

Public Testimony

AGENDA C-2 - Halibut

Charles Christensen, Petersburg Vessel Onrs Assn., agreed with the suggestion of tank inspections for the 1985 season. He feels five days with the gear out of the water is not enough PVOA would like two weeks with gear out of the water before the opening of the halibut season. Their main concern with exclusive area registration is that it could develop into many small areas with each group have their own special area; if they could be assured that it is for one year only they might be able to agree.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn., also felt that tank inspections is a good idea to reduce illegal fishing and that exclusive registration probably is not necessary because the seasons are so short. They have suggested pre-opening registration for a number of years to allow IPHC to adjust season lengths according to the projected catching capacity of the fleet. Three days openings with the high catch rates would discriminate against some of the larger vessels because they would be loaded before the end of the season and miss out on some of the fishing. One to two day seasons would be more effective.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. They are unanimously against exclusive area registration although they think super-exclusive areas would be the only enforceable tool and they would only consider that if it was for one year. However, the costs of setting up super-exclusive areas for just one year would not be cost effective. Pre-season registration to allow IPHC to have a better idea of what the effort will be is a good idea. Having gear out of the water for two weeks or even five days is not efficient. They would like to see the hold inspections instead. The Union supports the recommended longer seasons although he personally feels one-day seasons would be best.

Pete Knutsen, Bob Alverson, and Ray Olsen, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn. They would support short openings concurrent with each other in the Gulf of Alaska but oppose exclusive fishing areas because they put an undue burden on a segment of the fishing industry that is required to be mobile on high sea fisheries. Having gear out of the water for five days is a tremendous burden; they would support tank inspections instead. FVOA supports pre-season registration.

Tom Stewart, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn. Supports tank inspection and the 5-day lay-up be deleted. He is against exclusive registration areas and believes it would be unenforceable and easy to abuse. He would support pre-season registration.

Kevin O'Leary, Alaska Coastal Community Alliance. Current management methods for halibut being considered by the Council would radically alter the Kodiak community and economy. Limited access programs in Alaska and Canada have not accomplished what they were designed to do. The Council should take into consideration the effects of any plan on the coastal communities and provide a draft of any proposed plan well in advance of a decision so they have a chance for input. For the 1985 season most would prefer a system of non-registration and concurrent openings. They support tank inspections and lifting the 5-day lay-up restriction for longliners.

Dave Woodruff, Alaska Fresh Seafoods, spoke on problems of quality during the past season.

Chuck Kekoni, Assoc. of Alaska Halibut Fishermen. Said he would be in favor of one-day openings with time long enough in between for IPHC to analyze the data. Pre-season registration would help IPHC keep track of quotas and tank inspections would have to go along with shorter seasons. If there was a tank inspection, the 5-day lay-up for longliners would not be necessary. He would not support exclusive area registration. There should be more information out to fishermen on the Council's halibut options and time for them to comment.

Mary Jacobs, Kodiak vessel owner. She feels a lot of Council time and money has been spent to the quota share system and not enough on other options. The share system would be devastating to coastal communities and create expensive management costs. She supports one-day openings and hold inspections and would like to see more industry people on the halibut workgroup.

Peter Kendrick, United Fishermen's Marketing Assn. UFA supports IPHC as the primary management authority for halibut. The health of the resource can be protected without limited entry as has been shown by IPHC.

Kathryn Kinnear, Fishermen's Wives Assn. Their association is neutral and want only to assist in distributing information that will affect the future of their families.

Barbara Monkiewicz, Kodiak vessel owner. She agrees with the suggestions for the 1985 season. She suggested that industry representatives be included in the Council's Halibut Subcommittee.

Richard Thummel, Kodiak fisherman. Supports multiple short openings for the halibut fishery and tank inspections; the five-day lay-up is not effective.

Raymond Campbell, fisherman. He is against limited entry as he has be "shuffled out of fisheries" in the last seven years. Any limited entry system is bound to exclude someone.

