

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
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Certified by: *Nancy Munro*
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Date: 1.20.87

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES December 7-9, 1986 Anchorage, Alaska

The Advisory Panel for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in the Sheraton Hotel on December 7-9, 1986. The following members were present:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nancy Munro, Chairman | Ronald Hegge | Julie Settle |
| Robert Alverson, Vice Chairman | Oliver Holm | Cameron Sharick |
| Rupe Andrews | Pete Isleib | Thorn Smith |
| Terry Baker | Richard Lauber | Walter Smith |
| Alvin Burch | Daniel O'Hara | Richard White |
| Joseph Chimegalrea | Alvin Osterback | Dave Woodruff |
| Gregory Favretto | Don Rawlinson | John Woodruff |
| Barry Fisher | | |

Minutes of the September 22-24, 1986 Advisory Panel meeting were approved as read.

Ron Hegge read a letter of resignation from Eric Jordan to the Advisory Panel (see Attachment 1). The AP recommends the Council send a letter to Eric Jordan in appreciation of his service on the Advisory Panel.

C-3 DOMESTIC OBSERVER PROGRAM

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends that the Council convene a meeting of the industry on January 18 to begin discussions on domestic observer coverage. The motion carried unanimously.

C-8 OTHER BUSINESS

REFLAGGING

Moved and seconded: The AP wishes to reiterate to the Council their support for legislation which would prohibit the reflagging of foreign vessels for the U.S. fishing/processing fleet. The motion carried unanimously.

D-2 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH

Target Quota (TQ) for 1987

POLLOCK

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a Gulfwide TQ of 102,000 mt. The AP recommended 85,000 mt in the Western and Central areas (vote: 15 to 3) and 17,000 mt in the Eastern area (vote: 14 to 3).

The AP recommended a TQ of 85,000 mt in the Western and Central areas as opposed to the plan team's (team) recommended action of 95,000 mt for the following reasons:

- (1) Since the pollock stock appears to be declining, the AP felt the TQ should be set at the low end rather than the mid-point of the large (70,000-120,000 mt) biomass range.
- (2) The AP was concerned about fishing on 3-year-old fish due to their marginal sexual maturity and the small size of the fillets.
- (3) The AP questioned the scientists' reliance on the new projection methods in recommending a TQ of 95,000 mt. The AP noted the fishery in Shelikof Straits has only taken place since 1981.

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends an exploratory fishery outside the Shelikof Straits area of 20,000 mt, available from January 15 through April 10. The motion carried 17 to 0 with 1 abstention.

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends the Regional Director be instructed to hold the 20% pollock reserve (17,000 mt) through the year for the purpose of providing fish for fall DAP operations if needed. The motion carried 18 to 0.

PACIFIC COD

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TQ of 75,000 mt for 1987. The AP adjusted the plan team and SSC recommendation of a 125,000 mt ABC due to halibut bycatch. The motion carried 18 to 0.

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends zero TALFF on Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska for the following reasons:

- (1) Market opportunities have increased since January 1986. Evidence of these opportunities are (a) winter cod deliveries in Kodiak, (b) winter cod deliveries planned for Sand Point, and (c) 50 auto-line systems ordered at MARCO.
- (2) With shorter sablefish and halibut openings expected in 1987, the longline fleet will face July, August, and September with limited opportunities other than cod. In addition, a cod fishery will take pressure off the sablefish and halibut fisheries.

- (3) A minimum of three new factory trawlers are expected to enter the domestic fleet.
- (4) The market has strengthened as shown by prices for headed and gutted coastal trawl cod listed in the Atkinson Report, Issue 170:

| <u>Size</u> | <u>Y/kilo</u> | <u>\$/lb</u> | <u>Y/kilo</u> | <u>\$/lb</u> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 4-6 | 393 | 1.15 | 395 | 1.16 |
| 7-8 | 431 | 1.26 | 415 | 1.21 |
| 9-10 | 415 | 1.22 | 393 | 1.15 |

- (5) According to the newsletter from the Tokyo office of the Fisheries Attache [No. F10-6/86(2)] the cod allocation to Japan in the Russian zone has been reduced from the previous allocation of 28,500 mt.
- (6) In his report to the AP, Lewis Queirolo (NMFS) outlined a general world codfish shortage indicating an opportunity for the U.S. to take full advantage of this world market opportunity.
- (7) The world whitefish shortage may provide opportunities for large and small processors to begin processing cod in many forms. Because this resource is so large it will take time to learn processing techniques and establish markets; the AP recommends, therefore, that the time to begin is now.

The motion carried 12 to 3.

