


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, AP, and SSC Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director 

DATE: January 13, 1993

SUBJECT: Crab Management

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Receive status report on possible plan amendment to increase the *opilio* crab OY.
- (b) Receive industry recommendations concerning pot limits.

BACKGROUND

Optimum Yield (OY) of *C. opilio* Analysis

At the June meeting, the Council requested the Crab Plan Team begin an analysis to reevaluate the optimum yield (OY) for *C. opilio* and present a draft EA/RIR document to the Council at the September meeting. The analysis was not completed in time for Council review at that time. However, because the State of Alaska set a Guideline Harvest Level below the 333 million pound OY, impact due to the delay of review of this amendment was minimal. *C. opilio* abundance information from the EBS crab survey indicates that the GHF will probably be below the current OY for the near future.

If directed by the Council, the Crab Plan Team could have available by the April Council meeting a draft EA/RIR for this plan amendment. Alternatives being considered include the status quo (a fixed cap of 333 million pounds), a flexible OY definition which limits the upper end of the OY range to the current year ABC, or a fixed OY definition, which sets the upper end of the OY range as a fixed value using the most appropriate biomass as estimated by recent surveys.

Item D-1(a) includes the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee's recommendation on this issue. The PNCIAC recommends an amendment to the crab FMP to framework the OY to allow for setting an annual GHF according to the annual survey and disregard the cap.

Pot Limits for BSAI Crab Fisheries

At the December 1992 meeting, I reported to you that the Secretary of Commerce had overruled the State of Alaska's regulations implementing a pot limit regulation for the BSAI crab fisheries. During its February 1993 meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries will revisit the pot limit issue. The PNCIAC met on January 5, 1993 to discuss this issue and develop a recommendation. Item D-1(a) has their report and my letter to them. Under the crab FMP, a pot limit regulation is a Category 2 management measure, which provides the State implementation authority following criteria set out in the FMP.

AGENDA D-1(a)
JANUARY 1993**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Richard C. White, Chairman
P.O. Box 97019, Redmond, WA 98073-9719
Tele: 206 881 8181/fax: 206 882 1660

DATE: January 13, 1993

TO: Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director
NPFMC

FROM: Richard C. White, Chairman
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory
Committee

RE: RESPONSE TO NPFMC REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON
BERING SEA POT LIMITS AND THE OPILIO OY

POT LIMITS:

The PNCIAC spent several hours discussing the issue of pot limits at its January 5th, 1993 meeting in Seattle.

The committee and the industry present were frustrated in their attempts by a lack of information on vessel sizes and comparative catches and also by a general lack of guidance from the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service on the types of solutions that would pass legal review.

However, with limited information available to them, the PNCIAC did move ahead with developing a framework proposal in response to your request and for the Board of Fisheries to consider in its deliberations.

Prior to developing this proposal, the committee discussed setting up vessel category lengths as a framework for pot limits, as they were inclined to feel that this would be the preferred alternative the Board of Fisheries would be likely to pursue. However, there was insufficient information available to them on vessel sizes, which would have enabled identifying some natural breaking points for vessel classes.

They were also concerned that setting up vessel classes could also be very controversial, especially with vessels that fall slightly under the next vessel class size. This could be viewed as discriminatory and it could result in further legal appeals.

Therefore the PNCIAC moved ahead with the following recommendations:

1. Establish a formula for pot limits in the Bering Sea fisheries based on a maximum of 2.5 pots per linear foot of vessel length, as measured by length overall and a minimum of 1 pot per linear foot, length overall. The motion covers only those fisheries to which the pot limits were recently overturned by the Secretary of Commerce.

2. The pot limits are to be linked to a sliding scale of guideline harvest levels. The same formula is to be used for all the crab species and a minimum of no less than 1 pot per linear foot of vessel length is recommended.

less than 5 million #---1 pot/foot of length overall

5 million # to 7.5 m#---1.5 pots/foot of length overall

7.5 million # to 10m#---2 pots/foot of length overall

10 million # and over--2.5 pots/foot of length overall

Further discussion about pot limits, in response to the NPFMC's question #4, led to consensus on the PNCIAC that the BSAI Crab FMP not be amended to allow for discriminatory regulations for any vessel size classes.

