

Public Testimony

C-3 Halibut Management

Mark Snigaroff, Atka Fishermen's Assn. Their association proposed the earlier openings in Area 4B because of the weather conditions. Last year they were only able to fish three days out of nine because of bad weather conditions. He suggested that in two years they will be able to better compete with the large-boat fleet and then this regulation could be lifted.

Perfenia Pletnikoff, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn. They have submitted a proposal to extend the existing 10,000 lb. trip limit during the first half of the season in Area 4C be extended to apply until 80% of the area catch limit is taken. This is the first year they have been able to catch so much of the quota and they would like the opportunity to continue their development of the local halibut fishery.

Paul Clampitt, FVOA. They don't agree with the small, discriminatory openings for the local fishermen which makes it almost impossible for their groups to participate.

John Crowley, FVOA. A comprehensive plan is needed for the whole fishery; setting all the small exclusive areas and openings is just going to set precedents for more of the same.

Jack Crowley. He agreed with testimony of Paul Clampitt and John Crowley.

Mark Lundsten, F/V MASONIC. He does not agree with the idea that Area 4C is underharvested; it's possible that it is overharvested. The reason for smaller catch rates this year is that fewer boats fished.

Mark Springer, City of Hooper Bay. Supports the requests of the Atka and Central Bering Sea Fishermen's associations.

Linda Kozak, Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners Assn. They are concerned about setting a precedent with the superexclusive areas in Western Alaska. Suggested that instead of the 10,000 lb trip limit until 80% of the quota is caught in the Pribilofs that the Council not set a trip limit, but cut off after 15 to 25% of the quota is taken and allow locals to continue fishing at that time.

John McHenry. Can't support the Area 4B proposal as any further restrictions would make it very difficult for them to continue to fish in the area. The best way for the local fishermen to compete is to get larger vessels.

John Bruce, Deep Sea Fishermen's Union. They are against any exclusive registration areas. They have offered assistance to the local Western Alaska communities so they can get experience in the fishery and get larger vessels and feel this is the way it should be done, not by drawing exclusive areas around the communities.

C-4 Sablefish Management

Pete Gee, Homer. Representing several Homer fishermen. They are concerned about qualifying for a permit under limited entry because most of them are new boat owners although they have been involved for many years as deckhands.

John Crowley, FVOA. Favors a license limitation system where the license is tied to the vessel and issued by vessel length. Feels a 1987 cut-off date would be the most equitable to all.

Jack Crowley, FVOA. In favor of license limitation with a 1987 cut-off date using 10,000 lbs. as the qualifying tonnage. Prefers the license be tied to the vessel and be freely transferable.

Ed Fuglvog, Petersburg Vessel Owners Assn. Prefer a license limitation system and feels the Council needs to proceed as soon as possible because the sablefish fishery is beginning to have the same problems as the halibut fishery. PVOA originally favored a 1986 cut-off date but would support a 1987 date, too.

Dennis Hicks, Sitka. He met with representatives of several organizations during the Council meeting to try to reach a consensus on limited access to present to the Council. They all agreed that the status quo is unacceptable for the health of the resource. Suggested several options for a license limitation system.

Charles Christianson, PVOA. Favors a license limitation system as a compromise. It is a less complicated system to implement. Also thinks it can be a first step to a multi-species approach to avoid wastage and help solve bycatch problems. Their organization feels strongly that whatever system is implemented, a review board is a necessity.

Paul Clampitt, FVOA. Favors license limitation; Council should not delay implementing a system because that just encourages speculation.

John McHenry/Jack Knutsen, FVOA. FVOA supports license limitation. If a license is issued to everyone, then the purpose of the system is defeated.

Bill Hayes, Jubilee Fisheries. They support license limitation as the most viable system. They are worried that the longline pot vessels may not be included.

Jeff Stephan, UFMA. Has not seen in the RIR what the objective of departing from the status quo would be or a descriptions of the problems to be solved. Suggested the Council look again at other options such as a split season or multi-species management.

Bill Rotecki, Ketchikan. Favors some sort of license limitation. He also favors an IFQ system but afraid that the quota would end up in the hands of a few.

