

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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CERTIFIED:

Clement V. Tillion
Chairman

MINUTES

46th Plenary Session NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL January 4-8, 1982 Juneau, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council convened at 9:28 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 1982, in Room 117 of the Federal Building, Juneau, Alaska. Beginning on Tuesday, January 5, and continuing through Thursday, January 7, the Council met with the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the Gold Room of the Baranof Hotel, Juneau.

The Advisory Panel met from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 1982, in the Gastineau Room of the Baranof Hotel.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee met on Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5, 1982, in the Capitol Room of the Baranof Hotel.

The Council conducted a public hearing on Amendment #11 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan on Friday, January 8, 1982 at 9 a.m. in Room 117 of the Federal Building.

Council members, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel and Board of Fisheries members, and general public in attendance are listed below:

Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Harold E. Lokken, Vice-Chairman
Don Collinsworth, for Ronald Skoog
Robert Mace, for John Donaldson
Gene DiDonato, for Rolland Schmitt
Leroy Sowl, for Keith Schreiner

John P. Harville
Joe Demmert, Jr.
RADM Richard Knapp
Keith Specking
Robert W. McVey
Donald E. Bevan

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Donald Rosenberg, Chairman
Richard Marasco, Vice-Chairman
Bud Burgner
John Clark
Steve Langdon

Al Millikan
William Aron
John Burns
Larry Hreha

Advisory Panel

Robert Alverson, Chairman
A. W. "Bud" Boddy, Vice-Chairman
Larry Cotter
Eric Jordan
Richard Lauber
Kristy Long
Jack Phillips

Greg Baker
Robert Blake
Richard Goldsmith
Joseph Kurtz
Raymond Lewis
Ken Olsen
Jeffrey Stephan

Board of Fisheries

Nick Szabo, Chairman
Chris Goll
Herman Schroeder
Harry Sundberg

Jim Beaton
Griffin Quinton
Jimmy Huntington

NPFMC Staff

Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Clarence Pautzke, Deputy Director
Jim Glock
Jim Richardson
Rebecca Wetzler

Peggy McCalment
Judy Willoughby
Steve Davis
Peggy Hough

Support Staff

William G. Gordon, NMFS
Phil Chitwood, NMFS
Mark Miller, ADF&G
CDR Pete Busick, USCG
Lew Queirolo, NMFS
Milstead Zahn, ABoF
Ken Petersen, ADF&G
Mike Fraidenberg, WDF

Ron Naab, NMFS
Patrick Travers, NOAA
Fred Gaffney, ADF&G
Bill Robinson, NMFS
James Brooks, NMFS
Kris Hauschild, ABoF
Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G

General Public

Colleen Stansbury, Elfin Cove
Norman A. Cohen, Nunam Kitlutsisti, Anchorage
Philip R. Fuller, Fishing Ventures International, Seattle
Don Martens, Office of the Canadian Consulate, Seattle
Bob Steinbock, Government of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
Bill Fields, Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, Philadelphia
Hugh Reilly, Corde Madera, CA
Jay R. Hastings, Japan Fisheries Association, Seattle
Levi George, Yakima Indian Nation, Toppenich, WA
Paul MacGregor, Japanese North Pacific Longline and Gillnet
Association, Seattle
Sig Mathiesen, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, Petersburg
Tom Stewart, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, Petersburg
Edwin Fugelvog, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association, Petersburg
Joseph C. Gnagey, Steuart Fisheries, Everett, WA
Charles J. Miller, Pan-Alaska Fisheries, Seattle