OPILIO OY:

After a brief discussion and hearing from Jerry Reeves what options were being discussed by the plan team, the PNCIAC adopted a motion recommending the NPFMC develop an amendment to the crab FMP to framework the opilio OY, to allow for setting an annual GHL according to the annual survey and population estimates and disregard the cap.

The minutes of the PNCIAC meetings of December 2nd and January 5, 1993 are provided for the NPFMC administrative record.



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue
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Telephone: (907) 271-2809
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rich White, Chairman
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee

FROM: Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director 

DATE: January 4, 1993

SUBJECT: Pot limits and OY issues for Committee meeting on January 5, 1993

As you prepare for your meeting tomorrow, I wanted to give you some background on the Council's request that the committee consider the issues of pot limits and opilio OY among your agenda items, and request that you report to the Council on the results of your discussions when we meet the week of January 17 here in Anchorage.

Pot Limits

At our December Council meeting, NMFS reported the status of their interim final rule to overturn the State's pot limits in the BSAI because they were inconsistent with Section 8.2.7 of the crab plan that provides that pot limits must be designed in a non-discriminatory manner, for example, as a function of vessel size. I recall, as you probably do also, that in the mid-1980's when we were developing the crab plan and negotiating its implementation with the State of Alaska, there seemed to be a singular position in the Pacific Northwest crab industry, voiced most often by the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association, against any pot limits that were the same for all vessel size classes. That and exclusive registration seemed to be the biggest concerns of the Northwest industry.

From the comments I heard at the Crab Interim Action Committee meeting on August 26, 1992, and at our September Council meeting, it appears that industry views may be changing, and that some individuals would support pot limits to control the rate of harvest, even if they were the same for all vessel size classes. That is why I suggested at the December Council meeting that your committee may want to review pot limits and report to the Council at the January meeting and then to the Board of Fisheries. The Board of Fisheries seems intent on implementing some form of pot limits for conservation and management of the fisheries, and possibly there is some compromise measure you could agree on.

Here are some questions you may want to consider at your meeting tomorrow:

1. Does the Pacific Northwest industry still adamantly oppose pot limits that are the same for all vessel sizes?
2. If not, what pot limits make the most sense for controlling harvest in the various crab fisheries?
3. If pot limits must be by vessel size class, what limits and size classes would your industry support?
4. Should the crab plan be amended to allow single limits for all vessels size classes?

C. opilio OY

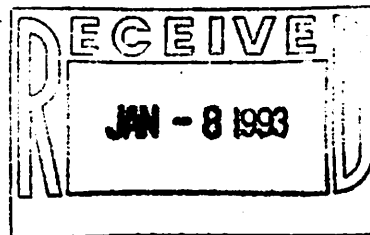
A second issue that the Council could use a reading on from your committee is that of the opilio OY. When the GHF was very high for last season's fishery, the Council was urged to develop a plan amendment to raise the OY cap, currently at 333 million pounds. Now that the harvest level has declined again, does the committee think the Council should raise the cap even though there is no immediate need?

We would appreciate a report from the committee for the Council on Monday morning, January 18. Our staff would be happy to type it up and help you in any other way we can. Just let me know what is needed.

Copy to: Alaska Board of Fisheries
Commissioner, ADF&G
Committee members



ALASKA CRAB COALITION



3901 Leary Way (Bldg.) N.W., Suite #6 • Seattle, WA 98107 • (206) 547-7560 • FAX (206) 547-0130

DATE: January 8, 1993

TO: Rick Lauber, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510

FROM: Arni Thomson, Executive Director *Arni Thomson*

RE: AGENDA ITEM D-1, BSAI CRAB MANAGEMENT
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADF&G SHELLFISH OBSERVER
PROGRAM RELATIVE TO THE FISHERIES RESEARCH PLAN

The attached correspondence to the Alaska Board of Fisheries concerning recommendations for improvements to the shellfish observer program have been developed after lengthy discussions with crab vessel owners, processing companies and observer contractors.

