

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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James O. Campbell
Chairman

Date: 5/30/85

MINUTES
64th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
February 5-7, 1985
Centennial Building
Sitka, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met February 5-7, 1985 at the Centennial Building in Sitka, Alaska. On Wednesday, February 6, the Council met with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on salmon management for 1985. The Council's subcommittee on objectives and goals for the Gulf of Alaska FMP met on Monday, February 4, and the Permit Review Committee met on Thursday, February 7.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met at the Centennial Building on Monday and Tuesday, February 4-5, and the Advisory Panel met with the SSC on Monday, with the Council on Tuesday, and alone on Wednesday and Thursday.

Members of the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel and general public in attendance are listed below.

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Rudy Petersen
Don Collinsworth
Henry Mitchell
Jeff Stephan
Gene Didonato for
Bill Wilkerson
RADM Robt. Lucas
John Peterson

Robert U. Mace for
John Donaldson
Robert W. McVey
Ray Arnaudo
John Harville
Sara Hemphill
Jon Nelson for
Robert E. Putz
John Winther

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Jim Glock

Doug Larson
Ron Miller
Helen Allen
Peggy Kircher

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Support Staff

Tom Barrett, USCG
Ron Berg, NMFS
Craig Hammond, NMFS
Pat Travers, NMFS
Janet Smoker, NMFS
Jim Brooks, NMFS

Gary Stauffer, NMFS-NWAFC
Loh-Lee Low, NMFS-NWAFC
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Thorn Smith, NMFS
Ken Parker, ADF&G

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Don Rosenberg, Chairman
Bill Aron
Steve Langdon
Don Bevan
Scott Marshall
Tom Northup

Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Robert Burgner
Douglas Eggers
Larry Hreha
John Burns

Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman
Pat Barker
Alvin Burch
Robert Blake
Don Rawlinson
Bud Boddy

Joseph Kurtz
Richard Lauber
Eric Jordan
Tom Stewart
Anthony Vaska
Walter Smith
Harvey Samuelson

General Public

John vanAmerongen
Tim Joyner
Ken Tison
Tory O'Connell
Peter Block
Janet Fries
Chuck Hosner
Richard Huff
Jeff Gregg
Steve Mulder
R.E. Armstrong
Anton Bowers
Hugh Reilly
Shawn Foust
Bruce J. Bauer
Eric Clauson
Haddon Salt
Stephan B. Johnson
David A. Coleman
Bennett Carlson
W.P. Jensen
Mark G. LaRiviere

Mike Erb
Dennis Hicks
James Hubbard
Dean Adams
Jerry Nelson
John Dupree
Dale Chesnut
Mick Stevens
David Siegel
Ray E. Weaver
William Nicholson
Neil J. Huff
Bill Stokes
Jay D. Hastings
Charles Thomasson
Tim Longrich
John Schmiedtke
Chris Sharpsteen
David Harville
Russ Cahill
Han Mo Kim
Irne Wresniewski

Tony Guggenbickler
Bill Berger
Craig Herd
S. Timothy Wapato
Gordon Pederson
Jim Wild
Wm. A. Ruhle
Dwight Riederer
D. W. Dean
Rudy James
Bill Thomas
Ron Williams
Charles Wilber
Sue Sturm
George Nelson
Gary Erb
Quentin Seager
Lance Ingle
Gary Slaven
Earl Kryger
Barry McClelland
Ron Hegge

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Bogdan Buzanowski
Terry Johnson
Steve Hughes
Jana M. Suchy
Lynn Savonen
Jon Adams
Greg Cushing
John Maher
Richard Maher
Joe L. Mettler
Mig Thompson
Paul J. Rickert
Chris Sharpsteen
Richard Lundahl
Ron Tshakert
Jon Newstrom
Myron Nordquist
Oscar Dyson

Kathryn Kinnear
Ann L. Lowe
Barnaby Dow
Thomas A. Fuller
Robert Chevalier
Vince Schafer
Chuck Kekoni
Andy Hope
John Phillips
Tomasz Pintowski
Moura Phillips
Mark S. Lundsten
Tom Jacobson
Dennis Beam
Greg Fisk
Sig Mathisen
William C. Thomas
Leo Golden

Jack Knutsen
Scott File
Phil Werdal
Harold Thompson
John Dapcevich
Chris Christensen
Dayton L. Alverson
Walt Pasternak
Dan Falvey
Dick Carlton
Maurice Ingman
Richard White
Bill Froust
Terrance W. Pardee
Dave Harville
Gretchen Goldsteen
Paul MacGregor

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1:42 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 1985 by Jim Campbell, Chairman. Mr. Campbell asked that a presentation on salmon interception by the Taiwanese delegation be added to the agenda along with a visit from a delegation from the Peoples Republic of China. Mr. Branson also advised that Agenda C-5 should be taken up on Thursday instead of Friday. The agenda was approved with the suggested additions and changes. Minutes of the December 1984 Council meeting were approved as submitted.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Jim Branson briefly reviewed the Executive Director's report. The Council was asked to approve tentative meeting dates for 1986 so that meeting space could be booked. Jeff Stephan asked the Council to consider a meeting in Kodiak in 1986 and the Council agreed to tentatively schedule it for May. Eric Jordan suggested the Council meet again in Sitka in 1987. John Winther suggested that the March meeting be held a week earlier to avoid conflict with the herring fishery. The Council agreed and approved tentative meeting dates for 1986 as follows: January 8-10, March 19-21, May 21-23, Sept. 24-26, and Dec. 3-5.

Mr. Branson also said the Council was being asked to indicate whether they would participate in the 1985 Fish Expo in Seattle in. Alaska Sea Grant is making arrangements for space. John Winther moved to approve the Council's participation in the 1985 Fish Expo if the budget permits. Rudy Petersen seconded the motion and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

B-2 Domestic Fisheries Report by ADF&G

The report by ADF&G was given to the Council in written form with no oral presentation. The report showed commercial landings for halibut, salmon, shellfish and groundfish for 1984 and an estimated value to fishermen (ex-vessel) of \$597.4 million. Salmon at 658 million pounds accounted for \$348 million, shellfish harvest at 87.6 million pounds for \$95.8 million, halibut harvest of 26.6 million pounds for \$26.6 million, herring harvest at 95.2 million pounds for \$18.8 million, and a groundfish harvest of 1.4 billion pounds for \$107.2 million.

