


Agenda Item G-1
March, 1980

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 1980

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee
and Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

ACTION REQUIRED

1. *Review proposed amendment list.*
2. *Consider a public hearing schedule for April - May.*
3. *Comment on release of reserves.*

BACKGROUND

1. The GOA Management Plan Drafting Team met January 29th, 30th and 31st and March 5th and 6th to discuss annual amendments to the FMP. Attachment #1 is a list of the amendment items discussed.
2. A schedule has been recommended for public hearings on the proposed amendments in late April - early May, Council approval of amendments at the May meeting and implementation in December. Hearing locations should be scheduled at this meeting. We will be needing volunteers

for attendance and will plan simultaneous hearings for both groundfish plans.

3. During the February meeting the decision was made to withhold the release of reserves until an assessment had been made of the domestic and foreign efforts. No release of reserves is scheduled for the Gulf of Alaska at this time. The current OY, DAH; TALFF and Reserve values are shown in attachment #3. The only release this year was made on January 2nd.

Attachments

MH

GOA GROUND FISH FMP
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. Discussed a multi-year, multi-species approach in which MSY, OY and reserve apply to the groundfish complex as a whole, with TAC ranges established for individual species groups. Between-year adjustments within each TAC range would be accomplished by regulatory rather than amendment process.

(An explanation of the multi-year, Multi-species approach will be given to the Council at this meeting.)

This concept as it would apply to the Gulf of Alaska has been deferred by the PDT for a year.

2. Discussed a package of amendments dealing with prohibited species which would allow doing away with most time/area closures. The elements of the package are:
 - a) To establish limits on the tonnage of each prohibited species that will be allowed (but must still be discarded), which will be allocated to DAH and TALFF and if exceeded, cause closure of entire national fishery.
 - b) The economic disincentive for prohibited species with options as to whether it should apply to domestic fishermen.
 - c) Funding for sufficient observer coverage to assure that prohibited species catches do not exceed the allowed tonnage.

3. Consideration of the following OY changes:
 - a) Cod, sablefish
 - b) Reconsider the OY for possible establishment of Gulf-wide OY for squid, other rockfish, other species, Atka macker^eal and rattail.
 - c) Reevaluate the rockfish OY, especially those rockfish considered in the Pacific ocean perch category.

4. Reexamine the six Kodiak gear sanctuaries, consider closing the Kodiak king crab area to foreign trawling during the king crab season and examine the need for Tanner crab fishing sanctuaries:
 - a) Modify the Regional Director's in-season authority to implement time/area closures based on gear conflict and ground preemption considerations.

5. Examine processor/preference amendments, especially:
 - a) Closure to all foreign fishing around Kodiak.
 - b) Other time/area closures as appropriate

6. Place all current year data in appendices.

7. Consider sablefish as a directed longline fishery.

8. Examine and evaluate a prohibition on foreign trawling in Southeast and Yakutat Districts.

9. Change the plan year to January 1 - December 31.

10. Change all notations of idiot rockfish to thornyhead.

11. Establish all reserves Gulf-wide.

12. Consider reserve release mechanism.
13. Division of the Eastern regulatory area into four portions for the purpose of allocating the sablefish OY.

The above were all items of discussion during the meetings in January to discuss annual amendments to the FMP. Of the proposed amendments considered, the following have been endorsed by the Plan Development Team for the 1981 regulatory season.

1. Change all references of idiot rockfish to thornyhead.
2. Change the fishing year to January 1st - December 31st.
3. Establish a TAC for prohibited species.
4. Establish a gulf-wide OY for squid, other species and rattails.
5. Establish a reserve release schedule as follows:

foreign - release on the 4th, 6th and 8th month in amounts of *upto*
40-40-20%.

domestic - at the discretion of the Regional Director (any time, any amount).

6. Current year data to be placed in appendices.

Attachment 1-A contains the full list of proposed amendments, where they originated and the disposition.

The last attachment (1-B) is the PDT Leader's summary of action taken and proposals endorsed as possible amendments.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENTS PROPOSED AND DISPOSITION

This material is keyed by number to Attachment 1 - Proposed Amendments. The amendment sponsor and the disposition of the amendment is given in each case.

Amendment 1 - Multi-year, multi-species concept. This originated with H.A. Larkins of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in his capacity as leader for the groundfish plans. It is an agenda item for this meeting and will not be discussed further here.

Amendment 2 - Prohibited species considerations. This was a PDT proposal and represents an effort to deal with time/area closures.