The recommendations have also been reviewed and endorsed by the Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee at its meeting on January 5th, 1993.

The ACC requests that the NPFMC endorse these recommendations for improvements to the ADF&G shellfish observer program and that the Council include its recommendations along with its comments on the pot limits issue.

cc: Steve Pennoyer, RD, NMFS



ALASKA CRAB COALITION

3901 Leary Way (Bldg.) N.W., Suite #6 • Seattle, WA 98107 • (206) 547-7560 • FAX (206) 547-0130

January 7, 1993

TO: Mike Martin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries
P.O. Box 3-2000
Juneau, AK 99802

FROM: Arni Thomson, Executive Director

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADF&G SHELLFISH OBSERVER
PROGRAM RELATIVE TO THE FEDERAL FISHERIES RESEARCH
PLAN

BACKGROUND:

It has been a goal of the ACC since 1988, when it originally submitted a proposal to develop the onboard crab observer program, to develop a credible cost efficient program that would yield useful biological information as well as take care of enforcement concerns related to the harvest of sub legal male crabs.

It is widely recognized that the ADF&G shellfish observer program and manual need revisions to relieve industry of burdensome provisions that create unnecessary logistical delays and excessive costs. A primary example is the requirement that all testing, deployment and debriefing of observers must take place only in the distant port of Dutch Harbor. However, the City of Anchorage is centrally located as a transit point to both Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea fisheries. Due to its location and available facilities, it would be a cost effective additional deployment site.

In addition, very little of the data collected is being made available outside the offices of ADF&G, to either industry or the NPFMC.

Age class data on samples of recruit and pre recruit discards could also be systematically aggregated and used in conjunction with the once-a-year NMFS trawl survey to improve the statistical confidence level of the population projections.

These recommendations are therefore made in the interest of reducing the delays and excessive costs, improving the quality, availability and use of biological data and to eventually integrating this program into the federal Fisheries Research Plan.

The ADF&G Shellfish Observer Program is to be reviewed by the Board of Fisheries at its February 2nd-10th meeting in Anchorage. The Board operates on a three year cycle in terms of review of regional fisheries. Thus it is likely that the Board will not review changes to the observer program again until March of 1996.

On the other hand, it is likely that the NMFS and NPFMC will be initiating the startup of fee collection for the federal Research Plan observer program (crab and groundfish) in 1993. The new observer program itself could start up as early as January 1994 and should include some integration of training and debriefing of shellfish and groundfish observers.

Thus it is important at this time that the Board of Fisheries consider some changes in that regard for the ADF&G shellfish program now, to establish the regulatory framework that will enable integration of the programs in 1994.

ADF&G recognizes the need for some coordination, at least in terms of accessing the funds, as it has submitted a proposal for funding of shellfish samplers for shorebased plants from the Research Plan, as noted below.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **SYSTEMATIC RECOGNITION OF DUAL CERTIFICATION OF OBSERVERS:** ADF&G and the NMFS need to recognize dual certification of observers effective the date of implementation of the Federal Fishery Research Plan.

ADF&G has requested funding of shellfish observers from the industry funded observer program for shorebased plants. (Reference Proposal #350, ADF&G.) This will in some cases mandate two observers for the plants during concurrent groundfish and shellfish seasons, an unnecessary cost burden for the industry, particularly during slow seasons.

2. **STANDARDIZE TESTING, CERTIFICATION, DEBRIEFING AND DATA FORMATS, WHERE POSSIBLE:** Actual certification of observers should be standardized for ADF&G and NMFS observers. The present ADF&G two step certification process, with inflexible 30 and 90 day debriefing deadlines is unnecessarily burdensome. NMFS program has one step certification at the 90 day level, with a flexible "check in after first trip" requirement.

3

Dual certification of debriefing personnel should also be established by ADF&G and NMFS agencies when the Research Plan goes into effect, to reduce logistical delays and to minimize administrative costs.

ADF&G should also be requested to develop computerized key punch observer forms at the earliest possible date. Both ADF&G and NMFS should coordinate on development of standardized data formats, to simplify analysis and review. There should also be an open exchange of observer data between the two agencies.