FLOUNDERS (FLATFISH)

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TQ of 30,000 mt for 1987. The AP concurs with the TQ released for public review which was based on halibut bycatch concerns and industry interest in the species. The motion carried 19 to 0.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a Gulfwide TQ of 4,939 mt to be apportioned 1,316 mt in the Western area, 1,511 mt in the Central area, and 2,112 mt in the Eastern area. The AP wishes to continue the rebuilding of these stocks, but they raised the team's recommendation in the Eastern Gulf area (from 875 mt to 2,112 mt) so that all three areas received the same rebuilding effort. The AP urges the Council to send observers out on any domestic trawl boats targeting on this species. The motion carried 14 to 5.

Minority report. The 1986 harvest level was set at 875 mt to protect a depressed resource and promote rebuilding. The 1986 harvest in the Eastern Gulf was at least 1,828 mt. In observing the high rockfish catch, the minority is concerned that additional fish that are part of the POP complex were mistakenly logged in the rockfish category. Additional fish were discarded as PSC after the directed fishery was closed by the Regional Director. Clearly this stock was fished well above the recommended level in 1986.

Considering the depressed condition of this stock and the excessive harvest in 1986, any increase in quota at this time seriously threatens the rebuilding program, if not the POP complex in its entirety in the Eastern Gulf. I urge the Council to set the target quota at no higher than 875 mt to continue rebuilding and protect the resource. Signed by Ron Hegge.

Minority report. The commercial fisheries conducted in the Gulf in 1986 indicate excellent catch rates and a much higher stock abundance than indicated by the NMFS trawl survey. Even accepting the NMFS POP complex biomass estimate for the Gulf of 552,000 mt, a 4,939 mt TQ represents an exploitation rate of less than 1%. This rate of exploitation on an underestimated biomass provides for an unusually low 1987 potential catch. We recommend a 7,500 mt TQ which represents an exploitation rate of 1.5% which is still ultra conservative. Signed by: Terry Baker and Al Burch.

SABLEFISH

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TQ of 20,000 mt for the Gulf of Alaska. The motion carried 13 to 5 with 1 abstention. The AP recommends that the catch be based on the 400-1,000 meter distribution. The motion carried 14 to 6.

The AP recommends the TQ of 20,000 mt as opposed to the plan team's ABC of 25,000 mt due to:

- Concern over market impact.
- Concern about the catch going over the TQ as it did by 22% in 1986.
- Extensive testimony from longliners supporting 20,000 mt.

Minority report. A minority of the AP recommends a sablefish TQ of 25,000 mt for the Gulf of Alaska, consistent with the plan team and SSC recommendations. All biological factors presented support the stocks ability to provide a 1987 harvest of 25,000 mt. Furthermore, we recommend that this TQ be distributed between regulatory areas based on the exploitable sized biomass which is clearly 200-1,000 meters. This allocation would be as follows: 2,750 mt for Western area, 15,000 mt for Central area, 3,000 mt for W. Yakutat, and 4,250 mt for E. Yakutat/Southeast. Signed by: Terry Baker, Barry Fisher, and Oliver Holm.

ATKA MACKEREL

Moved and seconded: The AP concurs with the plan team's recommendation of setting the TQ at zero. The motion carried 17 to 3.

OTHER ROCKFISH

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a Gulfwide TQ of 5,250 mt with a distribution: 1,250 mt for Southeast Shelf stock, and 4,000 mt to be divided between the Eastern, Central, and Western Regulatory areas with no area exceeding 2,000 mt. The AP strongly recommends that the Council prescribe a system for data collection. The motion carried 17 to 4.

The AP recommends raising the plan team's TQ for the following reasons:

- To encourage development of the fishery and the gathering of data.
- Fishermen have successfully fished these stocks; the AP noted that the NMFS survey may not be using effective fishing techniques for this species.
- The AP noted that the Regional Director could always invoke an emergency rule if a drop in CPUE occurred.

THORNYHEADS, SQUID, OTHER SPECIES

Moved and seconded: The AP concurs with the plan team's recommendation of TQ for Thornyheads - 3,750 mt, Squid - 5,000 mt, and Other Species - 12,608 mt. The motion carried 21 to 0.

HALIBUT PSCs

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a 2,000 mt mortality limit on halibut. The motion carried 14 to 0.

D-3 BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 1987

POLLOCK

Moved and seconded: The AP concurs with the plan team and recommends a TAC of 1.3 million mt to be apportioned 1.2 million mt for the Bering Sea and 100,000 mt for the Aleutian Islands. The motion carried 7 to 6.

The AP debated extensively over whether to set the Bering Sea TAC at 1.1 million or 1.2 million metric tons. The arguments for setting the TAC at 1.1 million included:

- A Bering Sea apportionment of 1.2 million mt does not consider the fish being taken in the Donut Hole.
- Concern over taking too many young, 3-year-old fish.
- Concern over exceeding the 2 million mt limit in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands FMP.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH, ROCKFISH, SABLEFISH

Moved and seconded: The AP concurs with the plan team's suggested TQs for these species and recommends the following:

| | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|
| POP | BS | 3,800 mt |
| | AI | 10,900 mt |
| Rockfish | BS | 450 mt |
| | AI | 1,430 mt |
| Sablefish | BS | 3,700 mt |
| | AI | 4,000 mt |

The motion carried 13 to 0. The AP left the allocations of bycatch for these species up to the Council.

