

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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

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



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

Certified: Steven Pennoyer
(Chairman)
Date: _____

MINUTES
SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 26-27, 1979
Homer, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Pennoyer at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, June 26th. Present were:

Steve Pennoyer, Chairman
Don Bevan
Jack Robinson
Al Millikan
Frank Fukuhara
Jerry McCrary (alternate for Jack Lechner)

SSC MEMBERSHIP

The SSC discussed an 11th member of the SSC. They feel that a marine mammal specialist is needed on the SSC. Steve Pennoyer and Don Bevan were appointed as a subgroup to present this to the Council at a later date and provide more information as to why the SSC feels this should be done.

The replacement of Dr. Crutchfield was delayed until the July meeting as the SSC nomination committee was not present at this meeting.

KING CRAB FMP

The King Crab Working Group met and made the following report to the SSC.

The King Crab Working Group met on June 26th, 1979 to discuss recommendations regarding further development of the plan. After considerable detailed discussion concerning the completion of the plan the following schedule is recommended.

1. The draft FMP should be targeted for completion by December 1, 1979.

2. The draft should be scheduled for public review and comment during April - June, 1980.
3. The target date for Secretarial approval will be on or about January 1, 1981, so that;
4. The plan can be implemented in September, 1981.

It was suggested that the FMP consider more than one management option. The options should include evaluations of alternative management schemes which consider both quota and non-quota systems with variations in the size and sex of crab exploited, using the best available data and simulation modeling techniques such as those used by Marasco and Reeves.

The working group recommends that its chairman consolidate and prioritize the comments received on the FMP from several members of the SSC. This prioritized list will be circulated to other working group members for their concurrence after which the list will be submitted to the SSC for its discussion and approval. The SSC will then pass these comments on to the PDT for proper action.

The SSC concurs with the recommendations of the King Crab working group.

FUTURE SSC MEETINGS

The SSC discussed further meeting dates and developed the following schedule:

July 24th and 25th in Kodiak
August 21st and 22nd in Anchorage
October 2nd & 3rd in Sitka

The July agenda will cover the following items:

Tanner Crab Plan Revisions
Bering Sea Herring Plan
GOA - Changes in OY's
King Crab FMP
SSC Membership
Proposal entitled "Biometrical Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fishery Data"

FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNIT (Council Agenda Item #13)

The SSC considers the problem of definition of fishery management units only a part of a problem which will exist if we draw geographical boundaries and expect to manage the same stocks with regulations that differ on each side of a boundary. We suggest that we attempt to first develop regulations that are as consistent as possible between State and Federal jurisdiction.

Since there is a good chance that we will not achieve complete agreement in regulations we should attempt to define the FCZ with realistic headland baselines that make it feasible to enforce any necessary differences in regulations.

We do not understand how a Memorandum of Understanding between NMFS and the State of Alaska could resolve the legal question of jurisdiction.

SALMON/HERRING SAVINGS AREA (Council Agenda Item #15)

In a joint meeting with the Advisory Panel we reviewed a paper by Dr. Loh Lee Low on this subject with the author and the PDT. The paper was very useful in putting the question of need for a structure of such closure into perspective from a biological standpoint. We do not feel that any further action should be taken at this time until the past draft covering MSY-EY-ABC-OY, the results of alternative management strategies and how regulation of offshore trawling (foreign or domestic) fits in is presented to us. We understand that this will be done at the July meeting by the PDT.

Dr. Low's paper was recommended to the PDT to serve as background for their efforts.

TANNER CRAB (Agenda Item #16)

The Committee reviewed a report from the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry indicating their fishing this year still parallels the catch trends of last year.

We were also alerted, in a joint session with the AP, to the possible need for revision of the Tanner Crab FMP for the 1980 season to reflect changes in stock abundance and DAH. While results of the 1979 NMFS Bering Sea crab index charter will not be available, Jerry Reeves and the PDT will present updated information on this year's domestic and foreign fleet performance and the relationship to last year's survey. It is expected that reduced C. bairdi and C. opilio abundance and the demonstrated U.S. interest in opilio this season may impact the foreign allocation of this species in 1980. A realistic appraisal of DAH is an important facet of this equation. We understand that the AP has decided to form a subcommittee to study this matter and will be interested in reviewing their findings.