(a) The establishment of total allowable catch amounts for prohibited species has been resolved. No TAC figures are presented for the Gulf of Alaska prohibited species list as the information is still being gathered.

(b) Economic disincentives for prohibited species is a PDT proposal forwarded by Larkins and is a concept which is being refined.

(c) Concerning sufficient observer coverage to account for prohibited species catches has been modified to a determination of sufficient observer coverage to assure achieving the goals and objectives of the FMP. The question has been referred to the SSC for determination of the amount of coverage needed with a suggestion from the National Marine Fisheries Service that 20% seems to be doing an adequate job.

Amendment 3 - OY considerations:

(a) cod, sablefish - the PDT had determined to reexamine the cod and sablefish OY's in the light of new survey information. The Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association formally requested lowering the sablefish OY. The determination was made by the Plan Development Team that both OY's should remain at the level established for them.

(b) The reconsideration of OY for the establishment of Gulfwide OY's for certain species was a request from the Japanese Longline and Gillnet Association. These species are all incidental catches to Japanese target fisheries and would facilitate the taking of OY in target species without threatening the OY in the incidental species categories which would close the fishery under the "all nations" provision that if OY is exceeded in any species the fishery will be closed. The determination was that Gulfwide OY should be established for squid, "other species", and rattails. The precedent for this was the establishment of a Gulfwide OY for thornyhead rockfish which are associated with the deep water catches of sablefish in the Japanese Longline Fishery.

(c) The reevaluation of the rockfish OY has been referred to a study committee for the designation of those rockfish considered in the Pacific ocean perch category. No determination has been made as yet.

Amendment 4 - The question of the six Kodiak gear sanctuaries has been deferred for study. A request by Jeff Stephan (representing United Fishermen's Marketing Assn.) to prohibit foreign trawling between 150-157 degrees W. longitude from September 8 to the end of the 7" king crab season was discussed. The closure was amended to be effective from two days before the king crab season to the end of the season. A decision is pending.

Amendment 5 - Part A - A closure to all foreign fishing around Kodiak Island and other time and area closures will be dealt with in wording to be added to the FMP to give the Regional Director authority to close areas to foreign fishing to prevent gear conflicts.

add handout
C-1^h from Larkin

get copy from
Mark's book.



add piece here ↑

Do you know me here?

Amendment 6 - Adopted - Current year data will go in appendices to facilitate the structuring of a "framework" FMP. Editorial only.

Amendment 7 - A request to consider sablefish as a directed longline fishery came from the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association. It has been considered by the Plan Development Team and no action has been taken.

Amendment 8 - Prohibiting foreign trawling in Southeast and Yakutat Districts is coupled with number 7 above and with an additional request from ALFA to prohibit foreign longlining east of 150° West and is designed to reserve sablefish catches to American fishermen. The PDT defers this until a more representative sampling (Kodiak) of fishermen can be made.

Amendment 9 - Amend the plan year - A Plan Development Team proposal to amend the Plan year from November 1st to October 31st to January 1st to December 31st.

Amendment 10 - Changing idiot rockfish to thornyhead is an editorial change only and has been adopted.

Amendment 11 - The PDT has examined the question of establishing all reserves Gulf-wide. This is a concept that involves the multi-year, multi-species approach and is deferred for the time being. Reserves can be apportioned Gulf-wide if the species complex is considered Gulf-wide.

Amendment 12 - Consideration of reserve release mechanism - PDT proposal as presented on Attachment #1.

Amendment 13 - Sub-division of the Eastern regulatory area into four portions is a PDT recommendation addressed in the PDT Leader's report (Attachment 1-B).

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR GROUND FISH AMENDMENTS

March 28 - Council approves amendments for Public Hearings

April 1 - May 10 - Public hearing(s)

May 10 - May 19 - Prepare comments received from public hearings
Work on Environmental Assessment.

May 23 - Council approves amendment package.

May 23 - June 10 - Final preparation on amendment package for SOC.

June 15 - August 15 - 60-day SOC review.

August 20 - Amendments and regulations published in Federal Register.

October 20 - End 60-day review period

October 30 - 10 days to publish as final amendments and regulations
in Federal Register.

December 29 - End 30-day cooling period.

COMMENT

This proposed schedule will serve both the groundfish plans for the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. December 29 is inside the January 1 start-up date for the fishing year in the Bering Sea. It is however, beyond the November 1st start-up date for the Gulf of Alaska. We have explored alternatives for bridging that period and they seem to include the following:

1. A possible waiver of the 30-day cooling period based on comments received during reviews of the amendment package.
2. An OY that starts November 1st which can apply for 14 months.
3. An interim OY for a two-month period until January 1st (new figures kick in automatically on January 1st).