3. OBSERVER TRAINING AND DEBRIEFING IN ANCHORAGE: Observer training and debriefing at the University of Alaska Observer Training Center in Anchorage should also be recognized by both ADF&G and NMFS and integrated into the programs as soon as possible. The Center is offering offices at no cost to both agencies.

Seasonal debriefing of observers at St. Paul Island should also be started as soon as possible, as this would benefit both the shellfish and groundfish industry. These changes will generate tremendous savings in travel expenses for the shellfish and groundfish industry and simplify the logistics of deployment.

4. ESTABLISH AN INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE SHELLFISH OBSERVER PROGRAM, SANCTIONED BY THE BOARD OF FISHERIES AND THE NPFMC: Shellfish industry representatives need a voice in the management and operation of the industry funded program, as they requested the authorization of it at the federal level, both in the U.S. Congress and at the NPFMC. This committee would serve parallel to the NPFMC Observer Oversight Committee for groundfish. As presently structured, the joint ADF&G/NMFS agency workgroup, sanctioned under the Research Plan does not provide for industry representation and systematic input.

5. ESTABLISH A CERTIFIED BILL OF LADING PROCEDURE FOR TRANSPORTING PROCESSED SHELLFISH ON CATCHER PROCESSORS: A certified bill of lading procedure should be established for crab catcher processors wishing to transport product to Seattle and other non Alaskan ports. The present requirement which calls for an observer to remain on board until the product is discharged is overly burdensome and unnecessary. A check-in procedure for Dutch Harbor and non Alaskan ports can be established.

cc: Carl Rosier, Commissioner, ADF&G
Rick Lauber, Chairman, NPFMC
Steve Pennoyer, RD, NMFS

January 5, 1993

MINUTES PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

AREA/FISHERIES: BERING SEA/ALEUTIANS, CRAB FISHERIES

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Rich White, Kevin Kadestad, Arne Aadland, Don Giles, Phil Chitwood, Konrad Uri, Bruce Joyce, Spike Jones, Bart Eaton, and Arni Thomson, Secretary, (non voting).

QUORUM PRESENT: YES

ADF&G STAFF PRESENT: Paul Larson, Alf Spallinger

ALASKA DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Captain Phil Gilson

NMFS STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Pollard-NOA Legal Counsel;
Ray Baglin-Crab FMP specialist; Jerry Reeves-biologist.

WASH. DEPT. OF FISH: Al Millikan-Deputy Director.

INDUSTRY PRESENT (SEE ATTACHED): Jerry Ramos & Paul Rachey-Arctic Alaska, Clinton Meyer-All Alaskan, Bob Wood-Wood/Cannon, Clyde Sterling-Peter Pan Seafoods, Phil McCrudden-UNIPAK/St. Paul, Gary Painter-Trailblazer, Thomas R. Parks-FV Katie K, Kris Fanning-FV Entrance Point, Gary Buholm-FV American Viking, Pete Woeck-FV Windy Bay, Ralph Hansen-Tri Star Marine, Steve Toomey-FV Exito, Jim Stone-FV Retriever, Rick Shelford-FV Aleutian Lady, Chuck Hosmer-Courageous and Baranof, Rick Hastings-Deep Sea Fisheries Inc., Mike Nixon-FV Reliance, Chuck Jensen-East Point Seafoods and Ed Wyman-Neptune Marine Products.

REVIEW MINUTES OF PNCIAC MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 1992.
MOTION TO ADOPT CARRIES WITH NO OBJECTIONS.

POT LIMITS DISCUSSION:

P Larson: State of Alaska still supports pot limits. Wants something in place.

A Spallinger: Board will likely "framework" something for pot limits in February to meet the FMP language and to get something in place for the coming year.

J Pollard: Explains the FMP provision regarding the guidelines for the pot limit setup. Must not be discriminatory to either large or small boats. Board established pot limits are discriminatory to large boats, decreases their loads, but in some cases, allows for increases in loads for smaller boats.