B-3 Foreign Fisheries Report by NMFS

NMFS reported that by February 2 foreign fleets in the Bering Sea and Aleutians harvested 23,150 mt, about 10% of the current foreign allocation. The catch included 13,300 mt pollock, 992 mt Pacific cod, 8,128 mt yellowfin sole, 653 mt flatfish, and 2 mt sablefish. There was no foreign fishing in the Gulf of Alaska.

B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard reported that in 1984 enforcement efforts totaled 871 cutter patrol days and 3,102 aircraft patrol hours for over 530,668 patrol miles. There were 459 boardings of foreign fishing vessels and 5,429 sightings of foreign fishing vessels by surface and air patrols. These combined efforts resulted in three seizures and the issuance of 67 reports of violation and 142 written warnings.

For the first month of 1985, the Coast Guard issued four reports of violation and five written warnings to foreign vessels. The Japanese tanker TENSUN was issued a written warning for failure to submit the required activity message 24 hours prior to beginning/ceasing fishing operations within the FCZ. In addition, four Polish vessels were issued reports of violation for improperly maintaining logbooks.

B-5 Update on Joint Venture Operations

Five joint ventures had commenced operations by February 1985: Alaska Contact/Poland; Whitney Fidalgo/Kyokuyo; Peter Pan/Nichiro; Westward Trawlers/Taiyo; and Alyeska Ocean/Hoko, all in the Shelikof area. The Alaska Contact/Poland joint venture was working the southern Shelikof area using three processors and three catchers; their catch by late January was 250-260 mt pollock. Specifics on the other operations were not available.

B-6 Results of IPHC Annual Meeting

Dick Myhre, Asst. Director of International Pacific Halibut Commission, reported on the Commission's annual meeting held in January 1985. The Commission will recommend to the governments of Canada and the United States a total catch of halibut for 1985 of 55.7 million pounds, 12.7 million pounds more than in 1984.

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The Commission's scientific staff reported that the halibut resource has rebuilt throughout much of its range, particularly in the Gulf of Alaska. The incidental catch of halibut in fisheries targeting other species has decreased, contributing to the stock improvement. The Commission again urged that further steps be taken to reduce incidental catch losses.

The IPHC recommended a succession of short open and closed periods until the catch limit in each area is taken. They also recommended that halibut vessels have their holds inspected when clearing into and out of Area 4 at Dutch Harbor. All vessels that land halibut, including sport charter boats, will have to have 1985 licenses issued by IPHC.

Henry Mitchell told the Council that Mr. Myhre is now retiring from the IPHC. The Council recognized Mr. Myhre's significant contribution to the Commission during his 36 years of service.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 SSC Officers

The Council confirmed the election of Don Rosenberg as Chairman, and Rich Marasco as Vice-Chairman of the SSC for the next year.

C-2 Net Discard Regulation

At the December 1984 meeting the Council asked staff to ask for comments from other Councils on the draft net discard regulation submitted at that meeting. Comments were received only from the New England Council.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC felt the issue of net discards needs attention even though it is apparent that interest on a national level is limited. They recommended that the Council proceed with its own draft regulations and provided an amended draft regulation for consideration and recommended that it be included in this year's FMP amendment process.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the SSC's draft regulation be sent to NMFS. The AP was still concerned about salmon interception and discarded gear on the high seas and recommended the Council send a letter to INPFC on this subject.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Henry Mitchell suggested that if there is any money available for research the Council should go on record in support of comprehensive net studies.

Don Collinsworth moved that the net discard regulation, as submitted by the SSC, be incorporated into the Council's FMP amendment cycle for 1985. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-3 MFCMA Reauthorization

Council members were provided with a synopsis of amendments to the Act proposed by Councils and discussed during the meeting of Chairmen in Washington, DC, in January. Jim Branson told the Council the first MFCMA oversight hearing will be on March 26, during the March Council meeting. The possibility of changing the Council meeting dates was discussed, however, it was later determined that space was not available in Anchorage and the Board could not accommodate a change of dates.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC submitted two proposals to amend the MFCMA; one to allow Council staff access to confidential fishery data and one which would allow the Council to use economic incentives and disincentives to manage domestic and/or foreign fisheries, with funds collected being used to support research and/or stock assessment activities associated with fisheries under Council jurisdiction. The SSC reviewed the House Staff discussion draft of proposed amendments and felt that Appendix B, which contains a formula for Council appointments, did not make sense and it was not clear where the numbers they used came from.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP commented on five of the proposed amendments to the MFCMA. In regard to increasing fees to an amount larger than necessary to cover administrative costs, the AP did not agree. They felt that U.S. fishermen already pay enough taxes and they should not be required to make up the difference for income lost from foreign fisheries once they are displaced. The AP also did not agree with the proposal to provide Council staff access to confidential fishery data because of the increased chance of a breach of confidentiality. They pointed out that this change would still not enable the staff to access State of Alaska data.

Regarding the proposal submitted by another Council to grant sole enforcement authority over domestic fishing vessels to NMFS, the AP was concerned that it would eliminate Coast Guard search and rescue and were not supportive of the proposal as written. The AP felt that the proposal to allow joint venture allocations by operation would be of little use until the Council agrees on a rating system for joint ventures.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Jim Campbell appointed an ad-hoc workgroup to review proposed amendments to the Act and prepare recommendations for him to take to the Chairmen's meeting at the end of February. Those appointed were: Don Collinsworth (Chairman), John Harville, Bob Mace, John Peterson, Jeff Stephan and John Winther. The group will meet in Anchorage during the week following the Council meeting.

C-4 Advisory Panel Membership

The Advisory Panel Nominating Committee submitted a panel of 25 names for appointment. The committee met several times over two months to screen over 50 applicants. They recommended the Council appoint all 25 for a well-balanced representation of industry, gear-type and geographical needs.

