro-tags in the head) is essential and that fin-clipped fish (identifying tagged fish) should be landed with the head on. The SSC identified also a possible problem if sportfishermen and charter boat operators enter the Fairweather fishery without limited entry permits and that a quota on king salmon might be necessary for such fishermen.

In summary, the SSC recommended the plan be approved minus option closures and retaining the concept of limited entry, the 28-inch legal size limit for king salmon and the proposal for re-defining some statistical reporting areas to more closely identify catches with specific areas. Approval was given also for the self-enforcement program as outlined by the trollers, and modification of fish tickets to allow for reporting catches from multiple areas fished. The SSC requested also that there be more inter-action between industry and writing teams during initial FMP drafting.

AP REPORT ON TROLL PLAN

The AP report closely followed SSC recommendations in that it rejected both options of the FMP but kept major proposals (per above) and agreed the plan should go forward to be in effect for the coming season. The AP concluded that it is not possible to make separate management regimes for adjacent inside and outside fisheries and suggested close cooperation between Federal and State agencies in plan construction. There was reassurance from Mr. Jensen (vice-chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries) that no problem will exist between the State and the Council as to the management of the troll fishery as a unit.

The AP had no recommendations for the area closure west of Cape Suckling and had decided on the status quo.

At this point, SSC Chairman Alverson covered several items:

...the SSC will respond to the industry document Industry's Appraisal of the Alaska Salmon Troll Plan following a review of it;

...the SSC has revised the flow diagram for FMP development to assure quality control and communications between groups;

...the SSC would like to see an experimental design for a study of Bering Sea Herring. Any study should include regular reports;

...the tag recovery program should continue but should not be funded by the Council past 1980. (NOTE: Council intends to fund the program for two years). Funds to continue the program for 1980 and beyond will have to be made available from other sources. The rationale for this is that the two-year period represents a reasonable start-up time but commitment of funds for longer periods of time are not justified. It is not the Council's intention to fund long-range studies.

..the SSC foresees a problem with the blackcod rebuilding rate data, in that establishment of MSY, OY, ABC will have to be done as value judgments rather than hard facts. This is undesirable but unavoidable. Populations trends are down and it is thought that a conservative approach will be beneficial.

...the SSC indicates a herring and capelin study is needed in the Bering Sea and could be done in conjunction with ADF&G.

(The AP meeting report is Appendix C.)

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. to discuss on-going international negotiations.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing was held during the meeting on Dec. 1, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. A list of those who spoke and summarized comments is appended. (Appendix D.)

4:30 p.m.

MEETING RESUMED

Vice Chairman Tillion reported briefly on MAFAC, saying their emphasis is on independent Council personnel systems. On the subject of transboundary stocks, every effort should be made to limit these to as few species as possible.

USCG ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Council member (Rear Admiral) Hayes reported the Coast Guard is close to achieving their surveillance goal of 90% probability of detecting an individual ship on the fishing grounds in any two-week period. He reported that the data retrieval system is being refined to make full use of all patrol resources.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Regular meeting dates for Council meetings were set for the fourth Thursday and Friday of each month. The next Council meeting will be held Jan. 26-27, 1978 in the Hill Building, 632 Sixth Ave., Anchorage, Alaska.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

A request for Council recommendation for NMFS support in the amount of \$10,000 for the GSMFC was denied on motion by Mr. Tillion. Comment during the discussion was to the effect that the request might more reasonably be made to the states which are represented on the Gulf States Commission.

SECOND DAY

MEETING RESUMED

9:00 a.m. AP REPORT ON TANNER CRAB

AP Chairman Specking reported the panel's deliberations on the Tanner crab FMP and recommended no change from the plan as presented to the Secretary of Commerce.

AP REPORT ON GROUND FISH

The AP agrees with the observations of downward trends in sablefish populations and catch rates. All catch rates, catch per unit of effort, etc., show declines.

The AP feels there are no compelling reasons to make any changes from the plan. A discussion was held concerning the 1976 catch reported for the Gulf of Alaska and West Coast of 42,000 mt of blackcod. The catch of Alaska was nearly 6,000 mt over the calculated MSY.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

10:30 a.m. Dec. 2, 1977

A Finance Committee meeting was held during a recess in the general meeting. Committee members are Councilmen McKernan, Hayes, Rietze, Jensen and Skoog.

Mr. McKernan reported as follows:

"The Finance Committee met and approved a budget for FY 1978 of \$1,508,000, for FY 1979 of \$1,826,000 and for FY 1980 of \$1,997,000. The 1979-80 budgets reflect an increase of 10 percent over each preceding year and are subject to more detailed review. In essence, the budget approval is for initial planning.

