

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

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Certified James O. Campbell
James O. Campbell, Chairman

Date 4/14/88

MINUTES

80th Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
January 20-22, 1988
Sheraton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met January 20-22, 1988 at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel began meeting on Monday, January 18. Members of the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel, staff and general public in attendance are listed below.

Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
John Peterson, Vice Chairman
Don Collinsworth
Rudy Peterson
RADM Edward Nelson
Mark Pedersen for Joseph Blum
Oscar Dyson
Robert Ford
(John Winther was not in attendance)

Robert U. Mace for
Randy Fisher
Robert McVey
Henry Mitchell
Jon Nelson for
Walter Stieglitz
Larry Cotter
Guy Thornburgh

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Denby Lloyd

Ron Miller
Terry Smith
Dick Tremaine
Helen Allen
Peggy Kircher

Support Staff

Jim Balsiger, NMFS-NWAFRC
Dale Evans, NMFS-AKR
Craig Hammond, NMFS-AKR
Jim Brooks, NMFS-AKR
Janet Smoker, NMFS-AKR

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Jay Ginter, NMFS-AKR
Jon Pollard, NOAA-GC
Ron Berg, NMFS-AKR
Linda Chaves, NMFS-NWR

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Scientific and Statistical Committee

Richard Marasco, Chairman
Bill Aron
Dana Schmidt
Robert Burgner
Bill Clark

Doug Eggers, Vice-Chairman
Terry Quinn
Don Bevan
Don Rosenberg
Larry Hreha

Advisory Panel

Bob Alverson, Vice Chairman
Al Burch
Lamar Cotten
Pete Granger
Rick Lauber
John Woodruff
Jon Rowley

Arne Aadland
Ron Peterson
Mark Earnest
Richard White
Daniel O'Hara
Pete Isleib
Terry Baker

General Public

It was estimated that over 100 people attended the Council, SSC and AP meetings, including the following:

Steve Grabacki, Graystar
Pat McBride, Homer
Shari Otness, Petersburg
Cindy Lowry, Greenpeace
Linda Dowie, KLVOA
Molly McCammon, Senator Binkley's Office
Naomi Manabe, Suddock Associates
M. McCune, Alaskan Fisheries
Robert Miller, Cascade Boat Co.
John Bruce, D.S.F.U.
Frank Kelty, Alyeska Seafoods
Fred Kirkes, American President Lines
David Wallen, Pt. Alexander
Alan & Elwood Peterson, I.S.S.
Woody Knebel, Wards Cove Packing Co.
Debby Swenson, Japan Consulate
Steve Smith, Kemp Fisheries
R.K. Dearborn, Sea Grant
Norman Staden, Bioeconomic R&A
Ken Chalk, St. George Int'l
Barry Collier, PSPA
Martha Hutton, Cooper Landing
Perfenia Pletnikoff, Jr., St. Paul Island
Alan Reichman, Greenpeace
Michael Coleman, Kemp Pacific
Suzanne Hancock, Kodiak
Tom Rueter, Anchorage
Del Allison, Sea Captain's Choice, Inc.
Bruce Melzer, KSKA
Paul MacGregor, Seattle

Jim Eastwood, Petersburg
Barbara McBride, Homer
Paul Schonberg, Seattle
Bob Morgan, Oceantrawl
Bill Wilson, AEIDC
Hugh Reilly, Seattle
James Wright, Palmer
Dale Berry, USACOE
G.E. Anderson, Seward
Arni Thomson, A.C.C.
Walt Christensen, A.C.C.
Bruce Joyce, A.C.C.
K. Poulsen, A.C.C.
Mark Chandler, Kodiak
Dave Harville, Kodiak
Shari Gross, Seattle
Ted West, B.F.I.
Peter Block, Seattle
Chris Blackburn, Kodiak
Dan Zantek, Anchorage
Mark Hutton, Cooper Landing
John Cleveland, Anchorage
Charles McKee, Anchorage
Walter Barth, Anchorage
Steve Hughes, Seattle
Sam Hjelle, Seattle
Brent Mahan, Anchorage
Jay Cherrier, Anchorage
Mel Monsen, AFDF
Karl Vedo, Anchorage

Committee and Subcommittees

Long Rogers, Vice-Chairman
Jerry Quinn
Don Brown
Don Rosenberg
Larry Trevis

Richard Marasco, Chairman
Bill Aron
Gene Schmidt
Robert Brunner
Bill Clark

Advisory Panel

Arne Ashland
Ron Peterson
Mark Barnes
Richard Miller
Teresa O'Brien
Pete Walsh
Terry Baker

Bob Alvarado, Vice-Chairman
Al Busch
Lamar Gifford
Gene Grier
Rick Lander
John Loomis
Jon Rowley

General Public

It was estimated that over 100 people attended the Council, 282 and 283 meetings, including the following:

Jim Hantwood, Pecosburg
Barbara Koblitz, Homer
Paul Schaefer, Seattle
Bob Morgan, Coonrad
Bill Wilson, WYNO
Jack Phillips, Seattle
James Wright, Baker
John Barry, WYNO
G.P. Anderson, Seward
And Thomson, A.C.C.
Walt Thompson, A.C.C.
Bruce Lewis, A.C.C.
E. Tomlin, A.C.C.
Mark Chandler, Kodiak
Dave Davitt, Kodiak
Eddie Cook, Seattle
Ted West, W.Y.
Peter Brock, Seattle
Chris Blackman, Kodiak
Ben Sank, Anchorage
Mark Hunter, Cooper Landing
John Cleveland, Anchorage
Charles Miller, Anchorage
Walter North, Anchorage
Steve Hughes, Seattle
Sam Helle, Seattle
Brent Nason, Anchorage
Jay Grier, Anchorage
Mel Moser, WYNO
Paul Vello, Anchorage

Steve Grabicki, Gysyar
Pat McBride, Homer
Fred Green, Pecosburg
Gandy Lowry, Gesspen
Linda Dowle, WYNO
Katy McGowan, Senator Rindley's Office
Scott Marsh, Global Associates
M. Malone, Alaska Airlines
Robert Miller, Coastal Boat Co.
John Bruce, D.S.P.H.
Frank Kelly, Alaska Seafoods
Fred Kihue, American Fisheries Assoc
David Miller, Pt. Alexander
Alan & Elwood Johnson, I.S.S.
Woody Kriebel, Wards Cove Packing Co.
Deby Swenson, Japan Consulate
Steve Smith, King Fisheries
R.M. Pearson, Sea Grant
Norman Staben, Economic SEA
Ken Clark, St. George Isl.
Barry Goller, BSA
Sandra Hunter, Cooper Landing
Bernice Pendergill, Jr., St. Paul Island
Alan Robinson, Gesspen
Mark El Colman, King Pacific
Gerrard Hancock, Kodiak
Tom Rueter, Anchorage
Col Ellison, Sea Grant's Office, Inc.
Carmel Meyer, WSKA
Paul MacGregor, Seattle

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Wm. Nicholson, Dillingham
Paul Dubsley, U.S. Dept. of Interior-MMS
Ted A. Smits, NPFVOA
Jeff Stephan, UFMA
Jacqueline Lindauer, Aleutian Eagle

Joe McGill, Dillingham
Mark Lundsten, Seattle
Chuck Meacham, ADF&G
Clay West, Seattle

A. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on January 20, 1988, by Chairman Jim Campbell.

Japan Fisheries Agency asked to be placed on the agenda to present their request for a release of TALFF early in the year. Council members agreed to listen to their testimony. The agenda was approved as printed.