PROPOSED FCMA CHANGES (Council Agenda Item #20)

The SSC considered the North Pacific Council's recommendations as presented in a June 7, 1979 report by Jim Branson on Council recommendations on FCMA changes and testimony at Congressional Oversight Hearings on the FCMA. The SSC commented on 11 of the 21 numbered items in the report. It either had no comment or did not feel it was in its purview to comment on the balance of the items. Our positions on the pertinent items were:

2.(a) Coordination Between the FCMA and other Federal Legislation and Administrative Procedures: The SSC concurs with the Council's recommendation

for relief from requirements of certain facts and orders, etc., for the reasons given in the report. Effective and efficient management would be much assisted, if not made possible by such action.

3. (Page 3) We concurred in allowing the NPFMC to hold public hearings outside of Alaska. It is and has been our understanding that the SSC can meet (and has) outside Alaska already, but an amendment to clarify this is needed.

5. (Page 3) We concurred in this, and offer the observation that delayed plan implementation results in the use of outdated data or information in the plan finally implemented.

6. (Page 4) The SSC supports this recommendation for ensuring a viable observer program.

7. (Page 4) The SSC strongly supports increased funding for research and management functions performed by the States in support of FMP's. In a period of tight budgets, the additional demands for data and data summaries places very heavy burdens on existing state as well as Federal agencies. State agencies are equipped to gather many kinds of data, have support and confidence in many cases from the public, which is often more comfortable with local or regional input to FMP's than with National (or non-local) only input. We did find that not all State agencies, at least in respect to the FCZ fisheries, are cutting fishery management budgets. Some actually have received modest increases recently. We generally supported increased funding could be done through the mechanisms mentioned in Item 7, last paragraph.

8. (Page 5) The SSC agreed in principle with the concept of expanding Secretarial authority to promulgate emergency regulations on a wider basis than conservation only. We suggest a careful review of the criteria for making such decisions.

10. (Page 6) The SSC concurred in the need for coordination of the FCMA with other Acts affecting fishery resources. More effective management would result. This recommendation is somewhat related to item 2(b), clarification of other Federal legislation relating to fisheries and to 2(a) which we also supported.

15. (Page 7) Processor Preference: The SSC suggests that the problem of estimating processing capacity is broader than the question of price. We believe the capacity of harvesters and processors must be determined jointly. Fishermen cannot exercise their ability to harvest if they do not have a market and processors cannot utilize their capacity if they cannot have access to fishing effort.

Under items titled Miscellaneous (Page 8), the SSC endorsed compensation for certain SSC members (non-agency) on the same basis as Council members. We concurred in the Council's recommendation (negative) on inclusion of tuna in the FCMA. Relative to item (3) (page 8) - OY as an average - our discussion of the OY Decision Paper presented by Dr. Bevan at the May meeting (Council Agenda Item #22) is pertinent to this report item.

The SSC supported and endorsed that paper at this meeting, as we did in principle at our May meeting. We agreed, however, that some term other than "TAC" might be preferable to either "TAC" or an "average OY."

Last we agreed that regulations should not accompany FMP drafts at first public review, since optional regulations would have to (or best) accompany such reviewed document. This would undoubtedly confuse an already complex document and create unnecessary work. It was felt that regulations should receive public review and comment before implementation and that certainly they should be written as much as possible by the Council, but that normal statutory review procedures were adequate to such review, on second hearings by the Council, as has been done in the past.

OPTIMUM YIELD REPORT (Council Agenda Item #22)

Don Bevan discussed with the SSC the optimum yield paper presented at the last meeting. The SSC feels this is a big step forward in the evolution of OY management, and would like to signify publically to the Council that they feel this is a needed improvement to the present system. The SSC concurs with the paper and the concepts presented.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

1. "Some Notes on Enacting Time-Area Closures in the Eastern Bering Sea to Reduce Catch of Herring and Salmon" prepared by Dr. Low-Lee Low.
2. "Statement by the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry for Tanner Crab off Alaska for 1979."
3. Proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game titled "Biometrical Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fishery Data." This paper was presented to the SSC to study and comment on next month.
4. Optimum Yield Paper developed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.
5. "Report - Council Recommendations on FCMA Changes and Testimony at Congressional Hearings on the FCMA" a report dated June 7, 1979 from Jim H. Branson.
6. Paper prepared by Council staff entitled "Consideration of changes in the definition of fishery management units for fishery management plans off Alaska."