Michael Jones, Kodiak fisherman. Concurs with most of the previous testimony - short seasons, pre-season registration, tank inspections.

Charlie Johnson, Kodiak fisherman, feels tank inspections are necessary; he suggested 36-hour openings or some short openings to run concurrently in all major areas. Would like exclusive registration areas.

Bill Jacobson, Kodiak fisherman, is against limited entry. Five-day lay-ups should be eliminated. He is against exclusive registration and doesn't feel pre-season registration is necessary because IPHC has a good handle on the fishery.

Ron Hegge, ALFA, agrees with the recommendations for the 1985 season except exclusive area registration.

John Maher, Sitka fisherman. He is against the five-day lay-up and would support tank inspections.

#### AGENDA C-4 - Joint Venture Operations

Admiral Hwong, Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Assn. The 125,000 mt in over-the-side joint venture purchases should only be considered by the Council in conjunction with direct allocations for Korea. They government encourages over-the-side purchases as a way of cooperation. Bycatch of pollock is a waste of protein sources; they respect the domestic fishermen but would like to find ways to get the pollock out of the area. Cost of observer coverage is quite high and some relief should be given those who have a good record.

Sara Hemphill, Alaska Contact. She thinks it is important for the Council to deal with permits in a consistent manner, treating everyone equally. She is concerned whether the Council's action with the Taiwanese permits will be effective; it has a direct economic effect on Kodiak fishermen.

Warren Westfall, Alaska Salt Fish, spoke in support of the Spanish joint venture request. He objected to the Permit Review Committees emphasis on cod and an unfavorable tariff. Other countries also have tariffs and restrictions on U.S. imported products. Spain is not asking for a direct allocation which should be looked on favorably by the Council.

Tomasz Pintowski, Polish Commercial Counselor's Office. Poland has proven they are reliable and honest partners during last year's joint ventures and would like to strongly emphasize that they expect to be treated in the same fashion as other nations.

Nils Dragey and Todd L. Shaw, Trident Seafoods Corp. Spoke in favor of possible Portuguese joint ventures.

Antonio Quina, Portuguese General Fisheries Administration. Portugal is very interested in joint ventures in Alaska. They have worked for two years to convince Portuguese officials to change regulations to favor these arrangements. Permits were filed late because of their unfamiliarity with the Council's procedures.

Phil Fuller, Arctic Venture Fisheries. Spoke in favor of Korean joint ventures with Korean Wong Yang. Because of prior problems with this organization, a letter of credit will be in place before any operations begin.

Al Burch, Mike Jones, Kodiak, spoke in favor of Taiwanese joint venture requests. He changed his schedule to get ready for a joint venture but if they have to wait until February for the Council to receive word on the Taiwanese salmon issue, it will be an economic loss to him. He doesn't feel that stopping this joint venture will change the salmon situation in Taiwan. They need to know about the proposed joint ventures now in order to make arrangements.

Mick Stevens, ProFish Int'l, was concerned about the Council's interim joint venture policy. Mr. Stevens' reviewed the industry workgroup report on joint venture policy.

Alan Guimmond spoke in favor of possible future joint venture permits for Iceland. They have just recently signed the GIFA and so could not file permit requests before Council's deadline. He asked the Council to consider any permits at the February meeting.

Ron Jensen, Jeff Hendricks, Alaska Pacific Seafood Coalition. Spoke about a letter they had written to the Council asking for support of industry-to-industry negotiations to support U.S. partners in joint ventures.

#### AGENDA D-2/3 - Groundfish

Terry Baker, Alaska Factory Trawlers Assn. They are opposed to TALFF on Pacific cod. They feel that the domestic industry can fully utilize this species if they can find them. He suggests that domestic fishermen be given a chance to prove themselves during the first quarter of 1985 and if they don't perform, then allocate TALFF.

Ole Harder, Kodiak, feels that sablefish should be a longline-only fishery. He suggested that gillnetters be bought out so they can gear up for longlining.