Pot limits, when established, must affect vessel classes equally. Recommend that the Council amend the language and clarify the section on the pot limits.

B Eaton: Seems to be a regulatory dual between the two agencies right now. Seems like the burden is upon them to develop some proposals that will satisfy their regulatory policies, etc. However, neither of the agencies have come here with proposals and this puts all the burden on industry to come up with a solution that may not be legally feasible.

P Larson: State has not had enough time to formulate some recommendations or proposals.

B Joyce: I don't feel that the PNCIAC has enough guidance from the agencies to proceed in a constructive manner here. We will only be making arbitrary recommendations based on our subjective needs. State of Alaska has not even brought us current information on vessel lengths in order for us to develop some reasonable vessel categories.

R White: I agree. We need more guidance from the agencies on what they think in terms of specifics that will pass muster with the State and the federal govt. We requested that information at our last meeting on December 2, 1992. (Reference PNCIAC memo to Larry Nicholson, dated 12/3/92.)

P Chitwood: The pot limits reduced Arctic Alaska's capacity by 50%. I don't think it affected smaller boats to that extent.

T Parks: The pot limits affected my boat. It cut down our capacity by one entire load of pots.

Pollard: Commenting on the Joshua Greenberg economic analysis; the Secretary of Commerce used this study to determine that the present limit is discriminatory. Based on 1990 data. Used three vessel categories: under 90; 90 - 135'; over 135'.

Spallinger: Provides us with vessel length information for Bristol Bay fisheries.

B Joyce: State is being very vague about its intended goals. I want to be provided with more information than the State seems willing to provide.

R White: Calls for copies of Spallinger's analysis. (See enclosure, Number of Vessels by Length and Class)

R White: What is ADF&G trying to achieve in terms of management goals?

P Larson: State wants to get control of the fishing power of the fleet so we can effectively manage the fisheries.

J Pollard: I tend to agree with Eaton that the State needs to better define its goals before the management solutions can be developed. It is questionable that pot limits can be equitable and achieve what the State wants to do.

Bob Wood: Both our large and small boats had to leave gear on the beach, both classes equally affected.

S Jones: I came here supporting pot limits, but I am changing my mind. I don't see it as a meaningful solution. It is going to take a long term solution like fishing quotas to control the fishing power in the fleets.

P Chitwood: The pot limits are not a long term solution and may require constant changes. It could also lead to favoring small boats and put large boats out of business. IFQs are the appropriate long term solution.

P Larson: The State will likely recomend a sliding scale pot limit for Bering Sea fisheries.

B Eaton: Whatever limits the State sets, must address the issue of controlling the aggregate number of pots on the grounds in order to open some fisheries. The aggregate number may change year to year depending on the quotas.

P Larson: Control of fishing power is the main focus of the need for pot limits. Management and conservation are also integral parts of the need for pot limits.

D Giles: Pot limits are also being used to make the difference between opening a fishery or not.

K Uri: Enforceability a big issue. This is a complex issue and I don't think we can solve it in one day.

B Joyce: It is obvious to me that the State is going to set up limits for vessel classes based on keel length, cubic measurement, or historic use. Lets start some discussion or drop it until we get more information.

J Pollard: You need more information on vessel sizes to try to determine vessel length or volumetric size groupings.

Pollard again reiterates that some logical groupings if established would satisfy the Secretary.

Capt. Gilson: On enforceability, limits are enforceable, if the fleet is willing to go with no replacement of stickers. Enforceability is possible, depends on what level we want,

60%, 80% or more. What does the industry feel is satisfactory?

Chitwood: Enforceability is discriminatory. CPs have enforcement people on board that they pay for. Not so with catcher boats.

Eaton: Pot limits appear now to be a criterion that means the difference between having a fishery or not. We should give the Board some guidance on this issue.

DISCUSSION:

PNCIAC then spoke further to their dilemma of making a recommendation in a timely manner for the January 17 Council meeting. Committee feels that they do not have enough technical information on vessels, etc. to make meaningful recommendations. Very concerned that Ken Griffin unable to get to meeting and that he has significant information on number of pots being used this year and difference in catch ratios, larger versus small boats to determine what if any impacts the pot limits had this year on production in the king crab fisheries.