Donald P. Swisher, Japan Deep Sea Trawlers/Hokuten Trawlers
Association, Seattle
John Schmeidtke, Nordstern, A.G., Seattle
Sean Kelly, Hendricks and Associates, Anacortes, WA
Ed Zyblut, Government of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Vancouver, B.C.
Charles M. Jones, Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Craig,
Terrance Pardee, Haines Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Haines
Jean Sewell, Nordic Marine, Juneau
Dick Myhre, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Seattle
Kate Tosar, Office of Rep. Ben Grussendorf, Juneau
Gordon Williams, Angoon Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Angoon
Gil Gunderson, Juneau
Richard D. Hofmann, Jr., Juneau
John A. Farleigh, Alaska Trollers Association, Juneau
Richard W. Lundahl, Pelican Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
Pelican
Jeri Museth, Elfin Cove Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Elfin Cove
Walter Hanson, Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Yakutat
Bill Stokes, Sitka Handtroll Association, Sitka
Leo A. Land, Alaska Native Brotherhood
Gale Good, Juneau
Laird A. Jones, THFDC, Juneau
Ben A. Wright, THFDC, Juneau
Chuck Porter, Juneau
Walt Pasternak, Sitka
Gordon Pederson, Hoonah
Vivian Lovaas, Juneau
Maurice Ingman, Ketchikan
Jim Ferguson, Pelican Cold Storage, Pelican
Geoff Widdows, Yakutat
Mark Albert Beltz, Anchorage
Bill Thomas, Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Board, Ketchikan
Denny Kimmel, Halibut Producers Coop
William Phillips, Office of Senator Ted Stevens, Washington, D.C.
Bill Sheffield, Anchorage
Jim Burry, Juneau
Representative Ben Grussendorf, Sitka
Stephen Waste, Haines
Reva Lafavour, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau
Terry Whitehall, Juneau
Victor Lane, Juneau
Bill Dunn, Juneau
John W. Enge, Icicle Seafoods, Inc.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clem Tillion, who welcomed William G. Gordon, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C., to the Juneau Council meeting.

Chairman Tillion called for approval of the agenda. John Harville requested a brief Council review of certain Pacific

Marine Fisheries Commission resolutions from their November 1981 annual meeting.

Bob Mace moved that the agenda be adopted with the inclusion of a discussion of the PMFC resolutions; seconded by Harold Lokken. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

B-1 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director advised that charters for both the SSC and Council will expire on April 13 and must be renewed for another two years. If no changes are necessary, the Council should advise NMFS to proceed with the renewals.

The Council instructed the Executive Director to advise NMFS that no changes are necessary and that the SSC and Council charters may be renewed.

The Council received letters of resignation from Lewis Schnaper and Truman Emberg from the Advisory Panel. These two and the resignation of Charles Parsons prior to the December meeting leave three interim vacancies on the AP.

It was the consensus of the Council that it should issue a formal call for Advisory Panel nominations, reactivate the AP Nominating Committee, and make interim appointments effective with the March 1982 meeting.

John Clark, head of fisheries research for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a member of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, asked the Council to allow Phil Rigby to serve as his alternate on the SSC. The Council policy has been not to appoint permanent alternates for SSC members, but it has approved alternates on a short-term basis when primary SSC members have been involved in research or travel programs which preclude their attendance for two or three meetings.

Council discussion and action on this subject was initially deferred until later in the meeting; however, time constraints made it necessary to postpone final action until the March 1982 Council meeting.

At the December meeting the Council asked the Alaska Trollers Association to submit a resume for a representative of ATA to serve on the Salmon Plan Development Team. The Council received the resume of Earl Krygier and sent it to the SSC for review.

The SSC recommended that plan development team membership be kept to a minimum and that teams be composed only of scientists from the management agencies. The SSC, therefore, did not recommend increasing the Salmon Plan Development Team's membership. The SSC reviewed the resume of Earl Krygier and found his qualifications suitable for plan development team membership.

Due to time constraints Council action on this agenda item was deferred until the March 1982 Council meeting.

The Executive Director recommended that the Council amend its meeting schedule policy set at the December 1981 meeting to provide that three-day meetings will run on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday rather than Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday because of conflicts with the SSC when both groups meet on Tuesday.

It was the consensus of the Council that three-day meetings should be held on the fourth Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of meeting months.

