

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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



605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone: (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

Certified by

John Bruce

Date

6/1/98

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES APRIL 20-24, 1998 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Advisory Panel members in attendance:

Alstrom, Ragnar	Henderschedt, John
Benson, Dave	Jones, Spike
Blott, Tim	Lewis, John
Bruce, John (Chair)	Madsen, Stephanie (Vice-Chair)
Burch, Alvin	Nelson, Hazel
Cross, Craig	Paddock, Dean
Falvey, Dan	Stephan, Jeff
Fanning, Kris	Turk, Teresa
Fraser, Dave	Ward, Robert
Fuglvog, Arne	Yeck, Lyle
Ganey, Steve	Yutzenka, Grant
Gundersen, Justine	

Election of Officers

The Advisory Panel (AP) unanimously reelected John Bruce Chairman and Stephanie Madsen Vice-Chair, (21/0). The AP unanimously approved their February 1998 meeting minutes.

C-1 Inshore/Offshore 3

The AP recommends the Council send the EA/RIR for Inshore/Offshore 3 out for public review with the following changes incorporated as time permits:

1. With respect to the McDowell report;
 - a. Ask the authors to substantiate their speculations and conclusions concerning the effects of different allocation alternatives on partner profitability and its affect on CDQ royalties;
 - b. Quantitatively and qualitatively reflect the CDQ groups responses to the questionnaire; and

- c. Provide a more thorough analysis, including a quantitative estimate of employment and earnings by sector and the most likely effects of the various allocation alternatives on CDQ resident employment and earnings.

With respect to the EA/RIR document:

2. Request staff utilize data already present in the document to draft a separate section that explicitly examines the potential spill-over effects on other fisheries resulting from a major reallocation of pollock. This section should include management measures that the Council could take to mitigate these effects.
3. Request staff include a discussion and examination of management measures which would limit any proportional increase in the catch from the CVOA under the various allocation alternatives.
4. Request staff include a discussion of transfer pricing and market control on wholesale prices and raw fish values.
5. Include two additional options for defining "true motherships" and operation restrictions for them:

Option 1: Vessels must declare whether they will operate in the inshore, true mothership or offshore sector either:

- a. annually
- b. for the effective period of inshore/offshore 3.

A "true mothership" would be defined as any mothership or floating processor not included in the inshore sector and may not act as a harvester in the target pollock fishery while declared as a true mothership.

Option 2: A true mothership would be defined as a mobile fish processor which has never caught their own fish in the U.S. EEZ.

6. Add to CVOA Issues under Option (b) an exclusion of catcher vessels over 125 ft.
7. Establish a new Alternative 4 which would provide a set-aside for catcher vessels less than 125 ft. The new set-aside would be based upon a combination of:
 - 40-65% of the inshore quota, plus
 - 9-15% of the offshore quota, plus
 - 100% of the true mothership sector.

The catcher vessel set-aside may be delivered to any sector.

A motion to amend Alternative 3 to the following percentage ranges: inshore sector 32-38; mothership 9-12, and; offshore sector 51-57 failed 5/16/2.

Further, the AP would like to highlight to the Council that the impact on CDQ employment and wages is a very important part of the analysis and, to the extent practical, Council staff should monitor the revision to the McDowell study to ensure that as much of this information as possible be available for the public and Council review.

The AP would also like to request the Council send a letter to the Congressional delegations of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon requesting increased funding towards Steller sea lion research for NMFS, ADF&G and the North Pacific Marine Science Foundation.

C-2 Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

The AP recommends the Council send the EA/RIR for Essential Fish Habitat out for public review with the following revisions.

1. Expand the section (2.1.6), "Consequences of Alternatives" to provide more information on the effects of Alternatives 2 versus 3.
2. Delete, by reference, the paper written by Auster and Langton, "The Indirect Effects of Fishing" (page 285, Section 11.1).
3. Separate the Cape Edgecombe Pinnacle closure and develop a separate amendment.

Further, the AP requests the Council direct the Core Team to prepare, for the June meeting, a discussion paper or additional technical information about where Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) exist and any gaps in protection of these areas. Motion carries unanimously (21/0).

C-3 Moratorium

The AP recommends the council send the EA/RIR to extend the moratorium out for public review. The AP again wishes to express our concern over the large number of potential moratorium permits that may still be applied for. To address this concern, we recommend adding the following options for Alternatives 2, 3 and 4:

1. A limited application period which is as short as possible, and
2. Extended moratorium permits would be issued to current holders of moratorium permits.

Additionally, the AP recommends including another option under Alternative 4 which explicitly defines superseded as the date fishing under the License Limitation Program can begin. Motion carries unanimously (21/0).

C-4 (c) CDQs - Amendment 45

The AP recommends the Council send the EA/RIR for Amendment 45 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP for continuation of the BSAI Pollock CDQ Program out for public review. Motion carries unanimously (21/0).

The AP recommends the Council direct staff to initiate an analysis to allow the CDQ trawl fisheries to begin January 1 with the understanding that this regulation may not be in place January 1999. Motion carries 18/2/1.

