

**DRAFT**  
**ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES**  
**April 8-11, 2014**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

The following members were present for all or part of the meetings (absent ~~stricken~~):

Ruth Christiansen	Heath Hilyard	Paddy O'Donnell
Kurt Cochran	Jeff Kauffman	Joel Peterson
John Crowley	Mitch Kilborn	Theresa Peterson
Jerry Downing	Alexus Kwachka	Sinclair Wilt
Jeff Farvour	Craig Lowenberg	Lori Swanson
Becca Robbins Gisclair	Brian Lynch	Anne Vanderhoeven
John Gruver	Chuck McCallum	Ernie Weiss

Minutes from the February 2014 meeting were approved

## **C2 GOA Trawl Bycatch**

*This portion of the minutes are lengthy and were previously provided to Council, therefore are not included again with the remaining draft minutes below.*

## **C5 Am 80 5-year Review**

The AP recommends the Council request staff to expand the discussion on decreased CDQ harvests and its effects on CDQ communities, and cooperative structure and stranded fish.

*Motion passed 19/0.*

## **C6 Round Island Transit**

The AP recommends the Council adopt the preliminary preferred Alternative 2, option 1 and Alternative 3 for final action.

*Motion passed 19/1.*

### Rationale:

- Maintains protections for walrus
- No visible disturbance to walrus from vessels passing outside 3nm from Round Island (p.53)
- Alternative 3 relaxing closure increases protection.
- Voluntary fleet efforts to not transit the small areas near Crooked Island (FW best practices).
- Restores access for tenders.
- Action is responsive to hypothetical question related to unintended consequences of Council action; therefore, there is no operational need to change VMS requirements.
- Hunting season opens September 10. AP discussed a later date in response to tenders delivering late season (August 30).

## C8 Scallop SAFE

The AP recommends the Council accept the annual SAFE report. *Motion passed 18/0.*

## C9 Bering Sea Canyons

The AP recommends the Council take no further action on this agenda item until the AFSC visual camera surveys are completed and a report of the findings is presented to the Council.

*Motion passed 15/5.*

### Rationale:

- To date the Council has been extremely responsive to public comment and concern that initially focused on coral habitat areas in the Bering Sea canyons.
- Research has been prioritized and is underway by the AFSC in response to previous Council direction.
- Scientific control areas are a different "ask" from initial public comment focused on coral habitat areas. It was noted by Council staff that scientists at the AFSC are beginning discussions on what these control areas would look like.
- Completion of the summer camera survey work will provide substantially more information for the consideration of any potential conservation policies.
- Development of a Purpose and Need statement (with associated goals and objectives) will be better informed and crafted with more data, which is why additional scientific information was requested initially.

*Minority Report: A minority of the AP supported an amended substitute motion as follows 'The AP recommends the Council adopt the Ecosystem Committee recommendations for Bering Sea canyons as found on page 1 of the Committee April 9, 2014 meeting minutes, as amended to include the following under item 2:*

*Analysis should include*

- *How to monitor compliance with area closures (geo-fencing, VMS, etc.).*
- *The effect of displaced effort from closed areas, especially in terms of PSC bycatch*
- *The status of gear modification research.*
- *Protocols established by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations for encounters with coral.*
- *Criteria for determining any management actions.*

*The minority felt the Ecosystem Committee recommendations represented a reasonable approach and was supported by all public testimony heard by the AP, and the amended language specified valuable analyses.*

*Signed by: Ernie Weiss, Becca Robbins Gisclair, Theresa Peterson, Alexis Kwachka, Chuck McCallum*

## D2 EFH 5-year Review

The AP echoes the Ecosystem Committee report and comments and supports the 5-year approach as it has been laid out. The AP hopes that the review will specifically highlight any new information relevant to the habitat of the Bering Sea shelf break, slope and canyon areas. *Motion passed 20/0.*

## **E1 Staff Tasking**

The AP recommends the Council initiate a discussion paper to consider the current insurance coverage required by observer providers and potential modifications. *Motion passed 20/0.*

The AP recommends the Council schedule any action on PSEIS no sooner than October 2014.  
*Motion passed 20/0.*