B-2 Update on Polish Joint Venture for 1982

William Fields, representing Mrs. Paul's Kitchens of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, described a proposed joint venture for 1982 between Mrs. Paul's Kitchens and the Polish company Rybex Szczecin. Official permit applications had not been received by the Council from the State Department at the time of the meeting. The companies proposed to take about 16,000 mt of pollock and 1,500 mt of Pacific cod from the Bering Sea and about 6,000 mt of pollock and 800 mt of Pacific cod from the Gulf of Alaska, employing four to six U.S. catcher boats. About 50% of the catch is expected to be processed for American standard fillet and will be delivered to the U.S. for further processing. The remainder will be marketed in Poland. All of the Polish vessels involved have also applied for directed fishing permits. Mrs. Paul's will be the agent and principal contact with the U.S. vessel owners.

In the 1981 joint venture fishery, three Polish ships processed approximately 2,200 mt out of a total allocation of 15,000 mt between June 22 and the end of September. Mr. Fields noted that Mrs. Paul's Kitchens does intend to participate in the joint venture even if no direct allocation is made to Poland.

Bill Gordon asked Mr. Fields if additional joint venture allocations would be requested to make up for a loss in direct allocations should Poland fail to receive a direct allocation this year. Mr. Fields confirmed that additional joint venture allocations would be necessary in that case. Mr. Gordon encouraged Mr. Fields to keep the Council apprised of additional requests which may be necessary.

The Council discussed with Mr. Fields the probability that if additional pollock allocations are requested, a corresponding percentage increase in Pacific cod allocations would also be needed to compensate for by-catch in the pollock fishery. Mr. Fields confirmed that the relationship of cod to pollock in the initial allocation request would likely be maintained in any additional requests.

Council Action

Bob Mace moved that the Council grant the Executive Director authority to approved the Polish joint venture permits when they are received from the State Department if the terms and conditions of the fishery are consistent with the preliminary request; seconded by Keith Specking. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Bob McVey suggested that it is highly possible, due to the current situation in Poland, that this joint venture is in jeopardy. He said that if the Council supports this joint venture, it should make a clear statement to the Administration to that effect. He felt that the Council's actions could influence the Administration's decision on Polish fishing privileges.

Bob McVey moved that a letter signed by the Chairman be forwarded to the Administration, plainly stating that the Council supports this Polish joint venture; seconded by Don Bevan. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

C. OLD BUSINESS

C-1 Capital Construction Fund

At the December meeting staff economist Jim Richardson was asked to find out what impediments exist to prevent fishermen having existing Capital Construction Funds from investing those funds in shorebased processing facilities. Under present legislation this is not allowed.

The NMFS Regional Office in Juneau estimated that as of December 1981, Capital Construction Funds associated with Alaska fishery accounts totaled \$50-55 million. With the present distressed status of the crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and other areas of Alaska, some Council members felt there would be minimal interest by Alaska fishermen in using the accumulated CCF accounts to purchase new vessels or renovate existing vessels. There is, however, some interest in investing these accumulated accounts in shore based processing facilities.

There is currently a bill before Congress, HR 3668, which would accomplish this objective. It was introduced by Congressman Breaux in May 1981 and referred to the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. Until now the bill has received little attention and is not scheduled to go before Congress when it reconvenes in January. NMFS General Counsel and Financial Services in Washington, D.C. do not expect the bill to receive approval by Congress without strong support.

Harold Lokken moved that the Executive Director be instructed to write a letter to Congressman Breaux and the West Coast Congressional delegation in support of HR 3668; seconded by Bob Mace. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-2 Draft Guidelines for Framework FMPs

The Executive Director recommended that the Policy and Planning Workgroup, comprised of Council members Bevan, Campbell, Eaton, Harville, Lokken, McVey, Skoog, and Tillion and SSC members Miles and Rosenberg be delegated the assignment to review the draft guidelines for framework FMP's distributed at the December Council meeting and forward their comments to NMFS.