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Those recommended were: Bob Alverson, Terry Baker, Al Burch, Joseph Chimegalrea, Barry Collier, Larry Cotter, Greg Favretto, Barry Fisher, Ron Hegge, Oliver Holm, Bob Hunter, Pete Isleib, Eric Jordan, Rick Lauber, Nancy Munro, Dan O'Hara, Al Osterback, Don Rawlinson, Julie Settle, Cameron Sharick, Walt Smith, Tom Stewart, Richard White, Dave Woodruff, and John Woodruff.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Peterson moved to approve the Advisory Panel as recommended by the AP Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

The Council expressed thanks and appreciation to outgoing members of the Advisory Panel with a special recognition to Bud Boddy and Joe Kurtz who had been members of the Panel since the formation of the Council.

C-5 Joint Venture and Foreign Fishing Permit Applications

The Permit Review Committee reviewed several joint venture requests. Much of the supporting materials for the requests were available at the December meeting but permit applications either were not available or had not been published in the Federal Register.

Before approving a joint venture request for Taiwan in December, the Council requested a firm commitment from Taiwan to take action to curtail the illegal interception of salmon on the high seas. Responding to that request, officials of the Taiwanese International Division of Agriculture briefed Council members on their plans to reduce these interceptions by their squid gillnet fleet. The proposed regulations would not allow squid fishing within the 200-mile zone of the U.S. or any other country. Salmon caught east of 170°E longitude must be discarded immediately and, if a vessel's incidental salmon catch exceeds 5% of the total catch, it must move 1° latitude south and continue by 1° increments, until the incidental catch of salmon drops below 5%. All squid vessels would be required to operate in such a way as to minimize their incidental take of salmon.

West of 170°E longitude, Taiwanese squid vessels could not target on salmon and could only fish one of the two areas prescribed for the cruise. The draft regulations also provide for preregistration of vessels prior to departure for the North Pacific fishing grounds. Vessels would be inspected to ensure that only legal gear is on board and they would be prohibited from selling their catch at sea or through any third country unless approved by fisheries authorities in Taiwan. Skippers of Taiwanese squid vessels would be required to keep daily records of precise fishing positions, gear used, total catch in weight, and fish composition for each operation and to keep informational material on satellite navigation for the entire cruise. These records must be turned over to Taiwanese fishing authorities before the vessel unloads its catch at the home port.

These measures are only draft at this time and have not been approved by Taiwanese fishing authorities. However, the Council was encouraged by the efforts thus far and, as a result, approved two Taiwanese joint venture operations which had been conditionally approved in December pending evidence of Taiwan's effort to reduce the illegal catch of salmon on the high seas.

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The Council left final acceptance of Taiwan's proposed fishing regulations up to the Department of State.

Report of the Permit Review Committee

The Committee recommended approval of the following requests: A joint venture request for 18,400 mt of pollock, cod, and flatfish in the Bering Sea/Aleutians and Gulf of Alaska for Alaska Contact and Japan Medium Trawlers; 10,000 mt pollock in the Gulf of Alaska for Quest Export Trading Company and Poland; and 37,000 mt, mostly pollock, for Korea Wong Yang Fisheries and Arctic Joint Venture Fisheries.

The Committee also recommended approval of augmentations to joint ventures for seven South Korean companies which will increase the combined Korean tonnage from 125,700 mt to 177,400 mt. A joint venture between Iceland and Alaska Joint Venture Fisheries for 15,000 mt of cod and pollock was recommended for approval although the Committee did express concern with market competition from the products of the joint venture. The Committee suggested the Council request strong assurances from Iceland and the U.S. partner that the product from this joint venture will not come back to the United States.

The Committee reviewed a Portuguese joint venture request between Solseca and ProFish Alaska for 10,000 mt of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and recommended that the joint venture be allowed only 5,000 mt of cod with the remaining 5,000 mt held in abeyance until Portugal approves an import quota for the purchase of at least 4,000 mt wet salted cod and there is a firm business commitment to purchase that amount from U.S. processors.

The Committee also reviewed the Taiwanese/St. George Tanaq joint venture request for 9,000 mt which was provisionally approved in December awaiting some commitment by the Taiwanese government to take steps to stop the illegal interception of salmon on the high seas. After a presentation by officials of the Taiwanese government, the Committee recommended approval of the application.

The Committee recommended denial of a permit request from West Germany for 6,000 mt pollock in the Bering Sea/Aleutians because of a lack of recent activity on the part of West Germany on the request. They suggested the whole permit package be resubmitted when the company is actually ready for a joint venture operation.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Sara Hemphill asked to be excused from voting on this agenda item because of conflict of interest. The Council agreed.

John Peterson moved to accept the recommendations of the Permit Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Bob Mace, and there being no objection, it was so ordered. With respect to the Taiwanese regulations, the Council felt they were not acceptable as written and asked that they be revised and submitted to the State Dept. When NMFS and the State Dept. are satisfied with the regulations, then the permits can be issued without further Council review.

Mr. McVey asked Jim Brooks to brief the Council on problems which have arisen with permit restrictions in the Bering Sea. Mr. Brooks said that the joint

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venture permits issued to foreign processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutians will expire February 14 and must be renewed. The permits had company-specific bycatch limits on U.S. fully-utilized species such as sablefish and Pacific ocean perch. Mr. Brooks indicated that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for NMFS to monitor each company's catch closely enough to enforce the restrictions. He suggested that it would be better to allow all joint ventures to fish toward the overall JVP limits for each of these species. As the JVP limits are approached, NMFS will caution all joint ventures to avoid catching the species and will close the joint venture fishery when the JVP is reached and cannot be further augmented.

The Council indicated concern that one joint venture could close all others by taking large bycatches. The Council agreed that NMFS should proceed without company-specific bycatch limits for 1985 and recommended that the Permit Review Committee review this problem at a future workgroup meeting.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Salmon

The Council met with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Wednesday, February 6, at the Centennial Building. The meeting was chaired by Jim Campbell.