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Longliners Assn. In favor of status quo; feels limited entry is discriminatory against the Kodiak fishermen. If the fishermen in the

Eastern Gulf want limited entry, let it just apply to them and let them stay in their own area.

Allen Parks, Homer. The status quo is unacceptable; favors a statewide permit system. Thinks a eligibility should be based on a landing of at least 10,000 lbs during the years 1985-88.

Jon Rowley, FishWorks! Favors an ITQ system which would assure a continuous flow of the product to the marketplace and improve quality. Also feels the Council should develop a management system for sablefish and halibut at the same time.

Steve Fish, F/V LUALDA. There are too many boats in the fishery now; the Council needs to do something. Supports the recommendations of Dennis Hicks who testified earlier. Doesn't think permits should have a monetary value.

Collin Martens, PVOA. Supports some kind of license limitation; if the fishery continues the way it is he won't be able to support his family.

Patricia Phillips, F/V NANCY K. Favors license limitation; safety is an important consideration. Also, quality of the product will improve with extended seasons.

James Phillips, ALFA. Supports some form of limited access; feels strongly that there are biological reasons to do so.

William Tillion, Homer. Feels a share quota system is the way to solve the problems. Safety would be improved and so would quality of the product. Would like to see all longline species included in the analysis.

Mark Lundsten, F/V MASONIC. Status quo is not acceptable; CPUE is down, the size of the fish being harvested is smaller, and these problems will not be addressed by the status quo system of management.

George Anderson, Fishing Co. of Alaska. Opposed to any form of limited access.

Chris Gates, Port of Seward. They provide port services and many of the vessels would be excluded under a limited access program.

Linda Kozak, KLVOA. Prefers status quo. They are opposed to limited access in general. The seven problems addressed in the EA/RIR will not be solved by limiting access. Their major concern is the piecemeal approach to management of the fisheries; limiting access in one fishery may cause a move to other fisheries causing overcapitalization in them. If the Council does impose a cut-off date, they would prefer December 31, 1987.

Wally Pereyra, ProFish Int'l. Thinks the ITQ and share quota systems are the ones the Council should be looking at and that all groundfish fisheries should be included.

Paul Zimmerman, Keener Packing Co. Urged the Council not to limit the diversification of shore-based processors. He supports a multi-species approach, tying halibut and sablefish together, but is hesitant to support

limited entry. If a permit system is implemented, there should be no monetary value on permits; they should revert back to the government for reissuance.

Drew Scalzi, Homer. In favor of a limited access program based on the ITQ system, with some form of limitation imposed immediately.

Mike Mayo, ALFA. Read a position paper by Robert Chevalier into the record (on file in Council office). He suggested the Council use the Chatham limited entry scheme as the basis for Council plan. Supports a 1985 cut-off date and a limited access program for Southeast and E. Yakutat only.

D-1 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

Oliver Holm, KLA. Recommended a sablefish TAC of 2,500 mt and 6,075 mt of pollock. Also, suggested a 10,000 mt pollock TAC in the Shelikof Strait for the first quarter and the remaining allocated quarterly so no single spawning stock will be fished too hard. Recommended that only enough flatfish be allocated to encourage development and that the halibut PSC be set around 2,000 mt.

Chris Blackburn for Kodiak Mayor Jerome Selby. The Kodiak economy has benefited from the pollock fisheries through increased revenues and taxes. Important to protect the stocks.

Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank. The pollock stocks are going down but the status of stocks will not be known until the first quarter of the fishery is completed.

Dave Harville, Mick Stevens, Chris Blackburn. Mr. Harville told the Council that the bycatch of halibut in the joint venture operations in the Gulf of Alaska is a big problem; Chris Blackburn pointed out that the summer is not a good time for a flounder fishery in the Gulf because of the bycatch. Mick Stevens asked for an allocation of 10,000 mt flounder and 4,500 mt cod for bycatch for a fall joint venture operation.

Reed Wasson, Eagle Fisheries. They will be concentrating mainly on processing flounder next year; are expanding and have new equipment. They are concerned about the suggested 11,800 mt flounder TAC because it won't allow for new processors to move into Kodiak. Urged the Council to use the higher allocation suggested by the Plan Team.