The Committee approved the following:

Research proposal for joint ventures in the amount of \$40,000;

Eastern Bering Sea Herring Study in the amount of \$103,000, with the provision that these are start-up funds and emphasizing that the intent of the Council is to provide start-up monies on certain projects that may continue as long-term projects financed by others, but there is no commitment on the part of the Council for funding for more than 2 years.

Socio-economic study for Western Alaska herring in the amount of \$50,000;

Miscellaneous research contracts to support FMP's in the total amount of \$200,000; of which \$79,000 is approved for continuing the coded wire tag recovery program.

Special consultants and writers in the amount of \$48,000 and,

the balance required for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game contract for the Observer Program #77-5 in the amount of \$40,000 to commit financing for 2 years.

The total for 1978 is approximately \$480,000, it looks realistic, we've reviewed it in some detail and I recommend the approval of the administrative report and the budget and the research budget."

Mr. Lokken asked if that were a motion and the answer was "yes."

The Council approved the budget report as presented, the motion for acceptance was made and passed unanimously.

500 METER ISOBATH

A discussion during the AP report centered on the problem of allowing longlining by foreign fishermen inside the 500 m isobath. The AP requested there be no such activity during the halibut season in the area west of 157 degrees W. longitude. The duration of the halibut season is predicted at 48 days, leaving 316 days of fishing effort for foreigners.

The AP concluded its report with a recommendation to the Council that a long-term bottomfishery development plan be made with contributions from Federal and State governments, universities and the industry.

BERING SEA CLAM STUDY

Steve Hughes (NMFS-Seattle) reported on a 1977 Bering Sea clam test fishery conducted in the Port Moller-Ugashik Bay area. Commercial possibilities are indicated, with the most favorable results coming from test drags in 13-18 fathoms which yielded 40-60 bushels per hour. Estimates were made of 236,000 tons of whole clams, with a ratio of 36% meats to total weights. That should yield 19-26 million pounds of clam meats per year from that fishery. Surf clams tested for the presence of paralytic shellfish poison revealed no toxin present. Other species tested indicated the toxin had at one time been present. The Clam report is appended as Appendix E.

CRAB MARKET REPORT

An assessment of the Tanner crab market in Japan, conducted under the auspices of the Alaska Sea Grant Program, was reported to the Council by Abby Gorham, an assistant professor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The survey determined there are separate markets for C. bairdi and C. opilio, and that U.S. quota decisions on Tanner crab will have a neutral effect on Tanner crab distributors. The distributors do not care where the product comes from or who catches it. If Japanese crab catches decline, distributors will simply purchase through trading companies. The trip was termed a success from the standpoint of the perspective gained on this market and the vast amount of hard data accumulated.

FOREIGN PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

Mr. Specking reported to the Council on the foreign permit applications reviewed. Several of the permits had been identified by Mr. Branson as requiring review by the committee and recommendations by the Council because the ships applying had violations filed against them in 1977.

This report centered around the mortality of returned prohibited species. The mortality is thought to be unacceptably high, due mainly to faulty vessel design that does not facilitate return of the fish with a minimum of handling or injury. The committee recommended warning those seeking permits that in the future, modifications to ensure safe return of prohibited species to the sea would be a consideration in granting permits. The Council accepted the recommendation and a motion was made and passed to warn foreign permit seekers of this action.

There was also a recommendation for the issuance of permits to 18 South Korean longliners (sablefish) with the provision that only half the ships could be on the fishing grounds at any one time.

CRAB POT STORAGE

A discussion, prompted by Mr. Eaton, concerned the possibility of crab pot storage on the fishing grounds. The concentration of pots in legal areas during the off-season sometimes poses a problem for shipping. Mr. Eaton suggested that pots might be stored on the grounds. The Council agreed to refer the problem to NMFS and the State of Alaska to see if something could be worked out. The topic is to be on the January meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TANNER CRAB

In taking up the matter of the Tanner crab FMP, Admiral Hayes prefaced the Council discussion with the statement that the Council is in a much better position (now) to make decisions than it was a month ago, and that the Council not be bound by past actions in considering and judging new information which might suggest modifying previous decisions or actions.

Mr. Meacham then made the following motion: "I would like to move that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council respectfully request the Secretary of Commerce to continue her review of the Tanner crab plan and accept the plan as it stands, specifically referring to maintaining the 58 degree line, maintaining the 15,000 mt foreign quota and that the C. bairdi OY be set up to the ABC which is most recently established at 89 million pounds."