RECOMMENDATIONS, SPIKE JONES: In the interest of trying to provide the Council and Board of Fish with at least some guidelines, I would like to offer some general guidelines for frameworking pot limits.

1. If categories are to be established:
less than 5
2. Flexibility in limits between fisheries; no fixed limit for all fisheries.
3. Establish limits based upon the best historical data base of vessel use of pots.
3. Establish minimum average limits per fishery
 - 100 pot average minimum for Area Q king crab fisheries
 - 250 pot average minimum # for Area T king crab
 - 350 pot average minimum # for Bering Sea tanners

DISCUSSION:

Thomson: Reference Kodiak tanner fishery and the pot limit there being based on a sliding scale, linked to GHLS, can lead to a fishery being dominated by smaller boats. The Kodiak tanner fishery is now dominated by limit seiners and vessels under 70 feet in length since the implementation of the pot limit.

Spallinger: Kodiak limit frameworked by the BOF and enables a fishery to take place where there would not be a fishery. Stocks have not improved during the time of implementation.

PNCIAC members generally agreed that the above were being discussed with the knowledge that the limits are directly linked to the length of season that ADF&G sets.

K Kaldestad: Expressed his concern that the Committee did not have sufficient information to make recommendations on vessel categories and limits. He requested a follow-up meeting or teleconference with ADF&G after ADF&G had developed some alternatives and could present industry with information on vessel lengths and comparative catches.

THE PNCIAC SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING THE GENERAL GUIDELINES, BUT DID NOT ADOPT A MOTION ENDORSING THEM.

RECONVENE AFTER LUNCH:

The PNCIAC left the previous discussion without action, due to frustration over lack of information on vessel lengths and catches.

BRUCE JOYCE THEN MADE A MOTION FOR A FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL FOR THE PNCIAC TO REVIEW:

MOTION:

B Joyce: Establish a formula for pot limits in the Bering Sea fisheries based on a maximum of 2.5 pots per linear foot of vessel, as measured by Length Overall and a minimum of 1 pot per linear foot, length overall. Motion covers only those fisheries to which the pot limits previously applied.

S Jones: Offers a friendly amendment; link the 1 and 2.5 limits to harvest guidelines as follows:

less than 5 m#	-----1	pot/foot of length overall
5m# to 7.5 m#	-----1.5	pots/foot of length overall
7.5m# to 10 m#	-----2	pots/foot of length overall
10m# and over	-----2.5	pots/foot of length overall

Chitwood: Offers a friendly amendment, that a minimum of no less than 1 pot per foot be established for any fishery.

DISCUSSION:

Larson: Should consider recommendations on quota threshold levels for Board to framework quota/pot limit levels between minimum and maximum limits of 1 and 2.5 pots per foot.

Joyce: Recommends that ADF&G provide us with information on minimum threshold levels for the Bering Sea fisheries to help us with minimum pot limit recommendations.

Larson: Suggest that you set sliding scale pot limit on the harvestable surplus segment of the populations.

Uri: I feel that the 250 pot limit is a minimum level now.

Gilson: Commenting on the sticker loss/enforceability issue; St Mat and Bristol Bay sticker loss, of buoys checked, 1% and 10% loss respectively.

PNCIAC members then had a lengthy discussion with industry participation to determine as best they could, how many total pots this formula would allow on the grounds. Most recent information available at the meeting, that the average vessel length for the Bering Sea fleet is 100-110 feet, and that 285 boats participated in the Bristol Bay fishery. Committee members estimated that at 2 pots per foot and 285 boats with a less than 10 million pound harvest this formula would come close to the estimated number of pots on the grounds in Bristol Bay this fall under the 250 pot limit. ADF&G estimated there were about 65,000 pots on the grounds and the GHF was 10 million pounds.

JOYCE/JONES MOTION WITH CHITWOOD AMENDMENT: MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, NO OBJECTIONS.