The minutes for the December 1987 Council meeting were not available for approval.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Branson reported on recent workgroup and committee meetings and an interim action committee teleconference on January 4. Members of the North Pacific, Pacific and Western Pacific Councils are to meet in Seattle February 4-5 to continue work on developing a consensus position on the definitions and terms to be used in the 603 Regulations and Guidelines. Jim Campbell recently met with representatives of the executive and legislative branches of the State government to discuss Council matters, and Ron Dearborn of Alaska Sea Grant represented the Council at a PICES meeting in Ottawa in December.

B-2 Enforcement and Surveillance Report by U.S. Coast Guard

From December 1, 1987 through January 6, 1988 the Coast Guard conducted six C-130 surveillance flights in the vicinity of the "donut hole." No violations were detected. The Coast Guard will continue to monitor the EEZ in that area to the maximum extent possible. However, RADM Nelson pointed out that the 1988 Coast Guard budget situation has forced cutbacks in flight hours and cutter patrol days.

Ted Evans and Sam Hjelle, Alaska Factory Trawlers, showed their film taken in the Bering Sea which showed foreign vessels fishing illegally in U.S. waters.

Minoru Morimoto, Counsellor of the Japanese Fisheries Agency, told the Council he was surprised and disappointed upon hearing of the alleged fishing violations by Japanese fishing vessels in the U.S. EEZ. He said the Japanese government has repeatedly instructed fishermen operating in that area to strictly honor the international boundaries of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The Japanese government has, in the past, inspected catch on board fishing vessels entering the ports of Kushiro and Ishinomaki, and has dispatched Japanese enforcement vessels to the international waters of the Bering Sea to monitor fishing there. In response to the recent allegations the Japanese government immediately dispatched an enforcement vessel to the area. The owners of the suspect fishing vessels have been called to the Japanese

Joe McNeill, Chairman
Mark Anderson, Secretary
John Anderson, ASWG
Clay West, Staff

Mr. McNeill, Chairman
U.S. Dept. of Interior-100
Fed. A. Office, WYVWA
U.S. Dept. of Justice
Production Director, Alaska Dept.

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Fisheries Agency questioning. If the results of the investigation substantiates the allegations, the vessels will be punished to the full extent of the law.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council expressed concern over this illegal activity and the biological harm it could cause to the resource and economic harm to the domestic industry. They asked the Executive Director to prepare a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation requesting adequate funding for increased Coast Guard surveillance and counter-intelligence measures and to the State Department asking them to consider extending U.S. fisheries jurisdiction in the Bering Sea westward to the 1867 U.S.-U.S.S.R. Convention Line. The State Department will also be requested to ask the Japanese government to explain the illegal activity, identify the vessels involved, describe the sanctions it intends to impose, assist the U.S. in enforcement against suspected vessels, and to conduct patrols in the international waters of the Bering Sea to ensure vessels owned and operated by Japanese nations do not fish illegally in the U.S. EEZ.

Larry Cotter summarized a draft resolution which will be presented to the Alaska State Legislature next week. It urges the U.S. to negotiate immediately with the Soviet Union to implement harvesting controls in the international area of the Bering Sea, that the Dept. of Commerce extend its observer program to include foreign vessels operating in the area, that the Coast Guard increase patrols in the area, and that the U.S. take whatever other steps are necessary, including the extension of jurisdiction over U.S. origin fishery resources in the international zone, to protect those resources from overharvest. Copies of the resolution will be sent to the President, Departments of State, Commerce, and Transportation, and the appropriate Congressional Delegations. Mark Pedersen said he would do what he could to have a similar resolution introduced in the Washington State Legislature.

B-3 Marine Mammal Research

Tom Loughlin of the NWAFC Marine Mammal Laboratory reviewed research on Northern sea lions, Northern fur seals, and killer whale/blackcod fisheries interactions.

B-4 S/K Crab Bycatch Experiment Video Presentation

Dr. Aron, Director of the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center, presented a video tape describing the recent S/K crab bycatch experiment in the Bering Sea. The following conclusions were drawn from the survey:

1. Crab bycatch can be reduced by modifying trawl gear and using escape panels, etc.
2. Some crabs can survive trawl operations.

3. Crab survival is related to the amount of time crabs are subjected to handling and processing operations.
4. Cooperation by several parties can result in substantial achievements in gathering data.

Steve Hughes, NRC, told the Council the final written report on the project should be available by the end of the month.

Public Testimony

Arni Thomson/Kris Poulsen, Alaska Crab Coalition. Although they are interested in finding out more about crab and halibut bycatch in the Eastern Bering Sea, they are concerned that the experiment began three weeks before the king crab season when there were high concentrations of king crab. Kris Poulsen agreed that the crab panel is a good idea and should be mandatory in the flatfish trawl fisheries. Mr. Thomson asked the Council to develop specific guidelines and regulations for future research projects of this nature.

C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

C-1 SSC and AP Officers

The SSC elected Rich Marasco and Doug Eggers to continue as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the SSC for the coming year. The AP re-elected Nancy Munro and Bob Alverson as their Chairman and Vice Chairman for 1988.

Don Collinsworth moved to approve the SSC and AP officers. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen and carried unanimously.

The SSC also confirmed appointment of Dana Schmidt, ADF&G, to replace Phil Mundy on the SSC. The Council approved the appointment.

C-2 Legislative Update

President Reagan recently signed two bills of interest to the fishing industry. H.R. 3674, signed on December 29, renews for two years the Governing International Fisheries Agreement between the U.S. and Japan, and implements Annex V of MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) which prohibits the at sea dumping of all garbage within 12 miles of the U.S. shore and dumping of plastic garbage anywhere in the U.S. 200-mile zone. U.S. vessels are prohibited from dumping plastic even outside 200 miles and ports are required to provide onshore disposal facilities. Additionally, NOAA must identify the damaging effects of plastics on the marine environment and the Environmental Protection Agency must identify landbased sources of plastic pollution and other garbage and recommend methods of reducing the volume of pollution from these sources.

The bill also reauthorizes the Sea Grant Program for \$45 million in FY1988, \$58 million in FY1989, and \$64 million in FY1990, and creates a grant program to improve marine affairs and resource management curricula at colleges and universities. A Strategic Marine Research Program also is created to

3. Data analysis is related to the amount of time spent and subjected to handling and processing operations.

4. Cooperation by several parties can result in substantial improvements in gathering data.

Steve Hughes, NRC, told the Council the final written report on the project should be available by the end of the month.

Public Testimony

and Thomson/Klein Thomson, Alaska and Halibut Division. Although they are interested in finding out more about crab and Halibut Division in the Eastern Bering Sea, they are concerned that the experiment began three weeks before the first crab season when there were high concentrations of king crab. Klein agreed that the crab panel is a good idea and should be mandatory in the Halibut Division. Mr. Thomson asked the Council to develop specific guidelines and regulations for future research projects of this nature.

1. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

3-1 880 and 890 Officers

The SSC elected Rich Matson and Doug Rogers to continue as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the SSC for the coming year. The 880 re-elected Roger Turner and Bob Alvarado as both Chairman and Vice Chairman for 1982.

The Council moved to approve the 880 and 890 Officers. The motion was seconded by Andy Peterson and carried unanimously.

The SSC also confirmed appointment of Dana Schmidt, ADESO, to replace Bill Brady on the SSC. The Council approved the appointment.

0-2 Legislative Update

President Reagan recently signed two bills of interest to the fishing industry. H.R. 3074, signed on December 29, renews for two years the (Governing International Fisheries Agreement between the U.S. and Japan, and Pollution from Ships) which prohibits the sea dumping of all garbage within 12 miles of the U.S. shore and dumping of plastic garbage anywhere in the U.S. 100-mile zone. U.S. vessels are prohibited from dumping plastic even outside 100 miles and ports are required to provide onshore disposal facilities. Additionally, NOAA must identify the damaging effects of plastics on the marine environment and the Environmental Protection Agency must identify increased sources of plastic pollution and other garbage and recommend methods of reducing the volume of pollution from these sources.