The motion was seconded.

Mr. McKernan moved the following amendment: (the amendment to be in place of the original motion)...

"...with respect to the area, I would alter the line and

'would express a resolution to indicate that we would separate the two fleets on the basis of a line running south on 164 degrees west longitude and 57 degrees 10 minutes North latitude, then west on 57 degrees 10 minutes latitude to 168 degrees 45 minutes west longitude, then north on 168 degrees 45 minutes longitude to 58 degrees North and then west on 58 degrees North to a point where the depth of the water does not permit fishing, and that the allowable level of foreign fishing for C. opilio be set at 17,500 metric tons, 2,500 metric tons above our original estimate.I notice on Table 11 in the management plan a provision....we'll have a great deal of difficulty with because it calls for setting the OY south of 58 degrees.... would simply be set at the ABC. I don't see any basis for doing that according to law, I agree with the intent of this provision, that is I'm against permitting Japanese fishing in the area where our fishing for bairdi exists.but I think what we ought to do is provide an OY, perhaps something on an order of 10,000 tons in the area south of whatever latitude line we choose for opilio.my own judgement is that we have a reasonable rationale for doing so and I would amend Table 11 to provide for that explanation."

Mr. McKernan's amended motion was seconded by Mr. Wendler.

Mr. Price then commented as follows: "Quite personally, what I've heard in the testimony yesterday and what I was able to learn just from personal conversation of people who testified is that it's not a particularly convincing argument for an allowable catch down to as far as the level of 15,000 mt, we've heard testimony that despite some inter-relationship between the opilio and bairdi markets that there is a degree of separation between them...and I think that the conclusion that I draw is the worse possible thing that could happen from an increase in Japanese harvest of opilio is perhaps that the price of the crab would not rise as fast as it would otherwise. We also have heard testimony that an increase of 15 or so percent would have no effect on the price so I think in conclusion I personally feel that the economic marketing argument is not that strong and that you could argue for an allowable level of harvest in the 20 to 30 thousand metric ton range of opilio north of 58 degrees convincingly on the basis of what's been said. I just simply wanted to get that on the record..."

Mr. Rietze then commented: "I'd like to comment on Mr. McKernan's discussion on the opilio south of 58 degrees. We've been told...that the plan...has a provision equating the American opilio OY to whatever the American fleet might take and we've been told that isn't acceptable. I welcome the fact that there is discussion here about estimating the American fleet take of opilio..."

Mr. Rasmuson then commented: "Someone should defend what we have labored so hard to do on this Tanner plan. The 58th parallel was set for two reasons, it was set to separate the two species and to separate the two fleets. There has been some refinements of those parameters here but nothing which really changes the essence of the decision as I see it that was made by the Council at the last meeting."

"The quota that is being proposed, I can only be convinced, is merely the procedure of giving the foreign fishermen an additional amount of crab. At the time we raised the quota the last time from the 12,500...I personally asked Mr. Reitze, the regional representative of the National Marine Fisheries Service, if he thought that would go a long way toward satisfying the desire of Washington to raise the quota and...in all honesty to Mr. Rietze, he said 'yes' at that time and then convinced a number of us to go and raise them. That was a 20 percent increase on top of a 25 percent raise the year before...now, in this area (referring to the 58 degree line and the change in the line suggested in the McKernan amended motion) we're really not talking about a great deal of crab...I think the line doesn't have any material impact. I am very concerned about the cavalier disregard as I feel it is about the economics of the people who are engaged in the industry, both in the catching and the processing...

"...I want to point out something about the marketing of the tanner crab. I think everybody was surprised that the Tanner crab could go up to more than twice its market price from last year, and that we could have such a substantial increase, almost doubling in the Bering Sea anyway, of the catch. One of the main reasons for that was the closure by the USSR of the catch by the Japanese in USSR waters. The testimony of the economist who went to Japan states that all of the crab in USSR waters is opilio. So there we have a good example of how a shutdown in the opilio in USSR waters did have a buoyant effect upon the price of U.S. bairdi.

"In my mind, that helps demolish the argument, which I have never believed much in, that you can take two species both so close alike that it is difficult for anyone to tell the difference except in size and say that there isn't some inter-relationship in the marketing.

"...I don't want to leave this go unchallenged that the market impact on bairdi and our own production of opilio would not be affected by an increase in the opilio catch by a foreign nation when we have seen that the dropoff of their opilio catch last year substantially increased our bairdi, so I would vote to support the original motion against the amendment."

