

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC, and AP members

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 1982

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

The Council needs to clarify the July 1982 motion to make the sablefish fishery an exclusive hook and line fishery in the FCZ east of 140°W longitude to Cape Addington.

BACKGROUND

At the July meeting the Council voted 6 to 5 to limit pot fishing for sablefish in the FCZ east of 140°W to the grounds between Cape Addington and Dixon Entrance. I understood the motion to say that only hook and line gear may be used for directed sablefish fishing in the FCZ east of 140°W to Cape Addington, that pots cannot be used in that area (between Cape Addington and 140°W) for sablefish, and that trawlers can take sablefish only incidentally. Most of the Council members with whom I discussed this after the meeting had the same understanding.

Unfortunately the record is not at all clear on the actual motion and the transcript of Council discussion and public testimony does not do much to clarify the question. The transcript and notes of discussions could be interpreted to mean that the Council intended to close the entire area from Dixon Entrance to 140°W longitude to everything but hook and line fishing, or that hook and line gear was the only type that could be used for sablefish in the entire area.

Because the meeting adjourned after the action was taken in July, the motion cannot be reconsidered. Properly there should be a "motion to amend something previously adopted."^{1/}

The wording of the motion should be something on this order:

"I move to amend the motion adopted at the July meeting which made the sablefish fishery east of 140°W longitude to Cape Addington an exclusive hook and line fishery by changing the wording to read, 'Ban the use of pot gear for sablefish east of 140°W longitude to Cape Addington.'"

1/ Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, Scott, Foresman and Co., 1981, 256 p.

This still leaves the Council's intention to make hook and line gear the only legal method for a directed sablefish fishery in Southeast unresolved. The July discussion left that subject even less clear than the pot ban.

If only the above motion is made pot gear from east of 140°W to Cape Addington will be banned for sablefish but trawling will be unaffected.

If the Council wishes to ban trawling for sablefish as a directed fishery the motion should be along these lines:

"I move to amend the motion adopted at the July meeting which made the sablefish fishery east of 140°W longitude to Cape Addington an exclusive hook and line fishery by changing the wording ~~to read~~, 'Ban the use of pot gear for sablefish east of 140°W longitude to Cape Addington and prohibit retention of sablefish by trawlers except for those fish taken incidental to fishing operations for other species in the (Southeast Regulatory area) (area from Dixon Entrance to 140°W longitude) (area between Cape Addington to 140°W longitude) (Gulf of Alaska).'"

An alternative could be to go with the first proposed motion which does not mention trawling but state for the record a Council position on trawling and sablefish. As a policy statement it would be considered in all future development of fisheries in this area without impacting any current fisheries or operations.