Don Collinsworth reported on the recent U.S.-Canada salmon treaty negotiations. On the chinook annex they sought a three-cycle rebuilding program while the Pacific Northwest interests were looking for a somewhat more rapid program because of the poor condition of their stocks. What they were able to negotiate in essence was a three-cycle rebuilding program, minus one year. There was agreement to the 15-year, or three-cycle rebuilding program, but that program was deemed to have started in 1984. Therefore our management objective is to rebuild the stocks by 1998. Chinook harvest ceilings in northern and central British Columbia and Southeast Alaska of 263,000 (sport and commercial combined), reduced harvests off the West Coast of Vancouver and in Georgia Strait are expected to achieve the rebuilding goal. There is also provision that the parties can add new enhancement to that base number.

Staff Reports

Al Davis (ADF&G) briefly reviewed the 1985 season. The commercial troll fishery normally harvests over 90% of the all-gear commercial catch of chinook and about 50-75% of the commercial catch of coho salmon in Southeast Alaska. Chinook salmon catches are below historical production levels. During the past decade catches have averaged about 306,000 fish, considerably lower than the peak average catch of about 600,000 during the 1930s and '40s. The decline has resulted from the combined effect of several factors - overfishing, loss of spawning and rearing habitat, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, and in recent years, drastic reductions in fishing time and harvests designed to rebuild the natural chinook stocks. Commercial coho catches in recent years have averaged about 2 million fish; these higher catches are probably the result of some extremely mild winters and conservative management practices begun in the 1970s.

The Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) currently issues 940 power troll permits and 2,150 hand troll permits. In 1984, about 792 power

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troll and 857 hand troll gear units were actually fished. Hand troll permit holders accounted for about 14% of the chinook catch and about 16% of the coho troll catch. Preliminary figures indicate that about 6% of the chinook catch and 6% of the coho catch was taken in the FCZ in 1984. In 1984 the total commercial harvest of chinook by all commercial gear types was about 271,000 fish which includes the troll harvest of about 240,000 and a commercial net harvest of both gillnet and purse seine combined of about 31,000 chinook. The 1984 catch was the third smallest since 1965 and represents a decrease of 7.5% over the 1980-83 average of approximately 293,000 fish.

Mel Seibel briefly updated the progress of the 15-year rebuilding program for Southeast Alaska chinook stocks which was begun in 1981. Management actions taken include continuation of the mid-70s closure of the directed gillnet fisheries operating near terminal areas on these stocks, and restrictions placed on inside and terminal troll and sports fisheries. In 1981 additional restrictions were placed on the troll fishery for rebuilding purposes - one month closure (Spring closure, April 15-May 14) when Southeast stocks are returning to the spawning areas and catch ceilings were placed on the commercial catches of chinook in Southeast Alaska. The catch ceilings were to prevent a shift of catch from the closed time periods into the summer period and in response to coastwide conservation concerns for chinook salmon to the south of Alaska that are known to contribute to the Southeast Alaska fisheries. Results of these rebuilding efforts are monitored through escapement surveys, which indicate that there was a fairly strong return in 1984. Estimated total Southeast Alaska escapement in 1984 was approximately 36,000, up about 44% over the 1983 escapement of 25,000.

Mel Seibel briefed the Board and Council on the implications of the proposed salmon treaty on the 1985 salmon troll season. Three main conditions of the proposed treaty will impact the management of the 1985 troll season. First, the establishment of an all-gear, commercial and sport combined, base catch ceiling of 263,000 chinook. This represents a reduction of approximately 10%, or 30,000 fish, from the 1984 all-gear catch of 293,000. The second condition is an allowance for additional harvests of chinook produced by Southeast Alaska hatcheries above 1984 levels. It may thus be possible to increase the Southeast Alaska catch above the specified ceilings in 1985, but the amount of increase must be reviewed and approved in accordance with the treaty. The third condition that would affect the 1985 season is the agreement to minimize the impact of incidental fishing mortalities of chinook in 1985 and 1986. This applies to all troll, net and recreational fisheries with the primary concern being the effects of modified fishing patterns or new fisheries on the stock rebuilding program. Hook and release mortality which occurs when chinook-only closures are implemented while trolling continues for coho and other non-chinook species is the main problem. To ensure compliance with the proposed treaty and to meet other management objectives a number of fairly specific troll regulations are required.

Salmon troll season dates for 1985 were suggested as follows: a 10-day opening scheduled for June 3-12, followed by a 32- to 45-day opening beginning July 1. Area closures will be implemented about July 20 if the chinook catch rate is higher than anticipated. A 10-day all species closure is also expected about August 15 to allow coho salmon to move inside toward terminal harvest areas.

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Jim Glock briefed the Council on the Salmon Fishery Management Plan. He said that the FMP is seriously outdated and should be amended to address current stock conditions, the recent MFCMA amendment which delegates jurisdiction in the FCZ Culs-de-sac to the state, and the proposed salmon treaty. This type of amendment cannot be squeezed into the annual management cycle; the Salmon Plan Team will develop a revision schedule and issues statement for the March or May meeting.

Aven Anderson, Chairman of the Council's Salmon Plan Team, presented the Plan Team's report of their meeting on February 6, 1985. The report was available in written form to Council members. The Plan Team supported the analyses and conclusions of the U.S.-Canada Chinook Technical Committee regarding stock conditions and low spawning escapements relative to established escapement goals. The Team supports the concept of a coastwide chinook salmon management program, which is consistent with Objective 6 of the FMP. The Team also noted that the Salmon FMP needs a general revision. They had no recommendations for specific fishing periods for the 1985 salmon fishery but outlined several concerns for the Council to consider.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC strongly recommended that the Council support the proposed treaty and also recommended that the Plan Team revise the salmon plan to bring it up to date. In regard to 1985 management proposals, the SSC recommended the harvest guideline/OY that is in support of the proposed treaty, 263,000 all year ceiling plus new enhancement, be adopted. The SSC expressed concern over any proposal which would make major shifts in the fishing season.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended that any action the Council takes on salmon management be consistent with the proposed U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty. They also recommended that the Council follow the lead of the Board of Fisheries on the matters of seasons, closures, and gear as long as the proposals meet with the National Standards. The AP also recommended that there be no expansion of areas open to trolling in the FCZ or state waters.