According to Pat Travers/Mike Stanley, the two-month period between November 1 and January 1 can be handled routinely.

The proposed December 29th implementation date reflects a reasonable schedule for the amendment process. There are generous allowances in the schedule which might add as much as three weeks to actual time needed; additional savings of time might occur in the 1st review period. Fifteen days might be saved if the amendments are not considered significant. A 30-day savings would result from a waiver of the "cooling" period but we're unlikely to get it.

Table 62 -- Gulf of Alaska TALFF (1000s m.t.)

Species	OY	Reserve	DAH	TALFF <u>1/</u>
Pollock	168.8	33.76	21.31	113.73
Pacific Cod	60.0	12.0	10.0	38.00
Flounders	33.5	6.7	3.18	23.62
Pacific Ocean Perch	25.0	5.0	2.915	17.085
Other Rockfish	7.6	1.52	0.9	5.18
Sablefish	13.0	2.6	6.48	3.920
Atka Mackerel	28.7	5.74	2.07	20.89
Squid	5.0	1.0	0.15	3.85
Rattail	13.2	2.64	1.332	9.228
Idiot Rockfish (<u>Sebastolobus</u>)	3.75	0.75	0.006	2.994
Other Species	<u>16.2</u>	<u>3.24</u>	<u>1.72</u>	<u>11.24</u>
Total	374.75	74.83	50.063	249.687

1/ (Initial) TALFF: May be increased as reserve and/or DAH is apportioned during the fishing year.

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Squid	1. OY	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0
	2. DAH				0.15
	3. ...DAP	-0-	-0-	-0-	
	4. ...JVP	0.03	0.06	0.06	
	5. Reserve	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.0
	6. TALFF	0.77	1.54	1.54	3.85
Rattails	1. OY	3.3	7.1	2.8	13.2
	2. DAH				1.332
	3. ...DAP	0.033	0.033	1.266	
	4. ...JVP	-0-	-0-	-0-	
	5. Reserve	0.66	1.42	0.56	2.64
	6. TALFF	2.607	5.647	0.974	9.228
Idiot Rockfish (<u>Sebastes</u>)	1. OY				3.75
	2. DAH				0.006
	3. ...DAP				
	4. ...JVP		<u>GULF-WIDE</u>	<u>OY</u>	
	5. Reserve				0.75
	6. TALFF				2.994
Other Species	1. OY	4.4	8.6	3.2	16.2
	2. DAH				1.720
	3. ...DAP	0.1	0.1	0.1	
	4. ...DNP	0.2	0.2	0.4	
	5. ...JVP	0.10	0.12	0.4	
	6. Reserve	0.88	1.72	0.64	3.24
	7. TALFF	3.12	6.46	1.66	11.24

1/ DNP estimate is based on longline and crab bait trends

Jan 2 25% of all land "other rockfish" -
Mar 2
 ✓ May 2
July 2

FOR JAPS

TABLE 64

OY--DAH--DAP--DNP--JVP--Reserve--and TALFF by Area (1000s mt)

Species		Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Pollock	1. OY	57.0	95.2	16.6	168.8
	2. DAH				21.31
	3. ...DAP	0.025	5.38	0.695	
	4. ...JVP	5.75	7.94	1.52	
	5. Reserve	11.4	19.04	3.32	33.76
	6. TALFF	39.25	62.84	11.65	113.73
Pacific Cod	1. OY	16.56	33.54	9.9	60.0
	2. DAH				10.00
	3. ...DAP	0.24	3.48	0.280	
	4. ...DNP 1/	0.60	1.200	1.200	
	5. ...JVP	1.04	1.37	0.59	
	6. Reserve	3.312	6.708	1.980	12.0
	7. TALFF	11.368	20.782	5.850	38.0
Flounders	1. OY	10.4	14.7	8.4	33.5
	2. DAH				3.18
	3. ...DAP	0.1	0.3	0.9	
	4. ...JVP	0.6	0.82	0.46	
	5. Reserve	2.08	2.94	1.68	6.7
	6. TALFF	7.62	10.64	5.36	23.62
Pacific Ocean Perch	1. OY	2.7	7.9	14.4	25.0
	2. DAH				2.915
	3. ...DAP	0.025	0.295	0.08	
	4. ...JVP	0.32	0.96	1.235	
	5. Reserve	0.54	1.58	2.88	5.0
	6. TALFF	1.815	5.065	10.205	17.085
Other Rockfish	1. OY	0.3	0.8	6.5	7.6
	2. DAH				0.9
	3. ...DAP	0.045	0.200	0.455	
	4. ...JVP	0.03	0.05	0.12	
	5. Reserve	.06	0.16	1.3	1.52
	6. TALFF	.165	0.39	4.625	5.18
Sablefish	1. OY	2.1	3.8	7.1	13.0
	2. DAH				6.48
	3. ...DAP	0.1	1.00	4.7	
	4. ...JVP	0.17	0.22	0.29	
	5. Reserve	0.42	0.76	1.42	2.6
	6. TALFF	1.41	1.82	0.69	3.92
Atka Mackerel	1. OY	4.678	20.836	3.186	28.7
	2. DAH				2.07
	3. ...DAP	-0-	-0-	-0-	
	4. ...JVP	0.290	1.080	0.70	
	5. Reserve	0.936	4.167	0.637	5.740
	6. TALFF	3.452	15.589	1.849	20.89