The bill also reauthorizes the Sea Grant Program for \$45 million in FY1982, \$55 million in FY1983, and \$60 million in FY1984, and creates a grant program to improve marine affairs and resource management on public colleges and universities. A Strategic Marine Research Program also is created to

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concentrate on critical resource and environmental areas not currently provided with adequate funding.

Finally, H.F. 3674 implements the Driftnet Fishing Control Act of 1987 which requires the Secretary of Commerce, through the Secretary of State, to negotiate monitoring and enforcement agreements with foreign countries whose fleets fish with high seas driftnets in the North Pacific. The Secretary of Commerce must also develop recommendations on a driftnet marking and registration system, a driftnet fishing vessel tracking system, and the use of biodegradable materials in driftnets.

H.R. 2598, the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987, was signed by the President on January 11, 1988. It prohibits foreign-built vessels applying for U.S. documentation after July 28, 1987 from being used for fish processing and places restrictions on foreign ownership and crews aboard U.S. fishing, fish processing and fish tendering vessels engaged in the fisheries in the navigable waters of the U.S.

C-3 Fishery-funded Organization for Research and Monitoring

A meeting originally scheduled for January 21 to discuss a fishery foundation was cancelled and will be rescheduled in the near future.

C-4 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association Petition

The Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) petitioned the Secretary of Commerce to adopt a rule establishing procedures for the enforcement of the MFCMA in the international waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea and asked the Council to support the petition.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce supporting the BSFA petition with a note of concern about how joint ventures would be penalized under Section 612.8 of the petition.

Public Testimony

Harold Sparck, Kokechik/Qaluyaat Fishermen's Assn., urged Council support of the petition.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

The Council endorsed the intent of the petition but had the same concerns as the AP about the impact on American joint venture fishermen of the provision tying approval of operating permits for foreign processors in joint ventures to a nation's compliance with whatever measures were implemented by the Secretary. By consensus, the Council agreed to send a letter to the Secretary supporting the petition but recommending this provision be discretionary rather than mandatory and that a provision be added requiring foreign vessels to pay for U.S. observers on their operations in the international waters of the Bering Sea.

contribute on critical resource and environmental areas not currently provided with adequate funding.

Finally, P.F. 2074 implements the Outermost Fishing Control Act of 1987 which requires the Secretary of Commerce, through the Bureau of Fish, to regulate monitoring and enforcement measures with foreign countries whose fish are high sea fisheries in the North Pacific. The Secretary of Commerce must also develop recommendations on a bilateral marking and registration system, a different marking system, and the use of photo-markable materials in fisheries.

H.R. 2898, the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Anti-Foreigning Act of 1987, was signed by the President on January 11, 1988. It prohibits foreign-built vessels applying for U.S. documentation after July 22, 1987 from being used for fish processing and plant operations or foreign ownership and crew aboard U.S. fishing, fish processing and fish handling vessels owned in the fisheries in the navigable waters of the U.S.

0-3 Fishery-Related Organization for Research and Monitoring

A meeting originally scheduled for January 27 to discuss a Fishery Foundation was cancelled and will be rescheduled in the near future.

0-4 Fishing Sea Fishermen's Association Petition

The Fishing Sea Fishermen's Association (BSA) petitioned the Secretary of Commerce to adopt a rule establishing procedures for the enforcement of the MRFMA in the international waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea and asked the Council to support the petition.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended the Council send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce supporting the BSA petition with a note of concern about the joint venture which could be penalized under Section 611.8 of the petition.

Public Testimony

Frank Sorek, Kokoehik/Gaiyuar Fishermen's Assn. urged Council support of the petition.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

The Council endorsed the intent of the petition but had the same concerns as the AP about the impact on American joint venture fishermen on the provision requiring approval of operating permits for foreign processors in joint ventures to a nation's compliance with whatever measures were implemented by the Secretary. By consensus, the Council agreed to send a letter to the Secretary supporting the petition but recommending this provision be distributed rather than mandatory and that a provision be added requiring foreign vessels to pay for U.S. observers on their operations in the international waters of the Bering Sea.

C-5 Domestic Observer Program

Ron Dearborn gave a status report on the pilot domestic observer program which will begin again in mid-February with observers deploying to Dutch Harbor and Kodiak. Dave Edick, an experienced observer, has been hired by Alaska Sea Grant to contact vessel owners and associations in the Northwest to arrange for rides for observers. As a result of insurance problems Alaska Sea Grant has revised its boarding contract and sponsored a seminar in Seattle to discuss the pilot program and insurance with vessel association representatives, skippers and owners, insurance underwriters and agents, and maritime attorneys.

C-6 Sablefish Management

Ron Miller and Dick Tremaine prepared a discussion paper for review by the Council and use during the sablefish workshops. They also presented an outline for the workshops and a tentative schedule for Council consideration of management alternatives in the sablefish longline fishery. The schedule is as follows:

February-March 1988	Workshops in Seattle, Petersburg, Sitka, Homer and Kodiak.
April 11-15, 1988	Council reviews report from workshops and selects a set of management options for further analysis and public review.
June 20-24, 1988	Council reviews report on selected options and adopts preferred management method.
June 25-July 31, 1988	Plan teams and Council staff prepare further analysis on preferred management method. Analysis released for public review. Analysis of impacts on individual fishermen may be prepared by Alaska CFEC and mailed to fishermen.
September 26-30, 1988	Council takes final action and FMP amendment process, if necessary, begins.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended Council approval of the schedule.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

John Peterson moved to approve the outline and schedule prepared by staff. The motion was seconded by Mark Pedersen and carried with no objection.

The Council also discussed dates for the sablefish workshops and tentatively scheduled them as follows:

February 23-24	Seattle
March 15-16	Homer
March 22-23	Petersburg
March 25-26	Sitka

6-2 Domestic Observer Program

Don Pearson gave a status report on the pilot domestic observer program which will begin soon in mid-February with observers being assigned to Inuit Harbor and Ketchikan. Don's pilot, an experienced observer, has been hired by Alaska Sea Grant to conduct vessel observations in the Northwest to provide a baseline for observer. As a result of financial problems Alaska Sea Grant has revised its budgeting process and sponsored a seminar in Seattle to discuss the pilot program and its financing with vessel association representatives, skippers and owners, insurance underwriters and agents, and maritime attorneys.

6-3 Admittance Management

Don Miller and Dick Winstone prepared a discussion paper for review by the Council and use during the admittance workshops. They also presented an outline for the workshops and a tentative schedule for Council consideration of management alternatives in the Admittance Planning Laboratory. The schedule is as follows:

- February-March 1988 Workshops in Seattle, Petersburg, Sitka, Homer and Kodiak.
- April 11-15, 1988 Council reviews report from workshops and selects a set of management options for further analysis and public review.
- June 16-24, 1988 Council reviews report on selected options and adopts preferred management method.
- June 25-July 31, 1988 Plan review and Council staff prepare final analysis on preferred management method. Analysis released for public review. Analysis of impact on individual fishermen may be prepared by Alaska DNR and mailed to fishermen.
- September 28-30, 1988 Council takes final action and 300 amendment process, if necessary, begins.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended Council approval of the schedule.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

John Peterson moved to approve the outline and schedule prepared by staff. The motion was seconded by Mark Peterson and carried with no objection.