Mr. Rietze commented that "...unfortunately my judgment and crystal ball wasn't quite as precise as I would like it to have been and in retrospect perhaps if I had to do it all over again I would think that our position would be that 15,000 tons represents the same size increase that we proposed the previous year and that increase as far as we could tell did not have any impact so we would propose it against a judgment factor but we would propose that increase might be somewhat larger this next year."

Chairman Lokken then commented that his views are well known and there would be no value in reiterating them at this time, and called the question:

"All those in favor of the amendment by Mr. McKernan answer in response to a roll call by the Director;

Mr. Eaton -	No		
Mr. Jensen	No		
Mr. Lokken	Yes		
Mr. McKernan	Yes		
Mr. Meacham	No		
Mr. Rasmuson	No		
Mr. Tillion	No	<u>YES</u>	<u>4</u>
Mr. SKoog	No		
Mr. Donaldson	No	<u>NO</u>	<u>7</u>
Mr. Wendler	Yes		
Mr. Rietze	Yes		

"The amendment is defeated. We will now vote on the original motion. Please respond in the same manner,

Mr. Eaton	Yes		
Mr. Jensen	Yes		
Mr. Lokken	No		
Mr. McKernan	No		
Mr. Meacham	Yes		
Mr. Rasmuson	Yes	<u>YES</u>	<u>7</u>
Mr. Tillion	Yes		
Mr. Skoog	Yes	<u>NO</u>	<u>4</u>
Mr. Donaldson	Yes		
Mr. Wendler	No		
Mr. Rietze	No		

"Carried, 7 to 4. There is always the right of the minority to make its view known to the Secretary and I suppose those that are in the minority have that opportunity if they so wish."

The question of OY for opilio was in the original motion by Mr. Meacham.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON SALMON TROLL PLAN

With the SSC and AP reports for background, the Council addressed the troll salmon plan. Mr. Wendler moved to reject Option I as written and the motion carried. The motion was repeated for Option II and was carried.

(NOTE: Option 1:

1. All waters open for chinook , chum, sockeye and pink salmon between April 15 and October 31 with the following exceptions:

a. All waters north and west of Cape Spencer are open from April 15 through June 30.

b. All waters west of the longitude of Cape Suckling have no open season.

2. Coho season is open from June 15 through September 20 except:

a. All waters west of the longitude of Cape Suckling have no open season.

b. All waters north and west of Cape Spencer are open from June 15 through June 30.

(NOTE: Option II)

1. All waters are open for chinook, sockeye, chum and pink salmon between April 15 and October 31 with the exception:

All waters north and west of Cape Spencer have no open season.

2. Coho season open June 15 through September 20 with the following exception:

All waters north and west of Cape Spencer have no open season.

Mr. Tillion then moved to approve the closure west of Cape suckling and the motion carried.

Mr. Tillion then moved that the fleet be limited to power troll only with exceptions for "grandfathering" in certain participants who have traditionally engaged in the fishery, who are now engaged in the fishery, who have not landed fish in Alaska from the fishery and who do not have limited entry permits. The motion carried.

Mr. McKernan commented on the Canadian point of view with respect to the salmon troll fishery. He suggested the Canadians may have suggested amendments and made the following motion:

(McKernan) "I propose that the Council recognize that we have yet to hear Canadian points of view with respect to the draft (salmon) plan and that the Council is willing to consider such suggestions from the Canadians that are consistent with the objectives of this Council to provide for adequate conservation of the salmon resources subject to the troll fisheries."

Mr. Rasmuson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Meacham made the motion to adopt the 28-inch legal length minimum for king salmon and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Tillion moved that all fin-clipped fish (indicating tagged fish) be required to be landed head-on to preserve the integrity of the tagging program. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Skoog proposed adopting seasons for the salmon troll fishery which coincide with State regulations and the motion was carried unanimously.

Seasons adopted by the above motion are:

CHINOOK

COHO

April 15 - October 30

June 15 - September 30

Chairman Lokken made the following statement:

"I'll entertain a motion to approve the plan as amended here today. I'm looking for a motion to adopt the plan as amended."

The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

SSC REVISED FLOW CHART

A revised flow chart as developed for use during the drafting of management plans was presented to the Council. (NOTE: Copy appended to the minutes).

Mr. McKernan amended a motion to accept the chart changing the wording to refer the document to a working group before adopting. The amended motion passed.