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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

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



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

Certified: _____

Steven Pennoyer
(Chairman)

Date: _____

MINUTES
SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 26-27, 1979
Homer, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Pennoyer at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, June 26th. Present were:

Steve Pennoyer, Chairman
Don Bevan
Jack Robinson
Al Millikan
Frank Fukuhara
Jerry McCrary (alternate for Jack Lechner)

SSC MEMBERSHIP

The SSC discussed an 11th member of the SSC. They feel that a marine mammal specialist is needed on the SSC. Steve Pennoyer and Don Bevan were appointed as a subgroup to present this to the Council at a later date and provide more information as to why the SSC feels this should be done.

The replacement of Dr. Crutchfield was delayed until the July meeting as the SSC nomination committee was not present at this meeting.

KING CRAB FMP

The King Crab Working Group met and made the following report to the SSC.

The King Crab Working Group met, on June 26th, 1979 to discuss recommendations regarding further development of the plan. After considerable detailed discussion concerning the completion of the plan the following schedule is recommended.

1. The draft FMP should be targeted for completion by December 1, 1979.

2. The draft should be scheduled for public review and comment during April - June, 1980.
3. The target date for Secretarial approval will be on or about January 1, 1981, so that;
4. The plan can be implemented in September, 1981.

It was suggested that the FMP consider more than one management option. The options should include evaluations of alternative management schemes which consider both quota and non-quota systems with variations in the size and sex of crab exploited, using the best available data and simulation modeling techniques such as those used by Marasco and Reeves.

The working group recommends that its chairman consolidate and prioritize the comments received on the FMP from several members of the SSC. This prioritized list will be circulated to other working group members for their concurrence after which the list will be submitted to the SSC for its discussion and approval. The SSC will then pass these comments on to the PDT for proper action.

The SSC concurs with the recommendations of the King Crab working group.

FUTURE SSC MEETINGS

The SSC discussed further meeting dates and developed the following schedule:

July 24th and 25th in Kodiak
August 21st and 22nd in Anchorage
October 2nd & 3rd in Sitka

The July agenda will cover the following items:

Tanner Crab Plan Revisions
Bering Sea Herring Plan
GOA - Changes in OY's
King Crab FMP
SSC Membership
Proposal entitled "Biometrical Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fishery Data"

FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNIT (Council Agenda Item #13)

The SSC considers the problem of definition of fishery management units only a part of a problem which will exist if we draw geographical boundaries and expect to manage the same stocks with regulations that differ on each side of a boundary. We suggest that we attempt to first develop regulations that are as consistent as possible between State and Federal jurisdiction.

Since there is a good chance that we will not achieve complete agreement in regulations we should attempt to define the FCZ with realistic headland baselines that make it feasible to enforce any necessary differences in regulations.

We do not understand how a Memorandum of Understanding between NMFS and the State of Alaska could resolve the legal question of jurisdiction.

SALMON/HERRING SAVINGS AREA (Council Agenda Item #15)

In a joint meeting with the Advisory Panel we reviewed a paper by Dr. Loh Lee Low on this subject with the author and the PDT. The paper was very useful in putting the question of need for a structure of such closure into perspective from a biological standpoint. We do not feel that any further action should be taken at this time until the past draft covering MSY-EY-ABC-OY, the results of alternative management strategies and how regulation of offshore trawling (foreign or domestic) fits in is presented to us. We understand that this will be done at the July meeting by the PDT.

Dr. Low's paper was recommended to the PDT to serve as background for their efforts.

TANNER CRAB (Agenda Item #16)

The Committee reviewed a report from the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry indicating their fishing this year still parallels the catch trends of last year.

We were also alerted, in a joint session with the AP, to the possible need for revision of the Tanner Crab FMP for the 1980 season to reflect changes in stock abundance and DAH. While results of the 1979 NMFS Bering Sea crab index charter will not be available, Jerry Reeves and the PDT will present updated information on this year's domestic and foreign fleet performance and the relationship to last year's survey. It is expected that reduced C. bairdi and C. opilio abundance and the demonstrated U.S. interest in opilio this season may impact the foreign allocation of this species in 1980. A realistic appraisal of DAH is an important facet of this equation. We understand that the AP has decided to form a subcommittee to study this matter and will be interested in reviewing their findings.

