

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES: March 24, 1981
Anchorage, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage, March 24, 1981. Members present were:

- Richard Marasco, Vice Chairman
- William Aron
- Bud Burgner
- John Clark
- Larry Hreha
- Steve Langdon
- Jack Lechner
- Ed Miles
- Al Millikan

The SSC subgroup for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands king crab plan met Monday, March 23, 1981.

E-1 Salmon FMP

The SSC considered two documents bearing on the question of an appropriate chinook OY for Southeastern Alaska. The first was a report by Washington Department of Fisheries' staff dated March 12, 1981, entitled, "Review of 1981 NPFMC preferred options and refinements to the analysis of upper Columbia River 'bright' fall chinook management needs and opportunities for 1981." The report, mailed directly to SSC members, contains analyses based on new information. The second document was the Draft Final Report for Contract 79-4, "Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fishery Data," prepared by ADF&G personnel. This report was mailed to the SSC on March 16, 1981.

The SSC heard a very useful presentation by Washington Department of Fisheries' personnel on their report, and heard answers to a number of questions posed by the SSC. The report suggests a 29% chinook catch reduction in the Alaska troll fishery to resolve Columbia River catch, escapement, and allocation needs. However, it was determined that the proposal was not presented as an official proposal by Washington Department of Fisheries.

The ADF&G contract report contains catch rate information on various British Columbia, Washington and Oregon coded wire tagged chinooks by time and area in the Alaska fishery, and thus, also has bearing on the allocation question.

Both of these reports provide important new information on the impact of the Alaska troll fishermen on southern chinook stocks. Because a number of questions were raised regarding the WDF analysis and insufficient time to adequately review both documents in detail, the SSC has no further recommendation regarding the chinook OY for 1981. The SSC salmon subgroup is requested to review both of these documents in detail as well as an economic impact analysis for different OY reductions being prepared by NMFS, Regional Office, and to report back to the SSC by the May meeting.

In order to give adequate consideration of such information in developing 1982 chinook regulatory amendments, the SSC recommends:

1. That the salmon subgroup provide a list of specific questions to WDF regarding the analyses presented in their report, the model used and assumption contained in the model.
2. That the salmon PDT be responsible for coordinating and developing analyses and proposals for 1982 regulations in sufficient time to allow full SSC review. It is recommended also that an economic impact analysis be prepared to accompany the proposals.

E-3 King Crab FMP

The main focus of the SSC's examination of the March 18, 1981 draft of the King Crab FMP was on Sections 3 through 6; Areas and Fisheries, Management Objectives, Management Measures, and Enforcement/Reporting Requirements. No attempt was made to examine thoroughly the Appendices. However, it was suggested that an attempt be made to update information contained in the Appendix that gives a description of the fishery (i.e., Tables 13 through 22).

In general, the SSC found the management philosophy and strategy described in the plan acceptable. Each management objective was examined in detail and found appropriate. With respect to management measures, there is need to understand the costs and benefits associated with each. If the information is not available, the Council should initiate effort to obtain the appropriate information. A weakness of the current draft of the document is its failure to explicitly link objectives and management mechanisms. These tools become relevant only when they represent the means that lead to achievement of a defined goal.

In the section that describes the determination of OY, no mention was made of who will be responsible for development of the background information. A statement is needed at the beginning of the section stating that a joint working group made up of personnel from concerned management agencies will be charged with this responsibility.

It is suggested in the document that 40 million be used as the minimum acceptable number of fertilized females in the ABC determination process for the Bristol Bay area. A report entitled, "Projected 1981 Guideline Harvest Level for Red King Crab in Bristol Bay," written by Dr. Jerry Reeves was reviewed to determine if the number was acceptable. Given the spawner/recruitment data presented in the report, the behavior of this data through time, and the uncertainty associated with the exact nature of the spawner/recruitment relationship, it was concluded that the number was acceptable. It is necessary to stress that the number is conservative, and conservatism is warranted given the uncertainty.