The Council also discussed dates for the admittance workshops and tentatively scheduled them as follows:

- February 23-24 Seattle
- March 18-19 Homer
- March 22-23 Petersburg
- March 25-26 Sitka

C-7 Foreign Vessel Permit Conditions

In December the Alaska Factory Trawlers Association asked the Council to use permit conditions to restrict joint ventures from targeting on roe-bearing rock sole in the Bering Sea before April 15. In December the Advisory Panel recommended such a restriction until April 1. The Council asked that the issue be placed on the January agenda because there had not been any public notice of the issue prior to the December meeting. AFTA also submitted a late proposal to include this issue in the 1988 amendment cycle.

It was noted that if vessel permits are to be amended to restrict joint ventures it is unlikely conditions could be applied before mid-March or later because of public notice and comment period requirements.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended against restricting joint ventures from targeting on roe-bearing rock sole in the Bering Sea before April 15 because of the potential impact on existing and future joint ventures for yellowfin sole and other flatfish.

Public Testimony

Bill Orr, Alaska Factory Trawlers. The rock sole fishery and markets have been developed by domestic fishermen and are now being threatened by joint ventures. He asked the Council to support their proposal and to restrict bycatch to 30%.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

While Council members supported the concept of protecting domestic interests in this fishery, it was felt that an emergency measure at this time could not be implemented in time to have the desired effect. They agreed to consider it in the normal amendment process.

C-8 Halibut Management

The staff of the International Halibut Commission developed several management options for the 1988 halibut fishery which included trip limits by vessel size on all boats fishing in Areas 2C, 3A and 3B. Four fishermen's associations have indicated that they view such proposals as economic allocations between U.S. commercial user groups and believe IPHC cannot legally do so. They should instead be considered by the Council. NMFS and NOAA in Washington, DC, have asked the Council to discuss the subject and provide an opinion as to whether the IPHC staff proposals for trip limits are sufficiently allocative in nature to fall under the Council's purview.

Don McCaughran gave IPHC's reasons for proposing the trip limits. Quality, marketing and safety issues can be favorably impacted through these measures, but conservation is their major concern and this is one way of better monitoring catches. If trip limits are not implemented the IPHC has the option of using gear restrictions to control catch. Shorter seasons are not the answer.

0-7 Foreign Vessel Permit Conditions

In December the Alaska Fishery Traders Association asked the Council to use permit conditions to restrict joint ventures from expanding on non-bearing rock sole in the Bering Sea before April 15. In December the Advisory Panel recommended such a restriction until April 1. The Council asked that the issue be placed on the January agenda because there had not been any public notice of the issue prior to the December meeting. AFA also submitted a plan proposed to include this issue in the 1988 amendment cycle.

It was noted that if vessel permits are to be amended to restrict joint ventures in its monthly conditions could be applied before mid-March or later because of public notice and normal permit requirements.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended against restricting joint ventures from expanding on non-bearing rock sole in the Bering Sea before April 15 because of the potential impact on existing and future joint ventures for yellowtail sole and other fisheries.

Public Testimony

Bill Orr, Alaska Fishery Traders, the rock sole fishery and markets have been developed by domestic fishermen and are now being threatened by joint ventures. He asked the Council to support their proposal and to restrict permits to 30%.

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While Council members supported the concept of protecting domestic interests in the fishery, it was felt that an emergency measure at this time could not be implemented in time to have the desired effect. They agreed to consider it in the normal amendment process.

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Don McGoughman gave IFHC's reasons for proposing the trip limits. Quality, marketing and sales issues can be favorably impacted through these measures but conservation is their major concern and this is one way of better managing catches. If trip limits are not implemented the IFHC has the option of using gear restrictions to control catch. Shorter seasons are the answer.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel noted that the proposed trip limits seem primarily allocative in nature. They agreed that trip limits could be used at the end of the season to ensure catches do not exceed area quotas.

Public Testimony

Bob Alverson, FVOA. They will be asking IPHC for similar regulations as they had last year. They oppose season-long trip limits but agree that IPHC has the authority to implement end-of-season trip limits for conservation reasons.

Linda Dowie, Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Assn. They feel the trip limits proposed by the IPHC are allocative in nature and that IPHC does not have the authority to implement them.

Tom Casey, Washington. Feels the use of trip limits is premature. Suggested using tank inspections, regulations on pulling gear, and check-in and check-out procedures such as those used in the crab fisheries.

Jay Cherrier, Halibut Association of North America. Mr. Cherrier reviewed a letter they sent to IPHC with recommendations for the 1988 seasons. With regard to trip limits, they suggested that if they are to be implemented, that historic divisions of catch between various vessel classes should be maintained.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

Bob McVey told the Council that the IPHC staff is very concerned about the halibut fishery and that they had no allocative intent in preparing the trip limit proposals even though there would be some allocative effects.

Rudy Petersen said he agreed with the Advisory Panel that trip limits during the season are allocative. They would only be acceptable if used to avoid overrunning the quota.

Council members agreed that the trip limits proposed by the IPHC were primarily conservation and management measures. They did not consider them so allocative in nature that they should be before the Council rather than the Commission. Bob McVey will convey this decision to the Commission and the Executive Director will draft a letter conveying the Council's position.

C-9 Other Business

Availability of Observers

Dan Zantek, Alaska Team Marine, told the Council that his joint venture operation with Poland has been delayed because there are no observers available. He has been in contact with the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center but they said additional observers will not be available until mid-February. Bob McVey said that NMFS would work with Mr. Zantek to see if they can find observers but that there are other joint ventures that have been waiting for observers longer than Mr. Zantek. There was some discussion about

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel noted that the proposed trip limits were primarily allocated in nature. They agreed that trip limits could be used at the end of a season to ensure catches do not exceed area quotas.

Public Testimony

Bob Peterson, WVOA. They will be asking IPHC for similar restrictions as they had last year. They oppose season-long trip limits but agree that IPHC has the authority to implement end-of-season trip limits for conservation reasons.

John Bowls, Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Assn. They feel the trip limits proposed by the IPHC are allocative in nature and that IPHC does not have the authority to implement them.

Tom Geary, Washington. He feels the use of trip limits is premature. Suggested using bank inspections, regulations on pulling gear, and checks and back-out procedures such as those used in the crab fisheries.

Jay Chandler, Helium Association of North America. Mr. Chandler reviewed a letter they sent to IPHC with recommendations for the 1962 season. With regard to trip limits, they suggested that if they are to be implemented, they should be restricted to catch between various vessel classes should be restricted.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Bob McVey told the Council that the IPHC staff are very concerned about the Helium fishery and that they had no allocative intent in preparing the trip limit proposals even though there would be some allocative effects.

Bob Peterson said he agreed with the Advisory Panel that trip limits during the season are allocative. They would only be acceptable if used to avoid overfishing the stock.

Council members agreed that the trip limits proposed by the IPHC were primarily conservation and management measures. They did not consider them an allocative in nature that they should be before the Council rather than the Commission. Bob McVey will convey this decision to the Commission and the Executive Director will draft a letter conveying the Council's position.

C-9 Other Business

Availability of Observers

Don Smith, Alaska Team Marine, told the Council that his joint venture operation with Roland has been delayed because there are no observers available. He has been in contact with the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center but they said additional observers will not be available until mid-September. Bob McVey said that NMFS would work with Don Smith to see if they can find observers but that there are other joint ventures that have been waiting for observers longer than Mr. Smith. There was some discussion about

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whether observer coverage requirements might be waived under the circumstances but no action was taken.

Appointment of Executive Director

Jim Campbell announced the appointment of Clarence Pautzke as the new Executive Director, effective April 1, 1988.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

D-1 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

D-1(a) Emergency action to delay sablefish season to coincide with 1988 halibut fishery.