Public Testimony for this agenda item is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council discussed the treaty provisions as they would relate to the management of salmon for the 1985 season.

Bob Mace moved that the Council endorse the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty, express its intent to work within the guidelines established by that treaty, and recommend the rapid completion of the processes necessary to ratify and implement it. The motion was seconded by Don Collinsworth and, there being no objection, it was so ordered. The Council agreed that the Executive Director should prepare a letter to the Secretary for the Chairman's signature to encourage rapid ratification of the treaty and letters to the appropriate parties recognizing their efforts in negotiation of the treaty.

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Don Collinsworth was recognized for his efforts in leading the Alaska delegation during the U.S.-Canada treaty negotiations.

On Friday, February 8, the council received the Board's actions on salmon management for the 1985 season. The Board recommendations were:

- (1) that the all-gear harvest ceiling be set at 263,000 chinooks for the 1985 fishing year;
- (2) that the fishery be managed in accordance with the Chinook Annex of the proposed U.S./Canada salmon treaty; and
- (3) that the troll season be set as follows:
 - (a) June 3-12; and (b) from July 1 until the harvest limit of 263,000 chinooks is met.

The above seasons may be modified as follows:

- (a) the second period may open earlier than July 1 if the catch rates during the first period are low enough to allow the second season to last until approximately August 15;
- (b) the second period shall open for at least 20 days unless the king quota is taken before the 20 days expire;
- (c) if management actions need to be taken to extend the chinook fishery to August 15, area closures will be made after July 20 for specific locations, rather than region wide.

John Winther moved to endorse the Board's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Sara Hemphill and, there being no objection, it was so ordered.

D-2 Gulf of Alaska Fishery Management Plan

(a) Review U.S. Japan industry agreement.

As a result of the U.S.-Japan industry agreement and changes to joint venture permit applications, the Council reexamined its estimates of groundfish to be harvested by U.S. fishermen for U.S. processors (DAP) and sold over the side to foreign processors (JVP) in 1985.

Public Testimony for all groundfish agenda items are found in Appendix I to these minutes.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended the Council reexamine its December actions in light of the industry agreements with the Japanese.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

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Council members discussed the necessity to reassess their December decisions on Gulf of Alaska groundfish harvests for 1985. There was much industry support to allow the Japanese back into the Gulf in light of concessions made during the industry-to-industry negotiations and their promises to avoid bycatch of U.S. fully-utilized species. Some Council members were concerned about making additional TALFF available only to the Japanese.

Steve Davis gave the Council new figures for DAP, JVP, Reserves and TALFF which were developed by the Plan Team after the Permit Review Committee had made their recommendations for joint ventures and direct allocations.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the Gulf of Alaska table as revised by the Plan Team. The motion was seconded by John Winther and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Don Collinsworth and seconded by John Winther to reaffirm the Council's December action to establish a zero-TALFF in the Gulf of Alaska for all species except Pacific cod. However, the motion was subsequently withdrawn.

John Peterson moved that directed fishing for the Japanese in the Gulf be permitted for 15,000 mt of cod using longlines, shallower than 100 fathoms, plus

50,000 mt pollock with off-bottom surimi-type gear; that 900,000 mt of TALFF be made available in the Bering Sea and that the restriction on fishing within 20 miles around the Aleutian Islands be eliminated. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell. The motion was amended several times and the final motion was as follows: That directed fishing for the Japanese in the Gulf be permitted for 10,000 mt of cod using longlines, shallower than 150 fathoms, plus 25,000 mt pollock with off-bottom surimi-type gear, and that 865,000 mt pollock TALFF be made available in the Bering Sea. The amended motion carried unanimously. The Council made the Bering Sea TALFF determination with the understanding that the U.S. industry support for a 50,000 mt Gulf of Alaska pollock allocation to Japan has been consciously accommodated in the Bering Sea TALFF recommendation of 865,000 mt and the Gulf pollock recommendation of 25,000 mt and the Pacific cod recommendation of 10,000 mt. These recommendations were also made with the understanding that this will be the last allocation of TALFF in the Gulf of Alaska. Additional amounts of TALFF in the Gulf may be made available later in the year if not required for JVP or domestic use, up to the amount of 48,129.

Don Collinsworth said he remains concerned with the high seas salmon interception and would like to see the United States involve Japan in bilateral discussions on that issue. Mr. Collinsworth also suggested some mechanism should be devised to encourage the Japanese to fulfill their promises to purchase surimi during the first quarter under the negotiated agreements with U.S. industry.

The table of Gulf of Alaska DAP, JVP, Reserves and TALFF was revised as a result of Council actions. Bob Mace moved to accept the revised table (included in these minutes as Appendix II). John Peterson seconded the motion which carried with no objection.

John Peterson asked Mr. Arnaudo how the TALFF will be released now that the figures have been revised. Mr. Arnaudo said that the Regional Office will make recommendations to the NMFS Central Office and then the State Department

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will make the allocations. Fifty percent will be held as required by law. Approximately 200,000 mt will be released immediately.

Don Collinsworth moved that the Council send a message to the State Department that will urge bilateral meetings with Japan on the cessation of high seas salmon interception and that we specify that the State Department start negotiating a phase-out in a time specific manner. In addition, the Council should notice the Japanese that this is an important issue to us and that we are asking for their cooperation and that their cooperation will condition and influence how the Council responds to requests for allocations now and in the future. Henry Mitchell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

(b) Review December Council action on joint venture trawl bycatch limit and other bycatch needs of domestic and foreign fisheries.