Steve Hoag, IPHC. IPHC recommends the halibut PSC be set around the 2,000 mt level. Halibut stocks appear to have peaked and are starting a natural decline.

Vic Horgan, Ocean Beauty Seafoods. Pollock data re just not reliable at this time. Supports the idea of an experimental fishery in Shelikof but thinks it should be split into two seasons. After the first half analyze the data before determining whether a second half should be allowed and at what level.

Brad Resnick, Aleutian Dragon Fisheries. Concerned about the halibut PSC recommendations recommended by the AP which could result in serious constraints on the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf. The Pacific cod

stock is healthy and should not be unnecessarily constrained because bycatch figures are not reliable.

Trefon Angason, Great Pacific Fish Co. Great Pacific is owned by five village corporations. They have converted to totally domestic operations over the past two years and are concerned about restrictions on the cod fisheries by a low halibut bycatch allocation.

George Anderson, Fishing Co, of Alaska. About 80% of their revenue comes from a slope rockfish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska which they essentially pioneered. Asked the Council not to ignore their needs when setting allocations; they need about 30,000 mt.

Charles Christensen, PVOA. Opposes any increase in bycatch allowances until enforcement is strengthened. An observer program has to be implemented in the Gulf. Grounds preemption by trawlers is being a large problem. Supports a later than June 1 opening for trawlers in the Gulf.

D-2 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

Paul Clampitt, FVOA. Domestic operations should be able to reduce their bycatch; foreign companies did it and domestic should be able to also.

Dave Fraser, AHSFA/MTC. Testified in favor of joint venture allocations. If there are no joint ventures, other fisheries will suffer. Asked Council to be skeptical of DAP requests and allocate some portion of harvest to joint ventures at the beginning of the year.

Doug Gordon, AHSFA. Submitted four-page letter of written comments on the 1989 RAD and groundfish apportionments, focusing mainly on pollock. They recommended a 1989 pollock TAC in the BS/AI of 1,707,900 mt.

Walter Kuhr, Dona Joint Venture Fisheries. With regard to bycatch, they are doing the best they can. Sometimes bycatch is being counted two or three times under the current system and they are being caught over and over again.

Mick Stevens, ProFish. Joint ventures are entering a new era - essentially one of clean-up after DAP fisheries are concluded. Joint ventures will employ many catcher vessels and they should be working together with the DAP fisheries. Feels there is a high probability that there will be surplus pollock DAP later in the year.

Chris Blackburn, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank. Managers of four joint venture fishing operations have agreed to carefully monitor bycatch of prohibited species and report to the industry bycatch steering committee formed last year. They requested the Council to make participation in that steering committee a permit condition again this year.

Chris Hansen, Northern Deep Sea Fisheries. They can't agree with any proposal to delay the beginning of the flounder joint venture season until March 1. They already have boats on the grounds and are ready to begin on January 1.

Jack Knutsen, FVOA. He endorsed the IPHC's recommendation of 3,900 mt halibut bycatch for the Bering Sea and Aleutians.

Steve Smith, Kemp Pacific Fisheries. Reviewed for the Council their progress since last year in developing a processing plant in the Bering Sea utilizing six former joint venture boats.

Steve Hughes, Ted Smits, Midwater Trawlers/NPFVOA. Expressed the need for a quarterly review of DAP harvests and timely reallocation of surplus pollock to joint venture fisheries and requested the Council to continue with a January 1 opening date for the flounder fisheries as all their business plans have already been made and they are ready to begin on that date.

Phil Chitwood, Arctic Alaska. Agrees with the AP recommendations on the TACs. Opposed to rock sole joint ventures; DAP is increasing and rock sole is a species that competes with American products in the world market.

Vince Curry, AFTA. There was an 82% increase in the number of vessels within their membership last year. Support no joint venture fishing in 1989.