URI MOTION TO DROP AFFIDAVIT REQUIREMENT ON REPLACEMENT OF STICKERS: (1). Any pot limit program must include replacement of stickers for lost pots and for stickers that wear off or delaminate. (2). Recommend that replacement system for buoy stickers and the affidavit system be modified to remove the 3 witness provision and allowance for replacements to be made from St. Paul Island, St. George Island, Akutan, King Cove and Sand Point in addition to Dutch Harbor.

SECOND THE MOTION: B JOYCE

A Spallinger: In response to a question about replacement of stickers in the Kodiak tanner fishery, he explained that an affidavit had to be signed, but no witnesses were required.

Committee members felt that if replacement was allowed in Kodiak and no witnesses were required on the affidavit, then the same should apply for the Bering Sea.

MOTION CARRIED, NO OBJECTIONS.

OBSERVER PROPOSALS:

#340: Observer access to catcher vessels tendered to floaters to inspect catch, equipment, etc.

URI RECOMMENDS AMENDMENT: That observer activities be restricted to inspecting catch only. No need to inspect vessel and equipment.

MOTION CARRIES, NO OBJECTIONS.

#341: NO ACTION

#342: NO ACTION

#343: NO ACTION

#344: ADF&G TO PROVIDE A SEASONAL SHELLFISH OBSERVER COORDINATOR IN THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS TO CONDUCT INSEASON BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING OF OBSERVERS, EXCLUDING INITIAL BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING FOR EACH FISHERY.

PNCIAC MOTION TO ENDORSE, NO OBJECTIONS.

DISCUSSION: REDUCE TRANSPORTATION COSTS, AND DELAYS FOR VESSEL OWNERS THAT RESULT IN LOST REVENUES.

#345: NO ACTION

#346: NO ACTION. OBSERVER MANUAL NOT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO TAKE ACTION.

#347: OPPOSED,

#348: ENDORSED

#349: OPPOSED SEE MINUTES OF 12/2/92

#350: NO ACTION

MOTION TO ENDORSE ACC LETTER ON SHELLFISH OBSERVER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

ACC LETTER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADF&G SHELLFISH OBSERVER PROGRAM, DUAL CERTIFICATION OF OBSERVERS AND DEBRIEFERS, INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AND ANCHORAGE AS ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT AND DEBRIEFING STATION.

MOTION CARRIES, NO OBJECTIONS, TO ENDORSE THE ACC LETTER. (SEE ENCLOSED LETTER.)

DISCUSSION OF OPILIO CRAB OY:

MOTION: P Chitwood, 2nd Jones: Amend the FMP to framework the opilio OY to allow for establishing annual GHF according to the annual survey, and disregard the cap.

MOTION CARRIES, NO OBJECTIONS

KLVOA PETITION TO BOARD OF FISHERIES FOR TANK INSPECTIONS
IN THE OPILIO FISHERY:

DISCUSSION:

Present situation ignores the fair start principle. This situation is encouraging wholesale early fishing of opilio. Each year there are more and more boats starting early.

MOTION TO ENDORSE, URI, 2ND EATON; CAVEAT ADDED THAT VESSELS WITH OBSERVERS BE EXEMPTED, THIS ACTION REQUEST IS FOR THIS YEAR ONLY. REQUEST THAT BOARD OF FISHERIES DIRECT ADF&G TO ACT IMMEDIATELY TO CONDUCT TANK INSPECTIONS FOR OPILIO FISHERY.

PNCIAC SECRETARY DIRECTED TO SEND MEMO TO BOF AND ADF&G IMMEDIATELY ON TANK INSPECTIONS. (SEE ATTACHED.)

#318: MOTION CARRIED TO OPPOSE

#320: MOTION TO ENDORSE CARRIES

#324: RETENTION OF RED KING CRAB IN BROWN CRAB LONGLINE FISHERY, 150 FATHOM MINIMUM AND OBSERVER REQUIREMENT.

MOTION TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL ADOPTED, NO OBJECTIONS.