The Council was asked to review its December action placing a ceiling of 10% of the sablefish OY on the catches of JV trawlers by regulatory area because of subsequent confusion about the intent of the motion. A problem not addressed in December is bycatch by U.S. trawlers not engaged in joint ventures. The FMP now closes all fishing by any gear when the OY is reached. Since the directed fishery for sablefish will probably catch the OY in the Gulf by mid-1985, all other U.S. fisheries that have incidental sablefish catches (except joint venture trawling) would be closed.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC recommended that whatever action is taken on bycatch at this time be considered a short term solution. They believe that a long term solution to this issue must be addressed in the plan amendment process which examines the formulation of OY, the bycatch issue and/or establishing a PSC process. The SSC also considered a request by the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owner's Association that the SSC develop a model which would assist in the determination of incidental bycatches. The SSC did not feel that what is being proposed differs significantly from the procedures being used by the Plan Team and did not feel that this type of effort is needed at this time.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP suggested setting aside 800 mt for joint venture activities from the non-assessed portion of the current optimum yield. The AP did not make a recommendation on the directed allocation for incidental catch purposes for DAP trawlers because they were awaiting the results of the industry discussions.

Report of Ad-hoc Industry Group

Ron Hegge, Dave Harville, and Mark Lundsten reported to the Council on the results of an industry group working on a short term solution to the bycatch problem.

The industry recommendation would allow joint venture trawlers a larger incidental catch of sablefish than did the Council's December action, 790 mt (10% of the Western and Central area OY). Joint venture bycatches would be treated as prohibited species and would have to be discarded. These bycatches would not count toward OY which has been set below equilibrium yield to rebuild

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stocks. The additional bycatches outside OY would reduce the rebuilding rate for sablefish stocks. Once the bycatch limits are reached, joint ventures would have to cease fishing. Joint venture catches of Pacific ocean perch and rockfish would be treated similarly. Foreign fishermen would also have to discard their bycatches. In addition, foreign trawlers would be directed to use off-bottom trawls and foreign longliners for Pacific cod would be restricted to waters less than 150 fathoms deep, both measures designed to reduce the bycatch of species fully utilized by the U.S.

Sablefish bycatch by U.S. factory trawlers and domestic trawlers delivering to U.S. processors would be counted toward the OY. These harvestors (DAP) would be allocated 5% of the OY, or about 247 mt, of sablefish from the Western and Central Gulf. The remaining 95% would be allocated to the U.S. pot and longline fishery. Bycatch taken by the DAP trawlers could be retained and sold to U.S. processors.

Report of the Plan Team

The Plan Team revised the table of numbers for the Gulf of Alaska based on suggestions from the SSC, industry recommendations and Council action taken at this meeting.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Several individual motions and amendments to those motions were made to address the bycatch needs for the Gulf of Alaska.

John Winther moved that, in regard to sablefish, the DAP (1,670 mt in the Western area and 3,060 mt in the Central area) be distributed in accordance with the industry agreement of 95% to the non-trawl fishery and 5% to the DAP trawl fishery, that JVP trawl vessels may take no more than 245 mt in the Western area and 545 mt in the Central areas, and that this sablefish may be taken only from stocks at depths shallower than 300 meters and will not be part of the sablefish OY. It must be discarded, and may not be sold either to foreign or to United States fish processors. When the total amount of this sablefish has been taken, all joint venture trawling in the management area must cease. The foreign PSC limit will be set at 140 mt in the Western area and at 31 mt in the Central area. Sara Hemphill seconded the motion.

The motion was amended by a motion made by Bob Mace and seconded by John Peterson to give the Regional Director a 25% flexibility for bycatch in the foreign fishery. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Henry Mitchell moved that in regard to Pacific ocean perch in the Gulf, JVP trawl vessels may not take more than 53 mt in the Western area and 98 mt in the Central area. This catch must be discarded and may not be sold either to foreign or to U.S. fish processors. When the total amount of POP has been taken, all joint venture trawling in the management area must cease; that the foreign PSC limit be set at 30 mt in the Western area and at 16 mt in the Central area. The motion was seconded by John Peterson. The motion was amended to read, "35 mt in the Western area" instead of 30 mt. The amendment carried 6 to 5 (Campbell, Collinworth, Mace, Mitchell and Winther against). The main motion, as amended, carried 6 to 5 (same members opposed). The motion was subsequently reconsidered and amended to allow the Regional

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Director 25% flexibility for bycatch in the foreign fishery. The reconsidered motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

Don Collinsworth moved that, in regard to rockfish in the Gulf of Alaska, the DAP equal 5,000 mt Gulfwide, that the foreign PSC limit be set at 15 mt in the Western area and at 10 mt in the Central area. The motion was seconded by John Winther and subsequently amended to include a 25% flexibility in the bycatch figures for the Regional Director. The motion, as amended, carried 10 to 1 (Didonato against).

(c) Consider Emergency Rule for Longline Only Sablefish Fishery in Eastern Regulatory Area of Gulf.

The Council was asked by the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association to consider an emergency rule designating the Eastern Gulf of Alaska sablefish fishery as longline only. ALFA's justification pointed out that the entire OY for sablefish in the Gulf is now being taken in less time than is biologically desirable and increased effort by the addition of another gear type would only further shorten the fishing period and increase gear conflicts.

The Council's Gulf Interim Action Committee discussed the request by teleconference in January and determined that they did not have enough information to qualify the proposal as an emergency but did recommend it be placed on the February agenda as an action item.

There was considerable public testimony (Appendix I to these minutes) on this agenda item.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC was concerned that there was a lack of complete and systematic examination of the proposed action and lacking those data, was unable to make a recommendation. The SSC considered the issue primarily allocative in nature. However, conservation could become an issue if the use of pots increases significantly and steps are not taken to prevent lost pots from ghost fishing.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel considered this a long term problem. In the short term, they suggested that a percentage of the sablefish OY be allocated to each gear type (longline, trawl, pot) and that different grounds be assigned for longliners and pot fishermen. For the regular amendment package, the AP suggested that 10-day openings, once a month, be considered in order to spread out the season.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

John Winther moved to adopt an emergency action which would hold the sablefish fishery to longline only in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (from Dixon Entrance to 147°W longitude). The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell.

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Henry Mitchell said that the longline fleet has substantially dominated this fishery but there have been pot fisheries in some areas that have developed and people have made economic decisions. He personally feels that there should be a longline only area but that the area should extend farther to the West. From that point there would be an area where longlines and pots would be the legal gear.