In October the Interim Action Committee teleconferenced to discuss a request for emergency action to delay the April 1 opening of the longline and pot sablefish fishery to coincide with the first opening of the halibut fishery. The Committee decided to put the proposal on this meeting's agenda for a decision.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC did not see this as an immediate biological problem. They pointed out that data for calculating the potential savings of halibut are limited and better information is needed. Observer coverage is required to obtain the required data.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended no emergency action for the 1988 fishing season but made the following comments:

1. The data bases on bycatch from industry and the scientific community are in conflict and should be reviewed by the SSC and plan team.
2. There is a questioned whether a delay in the opening date would create more gear conflicts and result in more vessels fishing shallower waters which could lead to higher halibut bycatch. The reaction of industry to any change in the opening date should be analyzed.
3. Fishermen and processors have already made financial commitments based on the April 1 opening date; a delay would result in economic losses.
4. Yield and quality issues should be researched and presented to the Council family for review.

Public Testimony is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members felt that a number of experienced fishermen had expressed concern over the problem and that it should be addressed, however there is insufficient information to make a decision at this time. The proposal is included in the current amendment cycle and will be considered by the Council

whether observer coverage requirements might be waived under the circumstances but no action was taken.

Appointment of Executive Director

Jim Campbell announced the appointment of Clarence Lewis as the new Executive Director, effective April 1, 1988.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

5-1 Gift of Alaska Groundfish MIP

D-1(a) Emergency action to delay regulatory action in relation with 1988 Halibut Fishery.

In October the Interim Action Committee reconvened to discuss a request for emergency action to delay the April 1 opening of the fishery and not establish fishery to coincide with the first opening of the fishery. The Committee decided to put the proposal on this meeting's agenda for a decision.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC did not see this as an immediate biological problem. They pointed out that data for calculating the potential savings of halibut are limited and better information is needed. Observer coverage is required to obtain the required data.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The AP recommended no emergency action for the 1988 fishing season but made the following comments:

1. The data base on growth from industry and the scientific community are in conflict and should be reviewed by the SSC and plan team.
2. There is a question whether a delay in the opening date would create more gear conflicts and result in more vessels fishing shallower waters which could lead to higher halibut growth. The reaction of industry to any change in the opening date should be analyzed.
3. Fishermen and processors have already made financial commitments based on the April 1 opening date; a delay would result in economic losses.
4. Yield and quality issues should be researched and presented to the Council timely for review.

Public Testimony is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Council members felt that a number of experienced fishermen had expressed concern over the problem and that it should be addressed, however there is insufficient information to make a decision at this time. The Council included in the current management cycle and will be considered by the Council.

when the analyses have been completed. The Council also asked that a letter be sent to the IPHC expressing concern on this issue.

D-1(b) 1988 Amendment Proposals

The following proposals were submitted for the 1988 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP amendment cycle:

1. Sablefish Management. Delay sablefish season opening to following halibut season.
2. Sablefish Management. Establish trip limits on trawlers to reduce discard and wastage of sablefish and to spread out the trawl quota during the year.
- 3.* Gear Restrictions. Establish a minimum mesh size (100 mm) in the pollock fishery.
- 4,5,6. Rockfish Management. Withdraw demersal shelf rockfish management from the FMP. Management of this resource would be conducted by the state. One proposed option would be to maintain the status quo but open the season on October 1.
7. Gear allocation, effort limitation. Allocate 50% of the Pacific cod TAC to hook and longline gear.
- 8.* Administrative. Review and overhaul the reporting requirements/data gathering program in both groundfish FMPs.
- 9.* Administrative. Establish an advisory group to track DAP and production levels and be able to advise the Council on allocative decisions.
10. Administrative. Rescind the species-specific reserve and replace it with a BS/AI-type, non-specific species reserve system.
- 11.* Administrative. Revise permit requirements to close an existing loophole in the regulations.
- 12.* Administrative. Require a stock assessment/economic analysis for the Gulf groundfish fishery on an annual basis.
- 13.* Administrative. Amend FMP to provide a nonretainable PSC limit of fully utilized species on an annual basis.
- 14.* Administrative. Revise definition of "directed fishing."
- 15.* Administrative. Develop system to transfer unused DAP to following year's JVP.
- 16.* Support Industry Proposal. Establish a priority for the U.S. support industry by requiring foreign processors to contract with domestic fuel suppliers and product shippers for certain proportions of their need for these services.

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17.* Develop a Multispecies Longline FMP.

*Similar proposals submitted for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands.

Report of the Plan Amendment Advisory Group (PAAG)

The PAAG had the following recommendations on amendment proposals submitted for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP:

1 - Sablefish Management (Delay opening date to follow halibut season): High Priority, Current Cycle. Recommended adding two alternatives: Prohibit sablefish fishing shallower than 500 m; and Change the April opening date to July 1.

2 - Sablefish Management (Trip limits on trawlers): Low Priority.

3 - Gear Restrictions (Minimum mesh size in pollock fishery): High Priority, recommended for an S-K project.

4,5,6 - Rockfish Management (Withdraw demersal shelf rockfish management from the FMP): High Priority, Extended Amendment Cycle. Recommended adding a 4th alternative.

7 - Gear allocation, effort limitation (Allocate 50% of the Pacific cod TAC to hook and longline gear): Low Priority.

8 - Review and overhaul reporting requirements in groundfish FMPS: Appoint workgroup.

9 - Establish a DAP advisory group to track DAP: No amendment necessary.

10- Rescind the species-specific reserve and replace it with a BS/AI-type, non-specific species reserve system: Low Priority.

11- Revise permit requirements to close an existing loophole: High Priority, Current Cycle.

12- Require an annual stock assessment/economic analysis for the Gulf groundfish fishery: Not necessary in the Gulf.

13- Amend FMP to provide a nonretainable PSC limit of fully utilized species on an annual basis: Not necessary in the Gulf.

14- Revise definition of "directed fishing": High Priority, Extended Cycle.

15- Develop system to transfer unused DAP to following year's JVP: Low Priority.

16- Establish a priority for the U.S. support industry: High Priority (only if determined legal under MFCMA), Accomplish by Permit Condition.

17- Develop a multispecies longline FMP: High Priority. Refer to Bycatch and FOG Committees.

17. Develop a multispecies longline FMP.
*Statistical proposals submitted for the Working Sea/Albatross Islands.

Report of the Fishery Management Advisory Group (FAMG)

The FAMG had the following recommendations on amendments to the FMP submitted for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP:

1 - Establish management delay opening date to follow halibut season; High Priority, Current Cycle. Recommended adding the Albatross Islands subfishery fishing challenge than 50% and change the April opening date to July 1.

2 - Establish Management (Trip Limits on Transfers); Low Priority.

3 - Gear Restrictions (Minimum mesh size in pelagic fishery); High Priority, recommended for an 8-k project.

4, 5, 6 - Rockfish Management (Withdraw demersal shell rockfish management from the FMP); High Priority, Extended Management Cycle. Recommended adding a 4th alternative.

7 - Gear Allocation, elton allocation (Allocate 50% of the Pacific cod FMO to hook and longline gear); Low Priority.

8 - Review and overhaul reporting requirements for groundfish FMP; High Priority.

9 - Establish a FMP advisory group to track FMP; No amendments necessary.

10 - Revised the species-specific reserve and replace it with a BSAI-type non-specific species reserve system; Low Priority.

11 - Review permit requirements to close an existing fishery; High Priority, Current Cycle.

12 - Reorder an annual stock assessment/economic analysis for the Gulf groundfish fishery; Not necessary in the Gulf.

13 - Amend FMP to provide a nonretained 250 limit of fish and land species on an annual basis; Not necessary in the Gulf.

14 - Revise definition of "directed fishing"; High Priority, Extended Cycle.