Steve Hoag, IPHC. Disagrees with the Council's bycatch model. The halibut rates used were too high in his opinion which results in an overestimation of halibut catch and the premature closure of Zones 1 and 2. They think the bycatch rates will decline in 1989 assuming there are caps and observer coverage. They feel that observer coverage is absolutely essential to enforce caps; if there is not observer program in place, they suggest the Council look at other methods to control bycatch, such as gear restrictions and time and area closures.

Oliver Holm, KLA. They are dependent on the halibut fishery and excessive bycatch of halibut in other fisheries will have significant impact on them. An observer program is needed to record discards of all species.

Linda Kozak, KLVOA. Bycatch is a serious problem. An observer program is needed and new operations coming on line need to clean up their act.

Nick Delaney, Kodiak. Supports Steve Hoag's recommendations for halibut bycatch. Also feels it's time for the Council to do something about the overcapitalization on on in the fisheries.

Bo Brickley, Greenpeace. They are concerned about bycatch. There is not enough documentation to determine what harm is being done to the resource and on the marine mammal environment.

Tom Casey, Oregon Seafood Producers. Willing to participate in data gathering programs. Have already donated money to the State of Alaska for their crab observer program. Fishermen who fish with little bycatch should be rewarded. An observer program is an absolute must.

Gary Painter, Oregon Seafood Producers. King crab conservation is their highest priority. Observers are needed.

Wally Pereyra, Arctic Storm. Any bycatch program the Council may approve should take into account the effect it could have on other fisheries as their operations are moved out of particular zones when bycatch is too high.

Arni Thomson, ACC. Supports development of an observer program as soon as possible. They are concerned with the conservation of king and bairdi crab and halibut and the waste associated with bycatch. Would like to be more involved in any further analysis of the Council's bycatch model.

Kate Graham, United Fishermen of Alaska. Their membership voted to ask the Council to stick with their September decisions on the bycatch limit. Until there is reliable data on these stocks they urged to the Council to be very conservative in setting limits. An observer program is essential.

Ken Castner, North Pacific Fisheries Assn. Bycatches should be kept at an absolute minimum for the whole fleet. 100% observer coverage is absolutely essential on all trawlers.

Mike Storey. The Council should minimize the economic upheaval to joint venture fishermen as they move into completely DAP fisheries. Joint venture fishermen has essentially developed and expanded the fisheries that domestic fishermen are not moving into.

Dave Harville, KWT. Hopes the Council will find that there is some optimism on the part of the DAP estimates and that there may be some JVP available, especially for pollock. They would oppose any opening on yellowfin sole that is later than that for pollock.

Paul MacGregor, AFTA. At this time only trawlers are being managed for bycatch. Bycatch can be controlled without thwarting Americanization, but not with the decisions they made in September. Bycatch should be controlled in other gear fisheries, too. They have participated in voluntary observer programs over the past couple of years.

Lee Alverson, NRC. Reviewed their recent report on bycatch for the Council. A model is a tool to understand inputs and outputs, it's not science. It's a good start but it's not scientific and should not be taken that.

Steve Hughes, Dave Fraser, Vince Curry, Chris Blackburn, Bill Orr. Several industry groups combined their testimony on the bycatch issue. They presented a paper outlining their position on bycatch controls for 1989 (entered into Council records and on file in the Council office).

William LeBow, ACC. Supports Council's September decision on bycatch caps for red king crab but not for bairdi Tanner crab. The projected bycatch level for 1989 is more than the 1988 directed fishery. Urged the Council to set the bycatch level at 1% or less of the directed fishery projections.

John Henderschedt, MRC. Supports the bycatch proposal put forth by the industry group led by Steve Hughes.

Walter Kuhr, Dona Joint Venture Fisheries. Urged Council support for joint venture allocations at the beginning of the year.

Ed Zeasor, Mrs. Paul's Kitchens. They support Americanization of the fisheries and have made major investments in that effort. However, they estimate that domestic operations can only supply about half of their needs

for the coming year and are concerned that if joint ventures are phased out, they will need to go elsewhere for their product.

Gordon Blue, F/V OCEAN CAPE. Concerned about the bycatch of crab in the Bering Sea which he feels is out of control. The large bycatches of crab are going to harm what is left of the crab resource which is his livelihood. Favors an observer program with 100% coverage to gather data.