Don Collinsworth moved to amend the motion to substitute that the pot gear would be prohibited east of the line of 159°. (The Central and Eastern Gulf regulatory areas would be closed to the use of pot gear; the area west of 159° would be open to the use of pot gear and other legal gear.) The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell. The amendment failed, 6 to 5, with Mace, McVey, R. Petersen, J. Peterson, Stephan, and Didonato voting against.

Mr. McVey was concerned because the amendment would go considerably beyond what the Council had originally intended to consider. Also, he pointed out that most of the public testimony was aimed at the Eastern Gulf of Alaska.

Don Collinsworth said the Council had received more information during the meeting on the conduct of the fishery and the potential entry into this fishery of substantially more pot gear changing the situation considerably.

Jeff Stephan moved to amend the main motion to read, "140°" instead of 147°W longitude. The motion was seconded by Gene Didonato and failed, 9 to 2, with Stephan and Didonato voting for.

The main motion carried, 10 to 1, with Rudy Petersen voting against.

(d) Plan Amendment Proposals

Steve Davis briefly reviewed the proposals submitted for the 1985 Gulf of Alaska amendment package. The Council was asked to select proposals to be included in this year's amendment cycle. The Gulf of Alaska Plan Team submitted their report which prioritized the proposals. Because a number of the proposals will require extensive documentation, the Plan Team recommended that only proposals of the highest priority be included in this year's amendment.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC suggested that the BSAI Plan Team use the same ranking procedure on proposals as that used by the Gulf Plan Team. The SSC discussed the schedule, available manpower and the required documentation for an acceptable amendment package. Based on the short time frame and lack of manpower to complete the necessary work on the proposals, the SSC recommended the following packages for 1985 and 1986.

For 1985:

Simple Amendments

- A. Incorporate habitat policy into FMPs (#28).
- B. New 1985 OY values (#28).
- C. Halibut limit domestic trawl (#28).
- D. Expand time/area field authority (#21.2, 28).

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- E. Weekly catch reports - catcher/processor (#18).
- F. FCZ intrusion areas in Southeast (#16.1).

Complex Amendments

- A. OY framework (#22.3, 28) combining the single species OY closures (#22.1) and possible parts of the PSC package.
- B. Shelf rockfish management (all proposals).

For 1986:

- A. All proposals under sablefish.
- B. Domestic observer program (#21.1, 28.6).
- C. JVP allocation procedures (#29.4); if the Council wishes to proceed on this issue.
- D. Remaining parts of those proposals under the PSC package.

The SSC rated as low priority and did not recommend action on proposals #15 (foreign fishing season), #25.1, 25.2, and 26 (combine management areas).

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel felt that the highest priority should be given to shelf rockfish because it dealt with an immediate conservation problem. The sablefish proposals were their second priority, recommending a full range of options be developed by the Council and plan team. The AP felt that the PSC problem has been an ongoing issue and probably can't be resolved in one amendment cycle. Next issue of priority was the new OYs which they feel needs to be accomplished this year. The AP also suggested incorporating habitat policy into the FMPs this year. If time is not available for this amendment cycle, the AP recommends that the OY framework and the single species OY proposals be developed for 1986 although they rated them both as high priority.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Don Collinsworth questioned whether the Council has the wherewithal to be a regulatory body given the administrative processes and requirements to deliberate on these kind of regulatory issues and whether this system was ever really meant to accommodate it. In the future there may be more and more proposals to deal with each year and it may be necessary to postpone more and more for consideration to the following year(s). One option would be to develop management plans and make recommendations to the Secretary for specific regulations letting the Secretary promulgate the regulations under his authority. This may be something the Council should keep in mind when considering Magnuson Act amendments. Jim Branson said that a change in the whole structure of the Magnuson would be necessary to improve Council fishery management efficiency.

Bob McVey said that the shelf rockfish problem may be handled by emergency regulation this year. There should be some information available from ADF&G by the March meeting which might enable NMFS to take emergency action because of conservation issues; however the proposals should still be kept in the cycle in order to have regulations in place by November.

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Jim Branson said that it is imperative that the 1985 OY values be adopted because there isn't enough time to framework the plan for 1985. Something has to be done with rockfish, subdividing the quotas at the very least in order to follow the State's lead and to back the emergency action that probably will be taken sometime after the March meeting. Also, he felt that any emergency action the Council takes on the sablefish longline only fishery should remain in the regular amendment package. The OY framework is a number one priority but it can't be done by the March meeting. However, the plan teams should start working on it now so it can be in place for the next amendment cycle. Mr. Branson suggested that the plan teams should work on the amendment for a longline only sablefish fishery.

Mr. Campbell agreed that there are several proposals that will be required in the amendment cycle based on Council action at this meeting that will be all the plan teams can handle - sablefish and shelf rockfish and new 1985 OYs. He suggested that he appoint a group composed of the chairmen of the SSC, AP and one member from Council and staff to develop a calendar for these proposals so in March the Council will know exactly what is required.

Jim Branson recapped what he understood as the Council's direction: Develop the gear regulation package for sablefish, the quota section of shelf rockfish, the weekly catch reports, new 1985 OY values, and limit on the bycatch of halibut in the trawl fishery, which has been under emergency order for two years. Steve Davis said that the halibut bycatch amendment could become very complex. The analysis associated with developing options other than the numbers approved in the emergency rule would take some time. Bob McVey urged that this amendment be included in the cycle because getting another emergency rule approved may be very difficult. It was the consensus of the Council that it be included in the package.

Mr. Branson also suggested that the issue of salmon bycatch control under the PSC package is one that should be addressed because the salmon bycatch this year in the trawl fishery was unacceptably high during the latter part of the year. He asked Mr. McVey whether this issue could be addressed by emergency time/area closures based on conservation rationale pending the development of an amendment. Mr. McVey said he would have to check on it. If the issue cannot be dealt with under the Regional Director's emergency order authority, Mr. Branson suggested that the amendment should be dealt with during this cycle. It was decided that it would be looked at along with the halibut proposal and brought back before the Council in March. Sara Hemphill suggested that another solution might be a voluntary agreement by foreign nations.

