

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC, and AP  
FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director  
DATE: December 2, 1986  
SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Review 1987 DAP and JVP estimates.
- (b) Identify groundfish species categories where DAP and/or JVP estimates exceed ABC.

BACKGROUND

A. Review 1987 DAP and JVP estimates

During the September 1986 meeting, you reviewed 1987 DAP and JVP estimates based on projected 1986 groundfish harvests. For purposes of eliminating TALFF, the Council increased the preliminary DAP for Pacific cod and flounder. These estimates were approved for public review and are included here as item D-2(b)1. Since then NMFS has completed its annual industry survey and the new estimates are provided as item D-2(b)2. Estimates of DAP were obtained from a questionnaire supplied to U.S. processors. JVP estimates were calculated following a review of actual joint venture permit requests and are included as item D-2(b)3. Both DAP and JVP estimates may require revision based on recent industry-to-industry negotiations and Permit Review Committee deliberations.

On October 10, 1986 the Council released preliminary 1987 DAP, JVP and TALFF estimates for a minimum 30-day public review. The review period ended on November 14. Copies of the public comments received were sent to you prior to this meeting. A summary of those public comments is included in your notebook materials as item D-2(b)4.

B. Identify groundfish species where DAP and/or JVP estimates that equal or exceed ABCs

The Council needs to determine initial DAP and JVP estimates for purposes of proceeding through the other agenda items. The DAP and JVP estimates will be finalized at the end of the meeting. A computer spreadsheet is available as an aid in determining TQ apportionments. From the review of industry survey results it should be clear as to what groundfish resources are insufficient to fulfill domestic, joint venture and foreign requests. Gulf of Alaska groundfish species in this category will certainly include pollock, POP, sablefish, Atka mackerel, and other rockfish. Other species may fall into this category as a result of your decisions on TQ, DAP and JVP values.

## PRELIMINARY GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH HARVEST LEVELS AND APPORTIONMENTS FOR 1987 (MT)

Species	Area	ABC	TQ <sup>1/</sup>	RESERVE <sup>2/</sup> 20% TQ	DAP <sup>3/</sup>	JVP <sup>3/</sup>	TALFF
Pollock	W/C	97,000	97,000	19,400	28,000	49,600	0
	Out. Shel.	n/a	50,000	10,000	0	40,000	0
	E	16,600	16,600	3,320	1	0	0
	Total	113,600	163,600	32,720	28,001	89,600	0
Pacific Cod	W	33,750	29,951	5,990	23,817	144	0
	C	70,000	33,049	6,610	24,826	1,613	0
	E	21,250	12,000	2,400	9,600	0	0
	Total	125,000	75,000	15,000	58,243	1,757	0
Flounders	W	54,400	6,900	1,380	5,448	72	0
	C	244,800	22,500	4,500	16,740	1,260	0
	E	40,800	600	120	480	0	0
	Total	340,000	30,000	6,000	22,668	1,332	0
Pacific ocean perch	W	2,800	1,316	0	1,316	0	0
	C	3,300	1,511	0	1,511	0	0
	E	4,400	875	0	875	0	0
	Total	10,500	3,702	0	3,702	0	0
Sablefish	W	3,800	3,800	0	3,800	0	0
	C	8,200	8,200	0	8,200	0	0
	W. Yakutat	3,400	3,400	0	3,400	0	0
	E. Yak. /	4,600	4,600	0	4,600	0	0
	S. E. Out.						
	Total	20,000	20,000	0	20,000	0	0
Atka Mackerel	W	0	250	50	100	100	0
	C	0	250	50	100	100	0
	E	0	100	20	40	40	0
	Total	0	600	120	240	240	0
Rockfish	S. E. Central						
	Outside	600	600	0	600	0	0
	Remaining	2,100	2,100	0	2,100	0	0
	Total	2,700	2,700	0	2,700	0	0
Thornyhead	GW	3,750	3,750	750	1,500	1,500	0
Squid	GW	5,000	5,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	0
Other Species	GW	n/a	15,218	3,044	6,087	6,087	0
TOTAL			319,570	58,634	145,142	102,515	0

Predicted Halibut Catch <sup>4/</sup>  
5,666 mt      Mortality <sup>4/</sup>  
2,933 mt

Proposed 1987 Halibut PSC Mortality Limit 2,000 mt

<sup>1/</sup> The term target quota (TQ) is synonymous with the past use of optimum yield for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska.

<sup>2/</sup> The Reserves equal 20% of the TQ.

<sup>3/</sup> Based on projected 1986 catches and/or intended apportionments.

