ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
May 21-22, 1984

The Advisory Panel met on Monday and Tuesday, May 21-22, 1984, in the Old Federal Building. The following members were present:

Bob Alverson, Chairman
Pat Barker
Al Burch
Barry Collier
Larry Cotter
Barry Fisher
Joe Kurtz
Rick Lauber
Ray Lewis
Dan O'Hara
Don Rawlinson

B-1 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's report was presented by Clarence Pautzke. The Advisory Panel had no additional comments to the report.

C-3 Foreign Directed Fishing and Joint Venture Policies


The Advisory Panel would like to thank Mick Stevens for preparing this proposed draft for setting criteria for prioritizing future joint venture activities as they relate to bringing the U.S. shoreside and harvesting industries into total utilization of our resources.

The AP recommends that the Council not adopt any such policy at this meeting as there were many suggestions on the draft presented to us. The AP suggests to the Council that the draft be sent out to the public for comment so a decision for internal policy review by the Council on future joint ventures can be adopted, possibly in September.

Some of the comments from the AP were as follows:

(1) Following categories A, B, C, and D, there should be an example so future permit review committees could have a standard to refer to when reviewing joint ventures.
(2) The Council needs to set a policy on vessels and companies with constant enforcement problems.

(3) The comments on prohibited species and potential by-catch of other than prohibited species should be reworded.

There were additional comments from the harvesting and shorebased processing sectors of the AP that will need additional thought between now and September. Generally, the policy tries to delineate the concept that the more Americanized the operation the better, which is a needed policy.

C-4 Foreign Fishing Permit Applications

Polish Joint Venture. Lacking any permit or formal presentation, the AP was unable to comment on any Polish request.

The AP would like to express that any arrangement with the Polish should have a healthy required purchase of U.S. industry product before any directed fishing is allowed.

There was some expressed opposition due to the problem of the Japanese lack of purchases of processed product and before additional arrangements are made with other countries arrangements with existing nations should be fulfilled.

C-5 Follow up on April Policy Meeting

With respect to the procedures suggested by the Council at their April meeting the AP suggests a year’s operations under the proposed rules to see how they work before suggesting any changes.

With respect to the Plan Team make-up, the SSC should approve the participants for their individual expertise. There did not seem to be a great need for alternates on the Plan Team, but those participants should likewise be screened by the SSC for their participation.

SSC. The AP at the April meeting as well as at this meeting expressed that the requirement for alternates was not a great need. The SSC should be made up of the best scientific talent available representing an objective viewpoint. The Council should try to avoid a SSC make-up that only expresses agency opinion with the use of alternates to maintain those positions. There was some suggestion that if the Council wanted alternates for the SSC or Plan Team it would be appropriate to also provide alternates for Advisory Panel participants.

D-1 Herring FMP

(a) Togiak Fishery/FMP Update. Jim Glock gave the AP an update on the Togiak herring fishery through May 20. The AP did not change its position on the FMP. That position is to have an FMP reflecting the State of Alaska position on herring management.

(b) Offshore Research Request for Proposals. The AP heard a report from Guy Thornburgh and Fred Gaffney. They indicated that not more than 2,000 mt
should be allowed in any research operation on herring and that this amount may cover vessel data time but would not cover administrative costs of processing the data received.

Some AP members suggested that it may be more appropriate to have a research program based on a charter with dollars per day as being paid with fish may not attract sufficient vessels.

The AP recommends on a vote of 8 to 2 that the Council or NMFS put out a RFP for public bid for a potential research study on herring abundance in the Bering Sea area.

D-2 King Crab FMP

(a) Review Board Actions. The AP members were pleased with the progress that the joint Council/Board meetings are now beginning to show. The joint meeting was generally considered successful. The following issues were of concern to some AP members:

(1) The Council should request the Board to reconsider the bait-up requirement in the St. Matthew fishery due to safety reasons.

(2) The next joint Council/Board meeting should provide time for the Council to get through the entire decision making process with the Board of Fisheries regarding crab decisions pertaining to the shared authority of the Council and Board of Fisheries.

(3) The closure around St. Laurence and the Diamedes extending beyond three miles was voted on without scientific data being presented to the industry. The Council should request and have a response by September from the Board of Fisheries as to their documentation supporting that closure.

(b) Review of Permit Provisions in FMP. The Advisory Panel unanimously recommends that the Council pursue a federal permit requirement in the implementing regulations.

D-3 Tanner Crab FMP

The Advisory Panel unanimously approved a motion to recommend that the Council direct the Regional Director to withhold or withdraw that portion of the Tanner crab regulatory amendment which would eliminate the old federal pot storage area for the Bristol Bay area. This action would bring the FMP into compliance with the state on pot storage issues.

The AP again expresses satisfaction with the success of the joint Council/Board meeting.

D-4 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

(a) Extension of emergency rules for sablefish and pollock. The Advisory Panel recommends that the Council support the emergency rules for raising the pollock OY and closing the sablefish fishery in federal cul-de-sacs
of Southeast Alaska. However, the AP also recommends that the Council develop specific amendments to the FMP so that these emergency rules are no longer necessary.

(b) Draft Regulations for Observers on Trawlers. The Advisory Panel recommends the Council research the liability issues involved if any observer is placed on board a U.S. vessel. The AP recommends the Council interview one of the major U.S. marine underwriters and report back to the Council in September.

Marty Eaton and Pete Jackson gave a report on observations in the central Gulf of Alaska on U.S. trawl vessels.

(c) Domestic Sablefish Restriction. The general feeling of the Advisory Panel was that the reports originally requested to make a public decision on sablefish should be made available before final action. There was concern expressed that this issue has gone unresolved for such a length of time. The AP would like the data requested completed and sent to the Council family prior to the September meeting.

D-5 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

(a) Industry Workgroup Report on Prohibited Species By-catch in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary. Mick Stevens and Barry Collier gave a brief report on the progress of the industry group that was meeting on this issue. Additional comments will be made at the Council meeting.