ST. PAUL HARBOR STUDY

The Council heard an abbreviated report on the status of the St. Paul small boat harbor study. The Council feels it is important to advance the study ahead of the projected time frame. Present information is that one year will be necessary to re-activate the study with funding not to be available before 1980.

AP REPRESENTATIVES TO PLANNING TEAMS

Chairman Lokken directed Mr. Specking to name two AP members to the clam and king crab writing teams, and discussed the need for representatives of the Council to attend the INPFC talks in Tokyo in January. No appointment

was made pending the arranging of personal schedules. The meeting will be conducted from Jan. 17 to the 24th, 1978.

NMFS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN FMP's

A report was offered to the Council by Robert McVey (NMFS-Juneau) concerning differences between the Council's FMP and the PMP for groundfish. Mr. McVey's differences follow in tabulated form:

	<u>FMP</u>		<u>PMP</u>
Sablefish OY	10,000 mt		15,000 mt
Cod Oy	34,800 mt		40,600 mt
Other species OY	14,500 mt		16,200 mt
Reserve amount	30 %		20 %

Mr. McVey requested that changes be made in the FMP to reflect figures shown for the PMP, for cod and other species OY, and the reserve amount. The PMP would adopt the FMP sablefish OY. Allocations of TALFF by statistical area (from page 220 in the groundfish FMP) were asked to be postponed for one year.

He further noted that allowing foreign longliners inside the 500 m isobath is not a PMP provision.

The final recommendation is to change the FMP reporting requirements to weekly (per the PMP) from monthly as shown.

The Council discussion was led by Mr. McKernan and Mr. Rasmuson, with Mr. McKernan commenting that the Council has the right to be critical of the time frame in which the suggested changes are asked to be made. Mr. Rasmuson commented that the changes are not of great substance and that there is a 45-day period in which NMFS can comment.

Mr. McKernan commented that the Council should be critical of the manner in which the request was done, and that the "other species" OY change was a frivolous action.

Mr. Lokken suggested the entire matter be referred to the SSC for a report during the January meeting and made reference to the fact that it was not good business to by-pass the SSC and AP on such matters. The motion was made and carried to refer the matter to the SSC with a report to be made in January.

The Council considered the question of including the topic of limited entry in all future management plans. This is considered a management option which might be necessary in fisheries under Council jurisdiction in the future. Mr. Tillion made the motion to have an option for limited entry included for consideration in all future management plans and the motion carried.

U.S./CANADIAN TALKS ON "OTHER FISH"

The Council chairman and Mr. Skoog or his designee Mr. Carl Rosier will be delegates to talks in Vancouver, Canada, the week of Dec. 5-9, 1977. The discussions will be on fish other than salmon and certain boundary considerations.

OY FOR C. OPILIO SOUTH OF 58 DEGREES

The OY figure for C. opilio south of 58 degrees North latitude was the next topic of discussion. (The OY figure for C. opilio to the north of 58 degrees was dealt with in the motion by Mr. Meacham earlier in the meeting.) (See page 7).

Mr. Eaton made the following motion: "I move to set the quota of C. opilio, the OY, south of 58 degrees North latitude at 10,000 mt." The motion was passed unanimously.

At this point in the meeting, (3:34 p.m.) Mr. Lokken turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Tillion and left to catch his plane.

The meeting resumed with Mr. Tillion as acting chairman.

EMERGENCY POWERS OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The Council next considered the problem of the emergency powers of the Regional Director, NMFS. A change was needed in the FMP for groundfish if the Council was to adopt the regulation language of the Tanner crab plan with reference to the section empowering the Regional Director of NMFS to make emergency openings and closures. The motion was made by Mr. Eaton and passed that the regulation language section of the Tanner crab plan be adopted for the groundfish plan.

JOINT VENTURES

Mr. Tillion brought up the subject of joint ventures and Mr. Rietze commented that there is no new information. (A decision on a Council position on that subject had been discussed at a previous meeting and no decision will be made until July, 1978.)

COUNCIL ACTION ON GROUND FISH

With reference to the AP report (see page 6) on the question of foreign longlining inside the 500 m isobath west of 157 degrees West longitude to be restricted during the regular halibut season, Mr. Tillion made the following motion:

"I make a motion to allocate 15,000 mt of the Pacific cod foreign allowable catch in the Gulf of Alaska to the longline fishery only and that such fishery be restricted as follows: no fishing to be conducted by longliners during the regular halibut season."

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 3:58p.m., Friday, Dec. 2, 1977.

(A complete roster of Council members, SSC and AP members present during the meeting and the names of the general public who attended the meeting is included as Appendix F.)