<sup>4/</sup> Given the above groundfish harvests and apportionments.

SUMMARY OF 1987 DAP GROUNDFISH INTENTIONS

04-Dec

	BERING SEA	ALEUTIANS	WEST GULF	CENT GULF	EAST GULF	TOT BSA	TOT GOA	TOT ALASKA
POLLOCK	189,987	57,210	31,005	52,977	1,930	247,197	85,912	333,109
PAC. COD	101,546	10,221	8,560	31,417	1,430	111,767	41,407	153,174
GR. TURBOT	7,941	7,272	50	10	10	15,213	70	15,283
ARR. FLNDR	350	480	10	10	10	830	30	860
ROCK SOLE	11,953	1,950	440	690	40	13,903	1,170	15,073
YFINSOLE	50	50	0	0	0	100	0	100
OTH. FLNDR	9,100	100	700	500	100	9,200	1,300	10,500
ATKA MACK	150	100	10	10	10	250	30	280

SUMMARY OF 1986 DAP GROUNDFISH PRODUCTION (REPORTED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS)

	BERING SEA	ALEUTIANS	WEST GULF	CENT GULF	EAST GULF	BSA	GOA	ALASKA
POLLOCK	56,712	114	5,107	13,320	1,990	56,826	20,417	77,243
PAC. COD	37,011	4,382	6,095	4,601	1,090	41,393	11,786	53,179
GR. TURBOT	737	4,472	0	0	10	5,209	10	5,219
ARR. FLNDR	0	127	0	0	0	127	0	127
ROCK SOLE	3,245	0	1,500	517	0	3,245	2,017	5,262
YFINSOLE	50	0	0	0	0	50	0	50
OTH. FLNDR	225	100	50	50	100	325	200	525
ATKA MACK	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	5

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1987 INTENTIONS AND 1986 PRODUCTION

	BERING SEA	ALEUTIANS	WEST GULF	CENT GULF	EAST GULF	BSA	GOA	ALASKA
POLLOCK	133,275	57,096	25,898	39,657	(60)	190,371	65,495	255,866
PAC. COD	64,535	5,839	2,465	26,816	340	70,374	29,621	99,995
GR. TURBOT	7,204	2,800	50	10	0	10,004	60	10,064
ARR. FLNDR	350	353	10	10	10	703	30	733
ROCK SOLE	8,708	1,950	(1,060)	173	40	10,658	(847)	9,811
YFINSOLE	0	50	0	0	0	50	0	50
OTH. FLNDR	8,875	0	650	450	0	8,875	1,100	9,975
ATKA MACK	150	95	10	10	10	245	30	275

AGENDA D-2(b)3  
DECEMBER 1986

TABLE 2. JOINT VENTURE REQUESTS FOR 1987 BY SPECIES AND AREA  
(all in metric tons)

	<u>BSA</u>	<u>GOA</u>
<u>Pollock</u>		
Japan	722,836	96,200
Korea	594,640	47,370
USSR	1,800	--
Poland	75,000	5,000
China	<u>23,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total	1,417,276	153,570
Alaska-wide		1,570,846
<u>Pacific Cod</u>		
Japan	36,468	2,897
Korea	26,750	1,200
USSR	28,500	--
Poland	1,000	300
China	<u>2,220</u>	<u>780</u>
Total	94,938	5,177
Alaska-wide		100,115
<u>Yellowfin Sole</u>		
Japan	38,783	
Korea	42,100	
USSR	90,200	
Poland	200	
China	<u>2,500</u>	
Total	173,783	
<u>Flatfish</u>		
Japan	19,702	1,500
Korea	4,450	930
USSR	62,100	--
Poland	220	50
China	<u>2,000</u>	--
Total	88,472	2,480
Alaska-wide		90,952
<u>Atka Mackerel</u>		
Japan	4,240	--
Korea	38,300	3,900
USSR	17,400	--
Poland	20	10
China	<u>1,500</u>	--
Total	61,460	3,910
Alaska-wide		65,370
<u>Total</u>		
Japan	822,029	100,597
Korea	706,240	53,400
USSR	200,000	--
Poland	76,440	5,360
China	<u>31,220</u>	<u>5,780</u>
Total	1,835,929	165,137
Alaska-wide		2,001,066

GULF OF ALASKA PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Comments received on initial DAP, JVP, and TALFF