C-7 Halibut Charterboat Management

The AP recommends developing an analysis of the following alternatives identified by the Halibut GHLC Committee:

Alternative 1: drop the GHLC;

Alternative 2: the GHLC allocation and quota banking measures; and

Alternative 3 with the range for analysis on the management measures to include:

- Line limits — 4-6 lines in Area 2C; 6-26 lines in Area 3A
- Boat limit — half of collective bag limit; 100% of collective bag limit
- Annual limit — 4-12 fish per person, per year
- Trip limit — 1 boat limit in 24 hour period

The analysis should also include a description of the "Rod Permit Program" used in Oregon. Additionally, the AP recommends the committee members provide details on the banking idea for inclusion the analysis.

The AP further recommends the Halibut GHLC Committee continue to meet and develop moratorium elements, exclusive registration and other long-term measures. To assist this continued work, the AP recommends the Council establish a control date as soon as possible.

Motion carries 14/0/1.

C-8 (a) Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Amendments

The AP recommends the Council send out for public review the EA/RIR for Amendment 54/54. Motion carries unanimously (14/0).

D-1(a) Amendment 48/48 - Streamline TAC Setting Process

The AP recommends the Council adopt Alternative 2. Motion carries unanimously.

D-1 (b) BSAI Chinook PSC Revisions

The AP recommends the Council incorporate additional Alternatives 4 and 5 (as cited by Dave Ackley) and have the revised document brought back to the Council for review in June.

Alt 4: Annual closure of specific "hot spot" blocks

1. Specific blocks 200, 201, 202, 227, 228 and 254
2. Subdivide block 201

The AP recommends the block closures be looked at seasonally.

Alt 5: Alternative 4 combined with Alternatives 1, 2 and 3.

Add an option to all alternatives to exclude non-pollock target fisheries from the closures with the understanding that all chinook bycatch in those fisheries would be counted toward the cap. Motion carries unanimously (21/0).

Additionally, the AP request the document include:

1. Examination of the spill-over effect using the best level of simulation model given the time and modeling constraints.
2. Stock identification and ocean survival rate information currently available (Amendment 21b).

Motion carries 16/3/2.

Main motion carries 12/9.

MINORITY REPORT
D-1(a) Chinook Salmon Bycatch

We believe that the document should go out for public review without further delay for the following reasons:

1. The Council is required to respond to Congress in a timely manner and this deadline would not be met by putting this off further.
2. This issue has been before the Council for many years and very little new information is needed to supplement the existing documents already reviewed by the Council which clearly identify a significant impact upon other historic users of the salmon resource.
3. Presently existing research has already demonstrated the time and location of major bycatch problems.
4. The trawl industry presently possesses a well demonstrated capability to substantially reduce bycatch of salmon through utilization of the Sea State program. Most offshore pollock vessels are already equipped with this program. Some are using it voluntarily. Others are not, since the existing overgenerous cap provides little or no incentive to avoid salmon bycatch.
5. We believe that what the fishing industry and the salmon resource require at this time is not further study, but a stiffening of resolve on the part of the Council to take positive steps toward alleviation of this long-festering problem.

Signed:	Hazel Nelson	Steve Ganey
	Arne Fuglvog	Teresa Turk
	Dan Falvey	John Lewis
	Dean Paddock	Robert Ward
	Ragnar Alstrom	

D-1(c) BSAI Pollock Bottom Trawl Ban

The AP recommends the Council release for public review the EA/RIR bottom trawl ban with the following additions:

Under Alternative 2, add Option 3:

- Option 3. Calculations of bycatch savings should include halibut and crab taken in excess of performance standard.

Additionally, add options for a regulatory change in allocating PSC:

- a. exempting pelagic pollock fishery (status quo)
- b. splitting out pollock from the pollock, Atka mackerel/other species category.

Further, the AP requests the Council include in the document:

1. time series of PSC cap apportionments to bottom trawl pollock
2. estimate of costs of closing the pollock trawl fishery short of TAC
3. Value of groundfish per unit of each PSC species in various target fisheries
4. Symmetrical data sets between BSAI and GOA
5. Add rate table in addition to quantity table in Tables 10 and 11
6. Where possible, number and average weight of halibut.

Motion carries unanimously (21/0).

Main motion carries 18/1/1.

D-1(e) Seasonal/area Apportionment of Atka mackerel

In light of the SSC's concerns over the Fritz analysis and the incompleteness of the EA at this time, the AP recommends the Atka mackerel amendment not be sent out for public comment at this time.

The AP further recommends the Council ask the SSC to assist NMFS in the development of a methodology to diagnose and measure localized depletion of Atka mackerel. That methodology should be peer reviewed and should be adequate for determining whether localized depletion has occurred in specific areas in the past and whether it occurs after the implementation of A-B seasons and other management measures to address localized depletion.

The AP requests the following information be added to the analysis:

1. Attempt to look at biomass estimates
 - a. inside/outside critical habitat areas
 - b. inside/outside no trawl zones
 - c. east and west distribution in Area 543
2. Time series on biomass estimate from past (SAFE document)

The AP encourages the Council and NMFS to implement interim measures or emergency action for 1999. The measures developed should:

- a. minimize effects on other fisheries, including GOA fisheries, resulting from effort shifts by Atka mackerel boats,
- b. be based on the industry's A-B season approach for temporal adjustments to the Atka mackerel fishery, and
- c. any restrictions on the percentage of sub-area 542 and 543 TACs for 1999 to reduce catch inside critical habitat be limited to a two-fold increase in the percentage of the specific sub-area TAC taken outside critical habitat (over the recent historical percentage for each area).

Motion carries 12/2/0.