PROPOSED FCMA CHANGES (Council Agenda Item #20)

The SSC considered the North Pacific Council's recommendations as presented in a June 7, 1979 report by Jim Branson on Council recommendations on FCMA changes and testimony at Congressional Oversight Hearings on the FCMA. The SSC commented on 11 of the 21 numbered items in the report. It either had no comment or did not feel it was in its purview to comment on the balance of the items. Our positions on the pertinent items were:

2.(a) Coordination Between the FCMA and other Federal Legislation and Administrative Procedures: The SSC concurs with the Council's recommendation

for relief from requirements of certain facts and orders, etc., for the reasons given in the report. Effective and efficient management would be much assisted, if not made possible by such action.

3. (Page 3) We concurred in allowing the NPFMC to hold public hearings outside of Alaska. It is and has been our understanding that the SSC can meet (and has) outside Alaska already, but an amendment to clarify this is needed.

5. (Page 3) We concurred in this, and offer the observation that delayed plan implementation results in the use of outdated data or information in the plan finally implemented.

6. (Page 4) The SSC supports this recommendation for ensuring a viable observer program.

7. (Page 4) The SSC strongly supports increased funding for research and management functions performed by the States in support of FMP's. In a period of tight budgets, the additional demands for data and data summaries places very heavy burdens on existing state as well as Federal agencies. State agencies are equipped to gather many kinds of data, have support and confidence in many cases from the public, which is often more comfortable with local or regional input to FMP's than with National (or non-local) only input. We did find that not all State agencies, at least in respect to the FCZ fisheries, are cutting fishery management budgets. Some actually have received modest increases recently. We generally supported increased funding could be done through the mechanisms mentioned in Item 7, last paragraph.

8. (Page 5) The SSC agreed in principle with the concept of expanding Secretarial authority to promulgate emergency regulations on a wider basis than conservation only. We suggest a careful review of the criteria for making such decisions.

10. (Page 6) The SSC concurred in the need for coordination of the FCMA with other Acts affecting fishery resources. More effective management would result. This recommendation is somewhat related to item 2(b), clarification of other Federal legislation relating to fisheries and to 2(a) which we also supported.

15. (Page 7) Processor Preference: The SSC suggests that the problem of estimating processing capacity is broader than the question of price. We believe the capacity of harvesters and processors must be determined jointly. Fishermen cannot exercise their ability to harvest if they do not have a market and processors cannot utilize their capacity if they cannot have access to fishing effort.

Under items titled Miscellaneous (Page 8), the SSC endorsed compensation for certain SSC members (non-agency) on the same basis as Council members. We concurred in the Council's recommendation (negative) on inclusion of tuna in the FCMA. Relative to item (3) (page 8) - OY as an average - our discussion of the OY Decision Paper presented by Dr. Bevan at the May meeting (Council Agenda Item #22) is pertinent to this report item.

The SSC supported and endorsed that paper at this meeting, as we did in principle at our May meeting. We agreed, however, that some term other than "TAC" might be preferable to either "TAC" or an "average OY."

Last we agreed that regulations should not accompany FMP drafts at first public review, since optional regulations would have to (or best) accompany such reviewed document. This would undoubtedly confuse an already complex document and create unnecessary work. It was felt that regulations should receive public review and comment before implementation and that certainly they should be written as much as possible by the Council, but that normal statutory review procedures were adequate to such review, on second hearings by the Council, as has been done in the past.

OPTIMUM YIELD REPORT (Council Agenda Item #22)

Don Bevan discussed with the SSC the optimum yield paper presented at the last meeting. The SSC feels this is a big step forward in the evolution of OY management, and would like to signify publically to the Council that they feel this is a needed improvement to the present system. The SSC concurs with the paper and the concepts presented.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

1. "Some Notes on Enacting Time-Area Closures in the Eastern Bering Sea to Reduce Catch of Herring and Salmon" prepared by Dr. Low-Lee Low.
2. "Statement by the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry for Tanner Crab off Alaska for 1979."
3. Proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game titled "Biometrical Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fishery Data." This paper was presented to the SSC to study and comment on next month.
4. Optimum Yield Paper developed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.
5. "Report - Council Recommendations on FCMA Changes and Testimony at Congressional Hearings on the FCMA" a report dated June 7, 1979 from Jim H. Branson.
6. Paper prepared by Council staff entitled "Consideration of changes in the definition of fishery management units for fishery management plans off Alaska."