1. North Pacific Longline Assn. of Japan - Initial DAP, JVP, and TALFF allocations approved for public review were not developed following the procedure described in the Gulf FMP and regulations. Initial estimates of DAP and JVP should be the amounts of fish harvested during the previous year plus any additional amounts believed necessary to accommodate realistic increases in domestic requirements. To increase DAP to unrealistic levels solely for the purpose to eliminate TALFF is inappropriate. Furthermore, such a procedure artificially skews projected halibut bycatch amounts by arbitrarily assigning catch among user groups (DAP and JVP) and/or gear types which have differing halibut bycatch/mortality rates.
2. Japan Fisheries Agency - believes the initial 1987 DAP allocation of Pacific cod was arbitrarily set, not following the procedures in the plan, and that given an actual DAP harvest of just 3,200 mt by late August, the current 1986 DAP of 39,000 mt is excessively high. They request that the Council use more realistic estimates of DAP in the future. Using more appropriate DAP figures, a minimum Pacific cod TALFF of 15,520 mt should be available. Concerning flounders, sufficient TALFF should be made available to support a foreign fishery targeting on Pacific cod.
3. Eagle Fisheries Inc., Kodiak - has just purchased the Whitney-Fidalgo processing plant in Kodiak. The company intends to open the plant in mid-January and will concentrate on processing up to 20,000 mt of pollock during 1987. They also intend to process Pacific cod to the extent available.
4. East Point Seafoods, Kodiak - described several reasons for not reaching their flatfish processing goals in 1986. They are still very interested in processing and marketing rock sole roe in 1987 if they can get vessels to fish for them.

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12/10 11M

Table 1.-- Current status of Gulf of Alaska groundfish resources (mt).

Species	1986 OY	Projected 1986 catch	Stock condition	Current trend in abundance	ABC <sup>1/</sup>	TQ <sup>2/</sup>
Pollock	116,600	65,000	Depressed	Exploitable biomass increasing in 1987	112,000	<u>2/</u>
Pacific cod	75,000	21,000	Good	Stable; ABC=MSY	125,000	<u>2/</u>
Flounders	14,380	2,000	Good	Stable	537,000	<u>2/</u>
Pacific ocean perch	3,702	2,800	Depressed	Stable	10,500	<u>2/</u>
Sablefish	15,000	20,500	Good	Stable; ABC=MSY	25,000	<u>2/</u>
Atka mackerel	5,278	§10	Depressed	Depressed; no apparent recruitment	0	Bycatch only
Other rockfish	5,000	2,700	Depressed	Unknown Gulf-wide, believed declining in SEC	3,350	<u>2/</u> , <u>3/</u>
Thornyhead rockfish	3,750	700	Unknown	Declining in Western & Central Areas	3,750	<u>2/</u>
Squid	5,000	10	Appears good	Assumed stable; ABC=MSY	5,000	<u>2/</u>
Other species	12,186	700	Probably good	Assumed stable	Not applicable	5% of sum of TQs for other species

- 1/ This mix of catches will not be attainable under a halibut PSC cap of 2,000 mt. See Part 2, Bycatch section.
- 2/ Total mortality should not exceed ABC.
- 3/ Total ABC is distributed between slope species (2,100 mt Gulfwide and demersal shelf species (1,250 mt) in Southeast Outside District.

Table 12.--Apportionment of a 25,000 mt ABC in proportion to the estimated and 1986 relative biomass in the 201-1,000 m depth range and the 401-1000 m depth range and the apportionment of the 1986 OY of 15,000 mt.

	Western	Central	W. Yak	Southeast and E. Yak	Total
ABC = 25,000 mt apportioned to 1985 relative biomass at 201-1,000 m	3,500 (14%)	15,250 (61%)	2,500 (10%)	3,750 (15%)	<u>25,000</u>
ABC = 25,000 mt apportioned to 1985 relative biomass at 401-1,000 m	4,250 (17%)	12,000 (48%)	4,000 (16%)	4,700 (19%)	<u>25,000</u>
ABC = 25,000 mt apportioned to 1986 relative biomass at 201-1,000 m	2,750 (11%)	15,000 (60%)	3,000 (12%)	4,250 (17%)	<u>25,000</u>
ABC = 25,000 mt apportioned to 1986 relative biomass at 401-1,000 m	3,750 (15%)	11,000 (44%)	5,000 (20%)	5,250 (21%)	<u>25,000</u>
ABC = 25,000 mt apportioned as 1986 OY was apportioned	4,750 (19%)	10,250 (41%)	4,250 (17%)	5,750 (23%)	<u>25,000</u>
Apportionment of 1986 OY = 15,000 mt	2,850 (19%)	6,150 (41%)	2,550 (17%)	3,450 (23%)	15,000

*250-500 fathoms since the lowest in smelt fish*