The enforcement and Reporting Requirements Section was found to be in need of modification. It is suggested that in addition to the items listed, enforcement is necessary to ensure compliance with reporting requirements. Therefore, it is recommended that it be added to the list. There was some confusion in the reporting section over who was responsible for filling out the "fish ticket." It was agreed that the November 3, 1980 Federal Register description of the reporting requirement for the Tanner crab fishery through item (d) be adopted since it spells out clearly what information is to be reported, when the reports are to be submitted, and who must fill out the report form.

A list and description of wording changes that will clarify the text are given below.

1. "Fishery Management Plan," should be removed from the title since the document is not an FMP. Fishery Management Framework is a possible alternative.
2. Page 1, paragraph 3, the second sentence should be replaced with, "These objectives are not mutually exclusive and management measures may be designed to accomplish several objectives."
3. Page 1, support statement for Objective 1, line 5, insert the following statement after strive, "to ensure that a sufficient number of males remain on the grounds to maximize reproductive potential." The rest of the sentence should be deleted.
4. Page 3, paragraph 3, line 1, insert a period after use and strike the rest of the sentence.

Same paragraph, last line, insert the following sentence after "processor." "However, delayed season openings could also increase harvesting costs due to adverse weather condition."
5. Page 3, last paragraph, line 2, strike "an" and insert "Alaska and non-Alaska" between established and industrial, change system to systems. In the next line remove "are."
6. Page 4, paragraph 3, lines 3 and 4 should be replaced with "interference of pot gear with trawl fisheries."

7. Page 4, paragraph 4, replace the current sentence with "Fishery management should seek to bring management and enforcement costs to within reasonable limits relative to the value of the fishery."
8. Page 4, the following introductory paragraph should be inserted in place of the current sentence.

"A variety of management measures can be used to achieve the objectives defined for this fishery. While some of them can be used to realize either one or several objectives, it is essential that only those mechanisms deemed necessary be adopted."

Table 1 is attached to show the relationship between management mechanisms listed and objectives specified in the draft amendment.
9. Page 5, paragraph 1, line 1, insert "insofar as possible" between "ABC" and "will."
10. Page 5, paragraph 2, line 4, insert "determined" between "the" and "minimum."
11. Page 6, third line from top of the page, insert "current" between "on" and "spawner-recruit."
12. Statement 3, strike "at a low level, or," replace "still" with "is expected to," and replace "maintains full" with "maintain an acceptable level of."
13. Page 6, last paragraph, first sentence, insert "in the Dutch Harbor area" before "this" and strike it from the end of the sentence.
14. Page 6, last paragraph, line 4, replace "impacted on" with "prevented."
15. Page 6, last paragraph, line 5, strike "and for stocks that are at a low level or whose abundance is unknown."
16. Page 7, paragraph 3, line 2, strike the sentence beginning with "These conditions..."
17. Page 7, paragraph 7, replace the first sentence with "In addition to the above concerns, in determining an appropriate season several additional factors will be weighed."
18. Page 8, change the title, of Section 5.3 to "Catch Restrictions Based on Sex."
19. Page 9, paragraph 2, line 4, replace "unexplored" with "underutilized."
20. Page 10, paragraph 2, strike item 4.

21. Page 11, first paragraph of Section 5.7, line 1, insert "current" between "under" and "state."
22. Page 11, last paragraph, replace the current sentence with, "At present a limited entry program for vessels fishing the king crab fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area will not be implemented."
23. Page 12, first paragraph, line 3, replace "mis-specified" with "in error" and strike "unpredicted and."
24. Page 12, add "compliance with reporting requirement" to the list of items requiring enforcement.
25. Page 13, replace the page with the following statement.

Reporting requirements.

(a) The operator of any fishing vessel participating in this fishery whose port of landing is in the United States is responsible for the submission of an accurately completed State of Alaska fish ticket for each sale or delivery of any king crab covered by the management regime.