Mark Lundsten, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, said he feels a size limit on black cod is necessary for conservation reasons. DSFU also supports a longline-only fishery for sablefish in the Gulf.

Barry Collier, North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Assn., briefly reviewed written comments submitted by his organization. They were included in the Council notebooks.

Richard Thummel Kodiak fisherman, stressed that immediate action is needed in the sablefish fishery, but that any action should be equitable to all who are already in that fishery. He suggests some emergency action be taken for the beginning of the year to allow more time to work on long-term solutions.

Paul MacGregor, North Pacific Longline Association, said the Japanese realize that their days of "targeting on sablefish" are over but pointed out that they have had some part in helping the U.S. domestic industry develop that fishery. He said there could be some industry agreement to allow the Japanese to operate without jeopardizing the U.S. sablefish fishery but that any agreement would be dependent on TALFF being available at the beginning of the year. They also need TALFF in the Bering Sea at the beginning of the year to make other operations feasible.

Ron Hegge, ALFA, supports a longline-only fishery for sablefish.

Tim Longrich, and John Klemzak, Kodiak sablefish pot fishermen said they have invested a lot of money in their operation and feel they have the same right as other fishermen to harvest sablefish.

Charles Christensen, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn, said he is in favor of a longline-only fishery for sablefish in the Gulf but would hope that some arrangements could be made for those now in the fishery using other gear types. He is also in favor of a size limit for sablefish.

Don Swisher, Steve Johnson, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers and Hokuten Trawlers. The pollock fishery is dominated by older fish and there is a high mortality rate and cannibalism so the Council should maintain a high amount of pollock catch; the 1984 OY of 400,000 should be maintained. The Japanese need a bycatch of Pacific cod; they do not target on them. Reducing the amount of Pacific cod bycatch will not significantly help the domestic fishery. The Japanese also would like an increase in the current levels of turbot to 69,000 mt.

Al Burch, Kodiak, read a letter for Dave Harville into the record; the letter was available to Council members. Mr. Harville is against any form of limited entry in the sablefish fishery. Mr. Burch said he felt that by allowing multiple gear types the effort is spread out; various gear types have coexisted in the past and can still avoid conflicts. He suggested the Council appoint a subcommittee to work out the problems of multiple gear usage in the sablefish fishery.

Mick Stevens, ProFish Int'l, suggested the Council approve the SSC's recommendation to set a more liberal OY for Atka mackerel in the Western Gulf of Alaska. He also asked the Council to increase participation of user groups in developing overall goals and objectives for the groundfish fisheries.

Larry Cotter, ILWU. The sablefish fishery has begun to provide new job opportunities onshore. It is not practical to stop joint ventures because of sablefish bycatch, but the bycatch should not be significant.

Mike Mayo and John Mayer, Seaboy Alaska, favor longline only for sablefish to keep it the stable fishery that it is.

Pete Knutsen, Ray Olsen, Bob Alverson, Fishing Vessel Ownrs' Assn. They have submitted a proposal supporting a longline-only fishery for sablefish in the Gulf.

Ray Olsen, Fishing Vessel Ownrs' Assn, said that pot fishing has caused major problems in Washington and feels that there will be real problems if the Washington pot fishermen move up to Alaska.

Tom Stewart, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Assn., agrees with the longline-only proposal for sablefish. He also would support a size limit. Perhaps pot fishermen already in the fishery could be granted "grandfather rights." Bottom gillnets should be banned because that gear has only been used experimentally.

John Adams, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union, agreed with Mark Lundsten's statements.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Halibut Fishermen's Assn, recommended that some part of the POP EY be for domestic use rather than have it designated as a bycatch only so that some exploratory fishery can continue to develop markets.

Chuck Kekoni, Chugiak fisherman, has been fishing longline bottomfish for eight years and has never had a conflict with pots. He doesn't think any gear should be prohibited unless there is some biological reason.