Bob Mace moved to accept the Executive Director's recommendation that authority to review and comment on the draft guidelines for framework FMP's be delegated to the Policy and Planning Workgroup; seconded by Keith Specking. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

C-3 Other Old Business

The Council received a letter from Sig R. Mathieson, president of the Petersburg Vessel Owners Association in Petersburg, Alaska, who testified at the meeting in support of the share system for limited entry in the halibut fishery off Alaska. Canada expects to implement a limited entry system based on fishermen shares system for the 1982 halibut season. They believe a major benefit will be a longer season so more of the catch will go to the fresh market at better prices. Mathieson contended that a major problem now for domestic fishermen is that the total catch is landed within the space of a few days and is, for the most part, frozen when it reaches the market. If the Canadians develop an expanded fishing season, U.S. fishermen will be placed at an economic disadvantage. The Petersburg Vessel Owners Association urged implementation of a limited entry system based on fishermen shares as quickly as possible, preferably for the 1982 season.

Public Testimony

Edwin Fugelvog, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association member, testified in favor of the proposed share system and pointed out again the economic disadvantage to American fishermen when their catch is landed within a very short time period and must enter the market as frozen product.

Thomas Stewart urged the Council to do something as soon as possible to limit entry into the halibut fishery.

Council Action

The Advisory Panel asked the Council to promote a moratorium on entry into the halibut fishery in 1982 or 1983, and asked for a schedule for implementing a limited entry system or moratorium at the March 1982 meeting. The Advisory Panel voted 10 to 1 that the Council send regulations protecting halibut nursery grounds in the pot sanctuary out for public comment, (made a part of these Minutes, as Appendix I).

The Council's Limited Entry Workgroup has scheduled a meeting to refine an RFP to evaluate the share system, insuring that proposals will mesh with current Alaska law. The Workgroup will report to the Council at the March meeting.

The Executive Director said that there doesn't appear to be any way the Council can have a limited entry system in place for the 1982 fishery, but could save a great deal of time by deciding at the March meeting what type of limited entry system it wants to use.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Demonstration of ADF&G Data Reporting System

No action taken; information only.

D-2 Other New Business

Japanese Joint Venture Applications

Jay Hastings, representing the Japan Fisheries Association, asked for Council approval of two Japanese joint ventures proposed for 1982. Taiyo Fishery Company, Ltd., of Tokyo applied for a permit for the factory trawler ZUIYO MARU NO. 3 to work with Fishing Ventures International, Inc., of Seattle. They expect to catch and process about 9,500 mt of pollock and 500 mt of Pacific cod and other by-catch species in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska and will employ two or three large mid-water trawlers. The fish will be processed into surimi, fish meal and oil as determined by market conditions. All products will be aimed for and marketed in Japan. Prices to U.S. fishermen were still under negotiation at the time of the meeting.

Nippon Suisan Kaisha, Ltd., of Tokyo applied for a permit for the factory trawler KONGO MARU to work in a joint venture with Universal Seafoods of Redmond, Washington. Final negotiations had not been completed at the time of the meeting, but the venture expects to catch and process about 9,075 mt of pollock and 925 mt of other species in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska using two to four large bottom/mid-water trawlers. The fish will be processed into surimi, frozen round, fillet, headed and gutted, roe, fish meal, and fish oil. Quantities by type of product will depend on market conditions and will be sold by Nippon Suisan, primarily for Japanese consumption.

In 1981 Taiyo took 5,315 mt of pollock and cod, 76% of the 7,000 mt JVP allocation. Nippon Suisan harvested 100% of its 7,000 mt JVP allocation in its operation with Universal Seafoods.

Mr. Hastings reported that Hoko and Kyokuyo Fishing Companies were also anticipating joint ventures in 1982, but specific details were not available.

Council members questioned Mr. Hastings on the probability of other Japanese joint ventures in 1982, expressing their disappointment in projected totals of only 40,000 mt. Mr. Hastings responded that Japanese fishing companies are interested in steadily increasing joint venture development rather than making sudden large increases.

Bill Gordon said that NMFS has advised foreign governments to look at the relative share of fishery products they expect to take from the U.S. FCZ in 1982 and has made it plain that NMFS expects joint ventures to be used to maintain those relative shares. They have also stressed the importance of satisfying contractual arrangements made with U.S. partners in the fisheries.