(b) At the election of the vessel operator, the fish ticket shall be either: (1) submitted by the vessel operator directly to the ADF&G within one week after such king crab are sold or delivered; or (2) prepared, at the request of the operator, by the purchaser (i.e., any person who received king crab for a commercial purpose from a fishing vessel subject to this management regime) and submitted by the purchaser to the ADF&G within one week after such king crab are received by the purchaser.

(c) In addition to the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, each operator (or purchaser, if the fish ticket is submitted in accordance with paragraph (b)(2)) shall also accurately state on each such fish ticket: (1) vessel name; (2) date of delivery; (3) type of gear used; (4) total number of pot lifts; (5) statistical reporting areas of catch; and (6) for each species, number of pounds landed and the deadloss.

(d) The operator of any fishing vessel operating in this fishery whose port of landing is outside the State of Alaska shall submit a completed State of Alaska fish ticket, or an equivalent document containing all of the information required on an Alaska fish ticket and in section (c), to the ADF&G within one week after the date of each sale or delivery of any king crab.

In conclusion, the SSC approves the document subject to the above modifications.

E-2 Herring FMP

The SSC reviewed the formula to determine the herring AIC in the Bering Sea groundfish fishery which was adopted by the Council in December. It was concluded that the original formula (which was modified by the

Council) meets the incidental catch requirements of the groundfish fishery and better responds to the short-term conservation needs of the herring resource. We therefore continue to support our December recommendation which stated, "The SSC recognizes the limitation of the formula but considers it the best alternative available."

Groundfish Logbook Program

A short presentation was made to the SSC, bringing them up-to-date on the groundfish logbook program being developed by ADF&G. Comments from the SSC on the logbook format or the program in general will be given directly to Phil Rigby or Mark Miller at ADF&G. Specific comments were made with regard to the proposed format at the meeting. The general comment was made that while it will be desirable to maintain contact with the group at the Pacific Council working to standardize a groundfish logbook format, the ADF&G trial program being initiated should not be held up waiting resolution of a standardized format for Washington, Oregon and California.

Contracts

Contract 80-6, Recommendation on Halibut Limited Entry Report

The SSC has reviewed the responses made by Tetra Tech to the comments of the SSC subgroup and other reviewers on the report entitled: The Applicability of Limited Entry to the Alaska Halibut Fishery. In every case Tetra Tech has either complied with the suggestions made or provided better documentation or clearer formulation of the points initially made. The SSC finds the final product quite satisfactory, and, therefore, recommends approval of this contract to the Council.

New Research Proposal

Salmon FMP

The SSC has reviewed the draft RFP entitled, "Determination of Stock Origins of Chinook Incidentally Caught in Foreign Trawls in the U.S. Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska FCZ." The SSC was informed that: (1) the Alaska Sea Grant has received a proposal for electrophoretic research of stock origin of Bering Sea chinook stocks; (2) the Alaska State Legislature is considering a proposal for scale patterns research stock origin of chinook caught by the Japanese mothership fleet; and (3) the University of Washington has initiated feasibility of scale patterns research of stock origin of chinook caught by the Japanese landbased fleets. The SSC believes that the draft RFP under consideration will complement these other research efforts that are either underway or being considered and will provide improved data upon which to base future regulatory decisions. The SSC therefore recommends that the Council release this RFP for bid.

TABLE 1

Mechanisms That Can Be Used To Achieve
King Crab Management Objectives

Management Measures/ Management Objectives	Procedure for ABC/OY	Fishing Seasons	Sex Restrictions	Exclusive Registration Areas	Gear Placement	Gear Storage	Vessel Tank Inspection
1. Reproductive Requirements	X	X	X		X		
2. Optimize Net Value	X	X	X				
3. Minimize Adverse Socioeconomic Impacts		X		X	X		X
4. Minimize Adverse Interactions		X		X	X	X	
5. Optimize Cost Effectiveness		X		X	X	X	