#311: CHANGE OF SEASON OPENING DATES: Status quo as in minutes from Dec. 2, 1992 meeting of the PNCIAC. IN ADDITION TO THAT, PNCIAC ADOPTED MOTION RECOMMENDING: CHANGE AREA Q PRIBILOF ISLANDS RED AND BLUE KING CRAB SEASON OPENING DATE TO COINCIDE WITH THE AREA T OPENING DATE OF NOVEMBER FIRST.

DISCUSSION:

Committee noted that this will spread the fleet out and allow taking harvestable surplus in Pribilofs. The Pribilof season historically used to open at the same time as Area T and it was an oversight that it was not addressed at the time Area T opening date was changed to November first. MOTION ADOPTED, NO OBJECTIONS.

#333 and 334 OPPOSED

DISCUSSION: Committee concerned that any changes in the tolerance levels would complicate enforceability particularly with the present definitions of tanner crabs with which they were satisfied.

#338: GALVANIC TIMED RELEASES AS AN OPTIONAL ESCAPE MECHANISM DEVICE

DISCUSSION:

Ed Wyman: Spoke in support of GTR's as only an alternative to cotton thread; but would be used and tied in with cotton thread.

R Hastings: Spoke in support of existing cotton thread and maintaining use of thread.

MOTION TO ENDORSE AS AN OPTION ONLY, TO THE USE OF #30 COTTON THREAD, AND NOT TO BECOME MANDATORY. MOTION CARRIED, NO OPPOSITION.

#337: MOTION TO OPPOSE.

ADJOURN AT 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Arni Thomson, Secretary PNCIAC
January 15, 1993



Richard C. White, Chairman PNCIAC

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CRAB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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DATE: January 13, 1993

TO: Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director
NPFMC

FROM: Richard C. White, Chairman
Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory
Committee

RE: RESPONSE TO NPFMC REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON
BERING SEA POT LIMITS AND THE OPILIO OY

POT LIMITS:

The PNCIAC spent several hours discussing the issue of pot limits at its January 5th, 1993 meeting in Seattle.

The committee and the industry present were frustrated in their attempts by a lack of information on vessel sizes and comparative catches and also by a general lack of guidance from the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service on the types of solutions that would pass legal review.

However, with limited information available to them, the PNCIAC did move ahead with developing a framework proposal in response to your request and for the Board of Fisheries to consider in its deliberations.

Prior to developing this proposal, the committee discussed setting up vessel category lengths as a framework for pot limits, as they were inclined to feel that this would be the preferred alternative the Board of Fisheries would be likely to pursue. However, there was insufficient information available to them on vessel sizes, which would have enabled identifying some natural breaking points for vessel classes.

They were also concerned that setting up vessel classes could also be very controversial, especially with vessels that fall slightly under the next vessel class size. This could be viewed as discriminatory and it could result in further legal appeals.

Therefore the PNCIAC moved ahead with the following recommendations:

1. Establish a formula for pot limits in the Bering Sea fisheries based on a maximum of 2.5 pots per linear foot of vessel length, as measured by length overall and a minimum of 1 pot per linear foot, length overall. The motion covers only those fisheries to which the pot limits were recently overturned by the Secretary of Commerce.

2. The pot limits are to be linked to a sliding scale of guideline harvest levels. The same formula is to be used for all the crab species and a minimum of no less than 1 pot per linear foot of vessel length is recommended.

less than 5 million #---1 pot/foot of length overall

5 million # to 7.5 m#---1.5 pots/foot of length overall

7.5 million # to 10m#---2 pots/foot of length overall

10 million # and over--2.5 pots/foot of length overall

Further discussion about pot limits, in response to the NPFMC's question #4, led to consensus on the PNCIAC that the BSAI Crab FMP not be amended to allow for discriminatory regulations for any vessel size classes.

OPILIO OY:

After a brief discussion and hearing from Jerry Reeves what options were being discussed by the plan team, the PNCIAC adopted a motion recommending the NPFMC develop an amendment to the crab FMP to framework the opilio OY, to allow for setting an annual GHl according to the annual survey and population estimates and disregard the cap.

The minutes of the PNCIAC meetings of December 2nd and January 5, 1993 are provided for the NPFMC administrative record.

Richard C. White