Bob Mace moved that the Council approve the two Japanese joint venture permits; seconded by Keith Specking. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Norwegian Permit Request

The Council received an application from the Norwegian vessel SJOEVIKTRAL to catch and process 4,600 mt of Pacific cod and an unspecified amount of by-catch in the Bering Sea. The U.S. firm, Union Fish Company Ltd. of Seattle, expects to start production on January 1, 1982 with a capacity of 2,000-3,000 mt of salted and dried fish. The fish will be exported to Latin America. The Norwegian factoryship was willing to accept American trainees on board; two Americans have already been trained on the vessel in Norwegian waters.

Bob Mace moved that the Council recommend denial of the Norwegian request for a directed fishery permit and encouraged the Norwegians to submit a joint venture proposal; seconded by Keith Specking. The motion carried with Don Bevan in objection.

Clarification on Taiyo/Pan-Alaska Joint Venture

Charles Miller of Pan-Alaska Fisheries, Inc., Seattle, presented a letter to the Council to clarify Pan-Alaska's association with Taiyo Fisheries in its 1981 joint venture operation. Pan-Alaska did not participate in the fishery, but recruited two American catcher boats to work with Taiyo. The joint venture contract was made directly between Taiyo and the American fishermen. The boats recruited were not under corporate influence, and neither of the vessels has fished for Pan-Alaska, either before or after the joint venture. Pan-Alaska did not market, assist in marketing, or purchase any of the product.

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

E-1 Salmon FMP

Confederated Tribes vs. Baldrige

Bert Larkins and Bob McVey, Directors of the NMFS Northwest Region and Alaska Region, respectively, are responsible for preparing the response to the Court in the Confederated Tribes vs. Baldrige case. Because of the broad range of management alternatives for 1982 amendments which will be before the Council and Board for final action in March, *Bob McVey moved that the Council authorize the North Pacific Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating Committee, comprised of Council members Bevan, Skoog, and Demmert, to work with the Pacific Council's Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating Committee to review the available regulatory options, attempt to coordinate regulatory measures, and report to the Council at the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Bevan, who noted that a similar motion has been passed by the Pacific Council. There being no objection, it was so ordered.*

Report of the Technical Committee

Bill Robinson, NMFS, summarized the technical committee's evaluation of the reductions needed from the various ocean fisheries to increase Columbia River upriver "bright" runs from the 1981 level of 63,900 to 80,000 and 100,000 brights. Major conclusions of the report were:

1. The Washington Department of Fisheries has estimated the minimum run size necessary to achieve the spawning escape-ment goal of 40,000 fish at McNary Dam with no in-river harvest is about 100,000 brights, assuming the 1981 interdam loss rate.
2. Total closure of the FCZ off both Alaska and Washington-Oregon, north of Cape Falcon, is estimated to return less than 7,000 - 11,000 additional brights to the Columbia River after a full brood cycle.
3. The maximum achievable run size from total closure of all United States ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon is estimated to be 91,000 brights.
4. Significant reductions in the British Columbia ocean fisheries must also occur in order to achieve a return to the Columbia River in excess of 100,000 brights.
5. A return of 80,000 brights to the river can be achieved by a 67% reduction in the Alaska catch with no change to the Washington-Oregon seasons north of Cape Falcon, or by a 54% reduction in the Alaska catch combined with total closure of the Washington-Oregon fishery north of Cape Falcon, assuming the 1981 level of Canadian fisheries.

6. The most recent analysis of the long-term distribution of the bright catch shows there has been a 14% reduction in the catch from British Columbia and a 35% reduction in the catch from Alaska. The reductions are the consequence of a smaller run size, but the greater magnitude of the Alaska reduction is most certainly a result of applying 1981 management measures in the simulation.

These estimates result from application of the regulatory regime for a full brood cycle. The most recent analyses still rely on tag recoveries from the 1975 brood, which culminated in 1980, adjusted for the actual 1981 terminal run size and fishing seasons. Tag recoveries from the 1981 fisheries will not be available for comparison with this analysis until March.