15 - Develop system to transfer unused DAS to following year's VTR; Low Priority.

16 - Establish a authority for the U.S. support industry; High Priority, Long term, determined legal under FICMA, Accepted by Permit Condition.

17 - Develop a multispecies longline FMP; High Priority. Refer to research and FOM Committee.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC concurred with the PAAG's recommendations for proposals 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 12, 13. With regard to Proposal 10, the SSC feels that both reserve systems (in the Gulf and Bering Sea/Aleutians) need to be reviewed but does not consider the proposal to be of high priority at this time. They recommended the teams continue to work to develop one reserve system. With regard to Proposal 15, rollover of excess DAP to JVP, the SSC feels that although the problem is an important one, the proposal does not represent a viable solution to the problem and that it could be better solved through development of more refined DAP estimates and timely release of DAP to JVP.

The SSC's recommendations on the remaining proposals are listed as follows:

Proposal 1 - Sablefish season - high priority, current cycle
Proposal 11 - Permit/reporting loophole - high priority, current cycle
Proposals 4,5,6 - Rockfish management - high priority, extended cycle
Proposal 14 - Directed fishing definition - high priority, extended cycle

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel approved the recommendations of the PAAG with the exception of Proposal #15 (18 in the BSA), DAP to JVP roll-over, which they recommended be given a high priority in the current cycle.

Public Testimony on groundfish items is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

The Council had little discussion on the amendment proposals, preferring to reserve discussion until the analyses are prepared for the April meeting.

Bob Mace moved to approve proposals 1 (sablefish season), 4, 5, & 6 (rockfish management proposals) for further team and staff analysis. The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection. These proposals are unique to the Gulf of Alaska. Those proposals pertaining to both the Gulf and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands were discussed under Agenda item D-2.

The Council agreed that additional alternatives could be added to the analyses by the plan team and staff in their development of the amendment package.

The Council took no action on the proposals given a low priority rating by the PAAG (Proposals 2, 7, and 10 for the Gulf of Alaska).

D-1(c) Sablefish Bycatch Limitations Prior to Directed Season

Under current regulations longline and pot fishermen targeting on groundfish other than sablefish can retain their bycatch of sablefish as long as it comprises 20% or less of the total groundfish catch on board the vessel. The directed sablefish fishery utilizing longline and pot gear currently begins on April 1. Catches of sablefish in excess of 20% are considered "directed" or targeted and retention is not allowed until after the opening of the sablefish longline/pot season.

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NMFS requested that the Council discuss this problem at this meeting and consider several solutions ranging from maintaining the status quo, to a plan amendment or adoption of an emergency rule.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC did not have comments on this item.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended adoption of an emergency rule, followed by a plan amendment, which would change the groundfish regulations by lowering the percentage in the directed fishing definition from 20% to a more appropriate number (approximately 1% to 5% based on limited observer analysis) for the longline and pot fishery only.

Public Testimony

Barry McKee, Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners' Assn. He longlines Pacific cod mostly and on each of three trips his average sablefish bycatch was in the range of 5% to 10%. The 20% was a little high but he still thinks it should be in the 10% range; 5% may be a little low.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Jon Pollard suggested regulatory language for the option recommended by the Advisory Panel.

There was discussion on urgency of the situation and whether it warranted emergency action. The Advisory Panel's rationale in support of the emergency rule centered on the enforcement problem with the current regulation. They felt that NMFS cannot enforce a 20% bycatch limitation without onboard observers. Jon Pollard suggested that if there were covert targeting under the present regulation the available quota for the directed fishery may be consumed as bycatch to the detriment of that fishery.

Bob Mace moved to adopt the recommendation of the Advisory Panel. The motion was seconded by Rudy Petersen. The motion carried with Bob McVey objecting.

The actual percentage number will be determined after further analysis by NMFS. Discussion indicated that the Council approved of the regulatory language suggested by Jon Pollard.

D-2 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

D-2(a) Scoping, Scheduling, and Requirement for the EIS to raise the upper limit of the OY range.

Controversy surrounding the proposal to raise the upper end of the optimum yield (OY) range in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery has required consideration of a more substantial analysis than the usual EA/RIRs that accompany groundfish amendments. On January 5, 1988, the Council held a scoping meeting in conjunction with the PAAG meeting to consider the need for

This requested that the Council discuss this problem at their meeting and
the Council agreed to discuss this problem at their meeting and
to discuss this problem at their meeting and to discuss this problem at their meeting.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The following are the comments of this panel.

Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel recommended adoption of an emergency rule followed by a
long-term plan which would change the present regulatory system for lobster
harvesting in the directed fishing areas from 100% to a more appropriate
harvest (approximately 10% based on limited observer data) for the
long-term and for emergency only.

Emergency Rule

Emergency Rule: Lobster fishing vessels should be limited to a daily catch
of 100 lbs. per vessel. This rule would be in effect until such time as the
range of 25 to 100 lbs. per vessel is reached and the Council should
be in the 100 range; 25 lbs. per vessel is a little low.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The following suggested regulatory language for the action recommended by the
Advisory Panel.

There was discussion on impact of the situation and whether it warranted
emergency action. The Advisory Panel's action is in support of the emergency
rule centered on the enforcement problem with the current regulation. They
felt that MRF could enforce a 100 percent limitation without onboard
observers. The Council suggested that if there were coast guard observers under
the present regulation, no viable means for the directed fishery may be
maintained as a result of the treatment of that fishery.

For more information on the recommendations of the Advisory Panel, the meeting
was recorded by Roger Johnson. The meeting was held with the following
participants.

The actual percentage number will be determined after further analysis by
MRF. Discussion indicated that the Council approved of the regulatory
language suggested by the Panel.

Meeting of the Advisory Panel

Meeting of the Advisory Panel, and Recommendation for the FIC to raise the upper
limit of the 100 range.

Emergency action was recommended by the panel to raise the upper limit of the 100
range in the directed fishing areas from the current 100% to a more appropriate
harvest (approximately 10% based on limited observer data) for the
long-term and for emergency only. On January 2, 1988, the Council held a
meeting in conjunction with the SAAG meeting to consider the need for
emergency action.

a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). NMFS has the authority to determine whether or not an SEIS is required and has indicated that it probably will be. As a result of the scoping meeting, a time schedule was developed for preparation of the SEIS to coincide with the Council's groundfish amendment cycle. Denby Lloyd pointed out that the schedule is very tight and if any delays occur it will put the proposal out of the normal amendment cycle.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

Discussion on the amendment proposal to raise the upper end of the OY range in the BSAI groundfish fishery is found under Agenda item D-2(b). The Council accepted the schedule and took no further action on this particular item.

D-2(b) Amendment Proposals

The following proposals were submitted for the 1988 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP amendment cycle:

1. Bycatch. Establish the Bycatch Committee plan for controlling trawl bycatch of halibut, C. bairdi, C. opilio Tanner crab, and red king crab in the BSAI.
- 2,3. Bycatch. Close Bristol Bay to trawling, to protect herring and salmon from interception.
4. Bycatch. Establish bycatch caps and time/area closures in Statistical Area 514 to protect species sought by shorebased fishermen near Nelson Island.
5. Bycatch. Establish a PSC framework for halibut in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, beginning with a mortality level of 3,000 mt.
- 6,7. Pollock Management. Postpone opening date of the second half of the pollock JVP split-season from April 17 to June 16.
- 8.* Pollock Management. Institute a minimum mesh size of 100 mm for trawls used to fish for pollock.
9. Administrative. Divide the Aleutian Islands submanagement area west of 170°W into four areas for the management of sablefish.
- 10.* Administrative. Review and overhaul the reporting requirements/data gathering program in both groundfish FMPs.
- 11.* Administrative. Revise permit requirements to close an existing loophole.
- 12.* Administrative. Establish an advisory group to track DAP catches and production levels and be able to advise the Council on allocative decisions.
13. Administrative. Exclude certain small fishing vessels from weekly reporting requirements.