Gulf Rockfish Management

Because of increased domestic interest in individual species in the "other rockfish" category, new species definitions, management areas and separate OYs are needed for the individual rockfish species. The plan team has given high priority to the rockfish issues. The Council was provided with an ADF&G report discussing the problem and Barry Bracken of ADF&G gave a brief oral review. At the December meeting fishermen from Kodiak and Seward expressed an intent to develop a shelf rockfish fishery in the westward portion of the Gulf. The new fisheries are currently within state waters, but could move into the FCZ in the near future.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The rockfish issue was not before the SSC as an emergency action so they did not treat it as such. Under their review of all of the rockfish proposals they ranked the development of the amendment for the rockfish complex as high priority for this year's amendment cycle.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel moved to approve the recommended poundages for the areas of Shumagin, Chirikof, Kodiak and Yakutat. In regard to Southeast Alaska they recommended establishing a subarea within Southeast bordered by 57°30'N latitude and 56°N latitude with a 600 mt demersal rockfish harvest, the remaining harvest of 880 mt to come from the remaining areas.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

It was the consensus of the Council that they would wait for Board action and if it appears that the Council needs to take action ahead of the amendment cycle, the Regional Director could be asked to take appropriate action while the regular amendment is being prepared. The Council will have additional information from the State at the March Council meeting.

D-3 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP

(a) Review U.S./Japan industry agreement.

Discussion and reports on this subject were covered under the same item under Gulf of Alaska (D-2a).

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Plan Team recalculated the TAC, DAP, JVP, DAH and Initial TALFF amounts for the Bering Sea/Aleutians based on Council actions with respect to joint ventures and allocations. (APPENDIX III to these minutes)

Bob Mace moved to accept the new BSAI table. The motion was seconded by John Winther. The motion was amended to allow no TALFF for sablefish and raise the Atka mackerel bycatch from 60 mt to 100 mt. The amended motion carried with no objection.

(b) Review foreign industry agreement on FDZ closure for 1985.

Jay Hastings, Japan Fisheries Assn., told the Council that the industry agreement worked well last year and after reviewing it, they believe it can be extended for 1985. He has discussed it with the Korean and Japanese industry but he has not been able to discuss it with Poland yet.

(c) Proposals for 1985 amendment package.

The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP Plan Team reviewed and prioritized the proposals submitted for the 1985 BSAI amendment package and submitted a report to the Council (APPENDIX IV). Fifteen of the 16 proposals submitted would require plan amendment. Because of the complexity of issues and lack of data

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in some cases, the Plan Team and staff would not be able to prepare all proposals during this amendment cycle. The Team ranked five as high priority issues, but only four of those could realistically be prepared for this amendment cycle. Other proposals ranked medium priority could be addressed during this cycle but it would be difficult to prepare them in time for the March meeting.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Using the same criteria they used on the Gulf proposals, the SSC submitted these recommendations:

For 1985:

Simple Amendments

- A. Raise upper end of OY range (#1).
- B. Decrease the reserves (#4).
- C. Require catcher/processors weekly catch reports (#10).
- D. Implement NMFS habitat policy (#15).

Complex Amendments

- A. Close area within 20 miles of Aleutians to all foreign trawling based on Council's request for Emergency Rule.

For 1986:

- A. Gear requirement made consistent (sablefish) (#6).
- B. Incidental catch of salmon by joint ventures (#8).
- C. Establish different/smaller quota area for POP and blackcod (#13).
- D. Control incidental catch of halibut and crab in domestic trawl fishery (#14).
- E. Allocation of JVP to individual operation (#16).

The SSC did not recommend action on the following proposals:

- A. Restrict legal gear to three types (#5).
- B. Allow sablefish fishermen to return and sell incidental catch of halibut (#7).
- C. Merge management area (#9).
- D. Close foreign fishing from December 15 to January 31 (#11).

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP ranked the proposals as follows:

- Proposal #1 - top priority.
- Proposal #4 - low priority.
- Proposals #5, 6, 7 - No further consideration recommended.
- Proposal #8 - high priority for 1986 cycle.
- Proposal #9 - low priority.
- Proposal #10 - supports further development by plan team; confidentiality problem should be kept in check.
- Proposal #11 - no further consideration recommended.

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Proposal #12 - beneficial for a future cycle of amendments, not this year.
Proposal #13 - top priority, next cycle if not this one.
Proposal #14 - should be further developed for this amendment cycle.
Proposal #15 - mandated by federal legislation.
Proposal #16 - low priority until Council can quantify an acceptable ranking for joint ventures.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Based on plan team, SSC and AP discussions, Loh Lee Low presented the following suggested priorities:

For 1985:

Habitat (#15)
20-Mile Closure around Aleutians (#12)
OY to 2.5 million mt (#1)
10% Reserve (#4)
Catcher/Processor Reporting (#10)
Bycatch/Halibut/Crab (#14)

For 1986:

Biodegradable gear (#6)
Incidental catch of salmon (#8)
Management Areas (#13)
Allocations to JVPs (#16)

Don Collinsworth said he felt that proposal #8 on the incidental catch of salmon should be included in the 1985 cycle. Jim Branson agreed that this should be addressed this year, whether through a plan amendment, emergency action or industry agreement. Proposal #8 was moved into the 1985 cycle reserving the possibility that the plan team might be able to find another way to handle it for this year rather than through an amendment.

John Harville also suggested that the Plan Team be instructed to develop Proposal #14 for the 1986 amendment cycle based on the industry agreement, rather than develop a new system at this time. The industry voluntary bycatch restrictions will be accepted for 1985.

The Council concurred on this schedule.

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council was provided with a current written financial report. There was no discussion.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A delegation from the the People's Republic of China visited the Council on Tuesday accompanied by Mayor Dapkovitch of Sitka. The delegation was introduced to the Council through an interpreter. They were briefed on fisheries after their visit.

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G. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m. on Friday, February 8.