Mr. Robinson concluded that if the 1981 interdam loss rate continues and if Canada does not also reduce its catch of brights, there is no level of reduction in the U.S. ocean fisheries that would achieve a return of brights to the Columbia River large enough to meet spawning escapement needs, even without an in-river harvest.

The technical group also concluded that, although it is still perhaps the best information available, the WDF model is extremely limited in its application to chinook stocks because it holds constant over the brood cycle several factors which normally can vary annually.

1982 Troll Salmon Amendments

In July the Council issued a request for proposals for 1982 Southeast Alaska troll salmon regulations. The proposal period, originally scheduled to end in late September, was extended until the January Council/Board meeting. The Council received several public proposals for amendments. Several proposals received by the Board would also affect management in the FCZ.

The Salmon Plan Maintenance Team determined that proposals requiring joint consideration by the Council and Board were:

1. Chinook salmon harvest guideline/optimum yield range.
Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals #109 (staff), 111, 112
NPFMC OY proposals #2 through 8
2. Open area west of Cape Suckling to trolling.
Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal #128
NPFMC area proposal #2
3. Treble hooks.
Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal #127
NPFMC gear proposal #7
4. Retention of tagged, undersized salmon.
Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal #130 (staff)
NPFMC size limit proposal #2

5. Number of lines.
Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals #120, 121, 122, 125
NPFMC gear proposals #2, 3, 4, 6
6. Definition of FCZ Management Unit.
Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal #133
NPFMC area proposals #3, 4

The Council and Board were scheduled to select preferred options for the 1982 salmon proposals after hearing staff reports on the resource and take final action at the March Council/Board meeting so the fishery can be opened by emergency order on May 15 as in 1981.

Staff Reports

Report on the 1981 Southeast Alaska Troll Season

Al Davis of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Southeast Region, reported that 247,000 chinook salmon, 861,000 cohos, 576,000 pinks, 9,000 chums, and 7,600 sockeye were harvested in the 1981 troll fishery. Seventy-two percent of the 1981 troll catch of chinook was taken in coastal State and offshore Federal waters, with 26% of the catch reportedly taken in the FCZ.

During 1981 the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission issued 973 power troll permits and 2,150 hand troll permits; preliminary estimates of gear actually fished during the 1981 season are 850 power troll and 1,150 hand troll units. Hand troll permits accounted for approximately 13% of the chinook troll catch and 21% of the coho troll catch.

Winter and summer seasons were established for the purpose of maintaining the traditional winter troll fishery and to facilitate enumeration of catch statistics. The winter troll season was established as October 1 through April 14. To provide maximum benefit to depressed Alaskan chinook stocks, the Board closed the troll fishery from April 15 to May 14 and the summer season was established as May 15 through September 20.

The 1981 troll fishery was managed to insure that the chinook salmon catch did not exceed the guideline harvest level established by the Board (272,000 to 288,000 fish). By June 15 it was apparent that catch levels at that date were above three of the four most recent year's catches. Had catch patterns continued season at those levels the guideline harvest level would have been reached by late July. Therefore, the troll fishery was closed for nine days, June 26 through July 5. Following the re-opening of the troll fishery on July 5, chinook and coho catches were monitored on a weekly basis. By the first week of August it appeared that the chinook harvest was comparable to previous years and catch projections indicated that the catch would reach the guideline harvest level by the first week of September. Coho returns to inside areas were poor and below the ten-year average, while coho catches by the troll

fishery in outer areas were relatively strong compared to recent years. The troll fishery was closed again on August 10 for ten days to allow more coho to reach inside areas. NMFS issued a similar regulation for the FCZ, but did not re-open the FCZ to trolling for the remainder of the 1981 season because projections indicated that the Council's OY ceiling of 272,000 chinooks would be achieved and significant hook and release mortality could be expected if a coho-directed fishery were re-opened.