PACIFIC COD

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 220,000 mt with the proviso that 15% of that amount (33,000 mt) would be held in reserve for potential TALFF. This reserve would be released by the Council at the May meeting if the Council determines that the Japanese industry has performed according to the U.S.-Japan Industry to Industry Agreement (motion carried 14 to 5). The AP also recommends that any bycatch of cod for other TALFF fisheries be in addition to the 220,000 mt (motion carried 9 to 6).

The AP recommended this solution as a fair compromise for the foreign and domestic interests in cod. They noted that:

- The proposed TALFF of 33,000 mt was worth close to \$50 million.
- TALFF in any amount will probably inhibit access to Japanese markets for domestic producers.
- The Bering Sea stocks have a strong class of 3-year-olds which are bankable.

Minority report. In recommending a TAC of 220,000 mt of Pacific cod the AP majority ignored the best scientific information available from the plan team and an independent study from Natural Resources Consultants. The TAC was approved with no data and/or biological justification to support their recommendation. Signed by: Barry Fisher, Pete Isleib, Thorn Smith, and Al Burch.

YELLOWFIN SOLE

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 187,000 mt based on the plan team recommendation for 1987. The motion carried 19 to 2.

GREENLAND TURBOT

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 15,000 mt based on the DAP request for 1987. The motion carried 12 to 1.

ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 30,900 mt based on the plan team and SSC recommendations. The motion carried 16 to 1.

OTHER FLATFISH

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 193,300 mt based on the plan team recommendation. The motion carried 15 to 3.

ATKA MACKEREL

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 30,800 mt. The motion carried 12 to 1.

SQUID

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a 2,000 mt TAC for 1987 based on the 1986 catch of 840 mt (mostly foreign). The motion carried 18 to 1.

OTHER SPECIES

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends a TAC of 15,000 mt based on the 1986 catch of 12,000 mt (mostly DAH) and the fact that the domestic industry has no intention to exploit this resource more heavily. The motion carried 18 to 1.

TWO MILLION METRIC TON BALANCE

The AP recognizes that as a result of their TAC recommendations the total Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands harvest limit of 2 million metric tons is exceeded by approximately 18,280 mt. We recommend that the Council subtract from Arrowtooth Flounder and Other Flatfish to reach the 2 million mt limit.

CRAB BYCATCH IN THE ROCK SOLE FISHERY

Moved and seconded: The AP recommends that the the AP Crab Bycatch Subcommittee meet regarding the matter of crab bycatch in the rock sole fishery and that the plan team develop bycatch rates to provide to the subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously.

Sitka, Ak
Dec. 6, 1986

Chairman James O. Campbell
Nancy Monroe, Advisory Panel Chair
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage AK

Dear Jim and Nancy,

This letter constitutes formal notification of my resignation from the Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

It is with mixed emotions that I have made the difficult decision to leave the Council family. It has been a great privilege and honor to represent trollers and conservationists. It has also been a stimulating and enriching experience to serve with the council and AP members and work with the staff. I am hopeful and confident that the personal friendships will endure. My reasons for leaving are completely personal and represent a desire to spend more energy on family priorities.

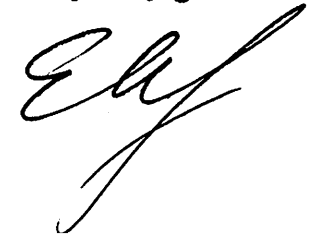
The single biggest concern I have about leaving is that many of the interests I have worked to represent will lose a voice. In recent years the Seafood Producers Co-op, the Alaska Trollers Association, and Jake Phillips from Pelican have all given up seats on the Advisory Panel without replacements reflecting thier interests. I have tried to maintain contact with these groups and bring thier concerns and positions to the Council. If I had known that I would leave the Council before last week I would have contacted people around SE and would have encouraged them to submit names for appointment consideration. Since my decision was not made until yesterday groups that were satisfied with my representation, such as the Alaska Trollers Association, are caught supporting me instead of offering another candidate.

Harold Thompsen, Manager of Sitka Sound Seafoods, has consented, upon my request, to submit his name as a candidate to the Advisory Panel. Harold brings a lifetime of fishing and fish processing experience to the Council. I hope the Council will welcome him and make him as comfortable as you have made me.

So long for now.

Your friend,


Eric W. Jordan

P.S. Please copy Council & AP members


22/1/1900
The Secretary
The Admiralty
Whitehall
London