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14. Administrative. Clarify management of bycatch for JVP and TALFF fisheries.
- 15.* Administrative. Remove the July 1 deadline for the Resource Assessment Document (RAD), and replace with a deadline for draft RAD by September Council meeting and final RAD by December Council meeting.
- 16.* Administrative. Amend FMP to provide a nonretainable PSC limit of fully utilized species on an annual basis.
- 17.* Administrative. Revise definition of "directed fishing."
- 18.* Administrative. Transfer unused DAP at the end of one year to JVP in the following year.
19. Administrative. Transfer unused DAH at end of one year to TALFF for the succeeding year.
20. Administrative. Eliminate the JVP "olympic system."
- 21, 22. OY Range. Remove the current 2.0 million metric ton upper limit to OY and set the upper limit equal to the sum of the annual acceptable biological catches (ABC).
- 23.* Support Industry Preference. Establish a priority for the U.S. support industry by requiring foreign processors to contract with domestic fuel suppliers and product shippers for certain proportions of their need for these services.
24. Killer Whale/Sablefish. Close a portion of the Bering Sea, north and west of Unimak Pass, to sablefish longlining for one year in order to investigate killer whale/fishery interactions.
- 25.* Develop a Multispecies Longline FMP.
26. Roe Rocksole/JVP prohibition.

*Similar proposals submitted for the Gulf of Alaska.

Report of the Plan Amendment Advisory Group (PAAG):

The PAAG made the following recommendations on amendment proposals for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP:

- 1- Bycatch (Establish the Bycatch Committee plan for controlling trawl bycatch of halibut, C. bairdi, C. opilio Tanner crab, and red king crab in the BSAI): High Priority, Current Cycle.
- 2,3- Bycatch (Close Bristol Bay to trawling, to protect herring and salmon from interception): High Priority, Refer to Bycatch Committee.

14. Administrative. Clarify management of special law 147 and 148.

15. Administrative. Remove the July 1 deadline for the Resource Assessment Document (RAD), and replace with a deadline for draft RAD by September 30 and final RAD by December 31.

16. Administrative. Amend 147 to provide a non-transferable 10% limit of fish utilized species on an annual basis.

17. Administrative. Revise definition of "diverted fishing".

18. Administrative. Transfer unused 147 to the end of the year to 147 in the following year.

19. Administrative. Transfer unused 147 to the end of one year to 147 in the preceding year.

20. Administrative. Eliminate the 147 "olympic program".

21. OY Change. Remove the current 147 million pounds per year limit to 147 and set the upper limit equal to the sum of the annual sustainable biological catches (ABC).

22. Support Industry Preference. Establish a priority for the U.S. support industry by requiring foreign processors to contract with domestic fish suppliers and product shippers for certain proportions of their total fish harvest.

23. Miller White/Chelonia. Close a portion of the 147 for the year in order to meet the 147 limit, to establish long-term for the year in order to investigate Miller White/Chelonia interactions.

24. Develop a fishery management plan for the 147.

25. 147 prohibition.

26. 147 prohibition submitted for the GO of Alaska.

27. Report of the 147 Advisory Group (PAG):

The PAG made the following recommendations on amendment proposals for the Bering Sea/Alaska Islands Groundfish TFC:

1- Research. Establish the Research Commission plan for controlling 147 harvest of halibut, G. caplin Tanner crab, and red king crab in the BSAI: High Priority, Current Cycle.

2- Research (Close). Develop a plan for 147, to protect 147 and salmon from 147: High Priority, Bering Sea Research Commission.

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- 4- Bycatch (Establish bycatch caps and time/area closures in Statistical Area 514 to protect species sought by shorebased fishermen near Nelson Island): High Priority, Refer to Bycatch Committee.
- 5- Bycatch (Establish a PSC framework for halibut in the BSAI groundfish fisheries, beginning with a mortality level of 3,000 mt): High Priority, Refer to Bycatch Committee.
- 6,7. Pollock Management (Postpone opening date of the second half of the pollock JVP split-season from April 17 to June 16): Low Priority.
8. Pollock Management (Institute a minimum mesh size of 100 mm for trawls used to fish for pollock): High Priority, Recommended for an S-K Project.
9. Divide the Aleutian Islands submanagement area west of 170°W into four areas for the management of sablefish: Low Priority.
10. Review and overhaul the reporting requirements/data gathering program in both groundfish FMPs: Recommended appointing a workgroup.
11. Revise permit requirements to close an existing loophole: High Priority, Current Cycle.
12. Establish an advisory group to track DAP catches and production levels and be able to advise the Council on allocative decisions: No amendment necessary.
13. Exclude certain small fishing vessels from weekly reporting requirements: Low Priority.
14. Clarify management of bycatch for JVP and TALFF fisheries: Low Priority.
15. Remove the July 1 deadline for the Resource Assessment Document (RAD), and replace with a deadline for draft RAD by September Council meeting and final RAD by December Council meeting: High Priority, Current Cycle.
16. Amend FMP to provide a nonretainable PSC limit of fully utilized species on an annual basis: Low Priority.
17. Revise definition of "directed fishing": High Priority, Extended Cycle.
18. Transfer unused DAP at the end of one year to JVP in the following year: Low Priority.
19. Transfer unused DAH at end of one year to TALFF for the succeeding year: Low Priority.
20. Eliminate the JVP "olympic system": No action.
- 21, 22. Remove the current 2.0 million metric ton upper limit to OY and set the upper limit equal to the sum of the annual acceptable biological catches (ABC): High Priority, Current Cycle.
23. Establish a priority for the U.S. support industry: High Priority (if determined legal under MFCMA), Implement by Permit Condition.

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24. Close a portion of the Bering Sea, north and west of Unimak Pass, to sablefish longlining for one year: Low Priority.
25. Develop a Multispecies Longline FMP: High Priority, Refer to Bycatch and FOG Committees.
26. Roe Rocksole/JVP prohibition: High Priority, Current Cycle.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The SSC agreed with the PAAG recommendations on all proposals for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP with the following exceptions or comments:

Proposal 8 - mesh size for trawls used to fish for pollock - The SSC recommended this be referred to a workgroup.

Proposal 13 - weekly reporting requirements - The SSC felt this is an important issue and should be referred to NMFS.

Proposal 14 - clarify management of bycatch for JVP and TALFF fisheries - The SSC recommended this be referred to the Bycatch Committee.

Proposal 16 - Provide a nonretainable PSC limit of fully utilized species on an annual basis - The SSC recommended this be referred to the Bycatch Committee.

Proposal 23 - Priority for the U.S. support industry - The SSC considers this a high priority but feels that the legal and policy ramifications will require extensive analysis which probably cannot be completed within the current amendment cycle.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel concurred with the recommendations of the PAAG with the following exceptions or comments:

Proposal 9 - Divide Aleutian Islands submanagement area west of 170°W into four areas for management of sablefish: The AP recommended a high priority, current cycle, because of the growing effort in this area of the Bering Sea.

Proposals 18-19 - Transfer unused DAP at the end of one year to JVP in the following year and transfer unused DAH at end of one year to TALFF for the succeeding year: The AP considered these a high priority but did not comment on the amendment cycle.

Public Testimony on groundfish items is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council had little discussion on the amendment proposals, preferring to reserve discussion until the amendment package is prepared for the April meeting.