Rec'd 3/26/80

G-1

Armstrong, Byrd
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STATEMENT

By

Mr. Hong K. An

Representing

The North Pacific Fisheries
Development Association of Korea

Before

The North Pacific Fishery

Management Council

Armstrong, Byrd
& Associates, Inc.

STATEMENT, Mr. Hong K. An

Mr. Chairman, and the Distinguished Members of the Council:

My name is Hong K. An. I am an American citizen and an Associate of Armstrong, Byrd and Associates, of Washington, D.C. We are registered Foreign Agents for the North Pacific Fisheries Development Association of Korea and are Agents for the Korean fleet in the North Pacific under the General International Fisheries Agreement between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

My purpose in appearing before the Council today is to report to you on the subject of Korean policy toward joint ventures directed at pollack. There have been articles in the American press and congressional letters to the Executive Branch suggesting that the Korea Marine Industry Development Company has withdrawn or is going to withdraw from its joint venture with Alaskan fishermen and that somehow Korean enthusiasm for this project has been weakened by the prospect of additional quotas from the reallocation of the former Soviet share.

KMIDC remains devoted to the joint venture project, and the Korean Government, through its Joint Council of Economic

STATEMENT, Mr. Hong K. An (Cont'd page 2)

Ministers, has recently reaffirmed support of the Gulf of Alaska joint venture project as a matter of national policy. In this connection, an additional processing vessel has been ordered to the Gulf of Alaska and other Korean fishing firms have been asked to assist KMIDC as necessary in fulfilling other requirements in order to make certain that the resources are available to support the joint venture in the manner required.

Fundamentally, the commitment of the Korean Government and industry to the Gulf of Alaska project originates with the deficit in Korean availabilities of pollack which has persisted since Korea was deprived of access to its traditional pollack fishing grounds off Kamchatka. The round of 200-mile declarations which led to the Soviet action was, of course, commenced by the United States. Korea has no relations with the Soviet Union, and thus the Korean Government and industry must of necessity look to the resources held in trusteeship by its friend and ally, the United States, for some opportunity to redress the blow to the supply of one of its basic protein sources. Korea at

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STATEMENT, Mr. Hong K. An (Cont'd page 3)

one time had availabilities of pollack upwards of 450,000 metric tons. Its requirements are not likely, even under the most generous assumptions, to be supplied from TALFF reallocations. Hence the commitment to the joint venture modality as a supplementary source of supply with solid longterm prospects.

It is no secret that KMIDC has had difficulties in implementing its joint venture project. Some of these grew out of its own problems as an under-financed firm with a troubled financial history. To be blunt, other obstacles arose out of delays and dissension within the Council. I am reliably informed that KMIDC legal fees to bring the project to its present stage have been in excess of half a million dollars. But KIMD has now been reorganized financially and has received new capital contributions. We hope the Council will accept this firm and the Korean industry as the only foreign entities which have attempted in a practical and sincere way to work within the relevant sections of the FCMA to give life and meaning to the joint venture concept.

The pollack is a lowly fish of low intrinsic value and requires

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labor-intensive processing to have value as a contribution to American food supplies. We believe the joint venture method is the only way Americans have any prospect of contributing economic value to the exploitation of this resource. The Korean industry hopes to have the cooperation of the Council in the effort to bring the joint venture concept to life for the benefit of American fishermen.

I thank you very much for the opportunity of speaking before your Council.