- 14. Close a portion of the fishing gear, north and west of Island Pass, to reduce mortality for one year: low priority.
- 15. Review of a fisheries management plan: high priority, refer to research and the Committee.
- 16. Use of a Vessel Observer: high priority, discuss details.

Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The Committee agreed with the PASC recommendations for all proposals for the fishing gear, and the following exceptions or comments:

- Proposal 8 - mesh size for trawls used to fish for salmon - The SSC recommended that be referred to a workshop.
- Proposal 13 - weekly reporting requirements - The SSC did not have an opinion and should be referred to WAF.
- Proposal 14 - daily management of trawls for VIV and TART fisheries - The SSC recommended that be referred to the Special Committee.
- Proposal 15 - provide a non-transferable 100% limit of fish catch per vessel as an annual quota - The SSC recommended that be referred to the Special Committee.
- Proposal 23 - priority for the U.S. salmon industry - The SSC considered that a high priority but feels that the legal and policy ramifications will require extensive analysis which probably cannot be completed within the current management cycle.

Report of the Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel concurred with the recommendations of the PASC with the following exceptions or comments:

- Proposal 9 - divide Alaska inland management areas with a 100% limit into four areas for management of salmon: The AP recommended a high priority, because of the growing effort in the use of the fishing gear, current cycle.
- Proposals 13-19 - Transfer annual VIV at the end of one year to VIV in the following year and transfer annual TART at the end of one year to TART for the following year: The AP considered these a high priority but did not comment on the management cycle.

Public Testimony on Groundfish Issues is found in Appendix I to these minutes.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Council had little discussion on the amendment proposals presented to the Committee until the amendment package is prepared for the public meeting.

Proposals Unique to the BS/AI:

Bob Mace moved to approve Proposal 1 (Implement the Bycatch Committee plan for controlling trawl bycatch of halibut, C. bairdi, C. opilio Tanner crab, and red king crab in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands), Proposals 21-22 (Remove the current 2.0 million metric ton upper limit to OY in the Bering Sea), and Proposal 26 (Rocksole/JVP prohibition) for analysis during the current amendment cycle, and to refer Proposals 2,3,4,&5 to the Bycatch Committee. The motion was seconded by John Peterson and carried with no objection.

John Peterson suggested another alternative for the OY proposal which would be to set the upper limit equal to the sum of the ABCs; however, the annual increase could not exceed 5%. There would be no restrictions on reducing the cap.

Henry Mitchell moved to approve Proposal 14 (Management of bycatch for JVP and TALFF fisheries) for analysis during the current amendment cycle. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried, 8 to 2, with Dyson and J. Peterson voting against.

It was explained that this particular proposal is a mechanism to give NMFS the tools to have an efficient management system to deal with PSC problems.

The Council discussed the proposal (24) to close a portion of the Bering Sea to sablefish longlining for one year to study the blackcod/killer whale problem. The Council expressed concern over the problem but felt that industry is taking aggressive action to educate fishermen and find ways to alleviate harassment of killer whales. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

No action was taken on BS/AI Proposals 6, 7, 9, 13, 19 & 20.

Bob McVey said that Proposal #13, to exclude certain small fishing vessels from weekly reporting requirements, is necessary but that they think it can be done by regulatory amendment. They will develop the necessary regulation and bring it back to the Council.

Proposals Common to Both the Gulf of Alaska and BS/AI:

Bob Mace moved to adopt the recommendations of the PAAG for the following amendment proposals common to both the Gulf of Alaska and BS/AI groundfish FMPS:

<u>Proposal #</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
BS/AI	GOA		
8	3	Pollock mesh size	High Priority, S-K Project
10	8	Reporting System	Appoint Workgroup
11	11	Permit/reporting loophole	High, Current Cycle
15	12	RAD deadline	High, Current Cycle
17	14	Directed fishing definition	High, Extended Cycle
25	17	Multi-Species Longline FMP	High, Bycatch/FOG Committees

The motion was seconded by Henry Mitchell and carried with no objection.

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Henry Mitchell moved to approve the PSC framework proposal (#13 in the GOA and 16 in the BS/AI) for inclusion in the current amendment cycle. The motion was seconded by Bob McVey and carried with Larry Cotter objecting.

On the support industry preference proposals (23 in the BSAI, 16 in the GOA), the Council discussed the need for a legal opinion from NOAA. The Council agreed that it is an important amendment and could provide substantial benefits to the nation and industry but were concerned whether a comprehensive analysis could be completed during the normal amendment cycle. It was noted that this proposal would not only affect Alaskan fisheries but could have nationwide impacts and that it will be important to provide extensive background and data. The Council agreed that staff should proceed with necessary analyses and preparation of the amendment pending a legal opinion from NOAA. An industry workgroup will be appointed by Jim Campbell to develop data and advise the Council. The workgroup will report back to the Council in April.

John Peterson moved to defer action on the support industry preference proposals until the April meeting. In the interim, the above-mentioned workgroup will be appointed and asked to report back to the Council in April. The motion was seconded by Larry Cotter and carried with no objection. Mr. Peterson said it is essential to have a legal opinion from NOAA by March 1.

No action was taken on the following proposals common to both the GOA and BS/AI:

Proposal #		Description
BS/AI	GOA	
12	9	DAP Advisory Group
18	15	DAP to JVP roll-over

E. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

No reports.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Takaoka, Chairman of the North Pacific Longline Assn. of Japan, addressed the Council on the history of his association in fisheries off Alaska and their efforts to cooperate with domestic fishermen in developing the fisheries off Alaska. They are disappointed in the effect the 2.0 million mt cap on the OY in the Bering Sea has had on the Council's ability to allocate TALFF for 1988. They requested a careful reassessment of DAH at every opportunity during the year and, should sufficient surpluses be identified, that the Council allocate any surplus to the NPLA.

Paul MacGregor, NPLA, reviewed the projects they had proposed in December in exchange for allocations. Without the opportunity to fish, most of these projects cannot be completed.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 a.m. on Friday, January 22, 1988.

John Peterson moved to refer the proposal (2) in the 1983 and
to the 1984 for consideration in the next management cycle. The motion was
seconded by Larry Goren and carried with a majority of 10-3.

On the agenda for the next preference program (2) in the 1984, 10 in the 1983,
the Council discussed the need for a final opinion from WAAA. The Council
agreed that it is an important member and could provide substantial
input to the matter and necessary but were concerned whether a representative
could be completed during the normal management cycle. It was noted
that this proposal would not only affect Alaskan fisheries but could have
wide-reaching implications that it will be important to provide extensive
background and data. The Council agreed that staff should proceed with
preparation of the agenda and preparation of the agenda and pending a final opinion
from WAAA. An industry working group will be appointed by the Council to develop
and advise the Council. The working group will report back to the Council in
1984.

John Peterson moved to refer the proposal on the support industry preference
program until the April meeting. The motion was seconded by
Larry Goren and carried with a majority of 10-3. The Council
agreed that it is essential to have a final opinion from WAAA in 1984.

No motion was taken on the following proposals common to both the 1983 and
1984:

Proposal	1983	1984
WAAA support group	9	10
WAAA to WAAI	11	11

7. CONTRACTS, PROGRAMS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

no reports.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Takasaka, Chairman of the North Pacific Longline Assn. of Japan, addressed
the Council on the history of the association in Alaska and
their efforts to cooperate with domestic fishermen in developing the fisheries
off Alaska. They are disappointed in the effort the 2.5 million mark on the
off Alaska. They requested a careful re-examination of WAAI at every opportunity
during the year and should sufficient supplies be identified that the
Council allocate any surplus to the WAAI.

Mr. Peterson, WAAI, reviewed the project they had proposed in 1982 and
discussed the opportunity to fish part of these
projects cannot be completed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Friday,
January 22, 1983.