The fishery re-opened on August 20 and continued until September 4 when all areas were closed to the taking of chinooks and districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, and portions of districts 9 and 12 were closed to protect weak coho runs. Between September 4 and September 10 the Department made a concerted effort to collect all outstanding fish tickets from remote buyers and landing ports to tabulate the chinook catch. Preliminary figures at September 10 indicated that the chinook catch was at the low end of the Board's guideline harvest range. In order to prevent hook/release mortality of chinook salmon during the ongoing coho fishery, the troll fishery was re-opened to the taking of chinook in those areas still open to coho fishing. The fishery remained open in those areas until the close of the summer season on September 20.

Preliminary estimates of the total chinook catch by all gear, including that portion of the winter troll fishery from October 1 to December 31, 1980, indicate a harvest of approximately 268,100 fish. This total includes approximately 19,500 fish taken incidentally in net and trap fisheries.

Chinook escapements to the Taku, Stikine, and Alsek Rivers showed significant improvement over 1980. In the southern portion of Southeast Alaska, however, escapements to the medium-sized streams in Behm Canal were mixed. The Blossom and Keta Rivers escapements were approximately twice the 1980 escapements, but the Unuk River escapement was less than 1980 and the Chikamin River escapement showed little improvement.

Preliminary estimates of coho escapements in 1981 appear to have improved over recent years. The primary reasons for the improvements were the August 10 - 20 troll closure and late season net gear restrictions.

Report on Chinook Salmon Studies in Southeast Alaska

Gary Sanders, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, reported on the chinook salmon research project which is used to determine the status of chinook stocks native to Southeast Alaska. Annual operations include escapement surveys in the major and medium producing systems, collection of biological information from spawners (age, length, and sex composition data), and microwire tagging of juveniles and smolts to determine ocean migration patterns, areas of harvest, and other life history information.

Report on Spring 1981 Research Troll Fishery

Mike Bethers reported that a troll research fishery was conducted in northern Southeast Alaska waters from April 16 to May 11, 1981. During the fishery 764 chinook salmon were tagged, eleven stocks of chinooks in the study area were identified, and a study of efficiency and hook-induced mortality of single and treble hooks was conducted.

As of September 30, 1981, 45 disc tagged fish with complete information had been recovered. Chinook salmon tagged in outside areas were recovered at nearly three times the rate of fish tagged in inner Icy Strait. The percentages of Alaskan and non-Alaskan recoveries tagged in outer areas were 28.6% and 71.4%, respectively, as compared to 80.6% and 19.4%, respectively, for fish tagged in inner Icy Strait. Overall, 29 tag recoveries (64.4%) were made in Alaskan waters and 15 (35.6%) were made in non-Alaskan waters. Of the nine coded wire tagged chinook salmon caught, six had been released from hatcheries in Southeast Alaska, one from British Columbia, and two from Oregon. No coded wire tagged wild Alaskan chinook salmon were caught.

Hook performance data suggested that the hooking rate for treble hooks is significantly higher than for single hooks, and that treble hooks could be expected to produce an 18% higher catch. The study indicated that a lower hook injury rate occurs with treble hooks than single hooks; however, additional data would be required to determine whether the difference is statistically significant.

Other Reports

Mike Fraidenberg, technical representative from the Washington Department of Fisheries, presented various reports on the concerns of management agencies from Alaska to California regarding coastwide chinook salmon stocks and an evaluation of 1981 management measures related to attaining minimum escapement goals and rebuilding the depressed Upper Columbia River "bright" fall chinook stocks. Using the National Bureau of Standards/Washington Department of Fisheries salmon model, WDF attempted to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures taken along the Pacific Coast for the purpose of increasing spawning escapements to the Columbia River. Of the regulatory options considered in the model's simulation, only complete closure of the Southeast Alaska/northern British Columbia troll fisheries or coho-only fisheries in Southeast Alaska to central British Columbia, plus additional coastwide June closures in all other areas, would yield terminal run sizes within the range of objectives.

Plan Maintenance Team Report

The Plan Maintenance Team reviewed the most recent data on catch, distribution, effort, and escapements and, recognizing that additional and revised information which may influence tentative conclusions will be available by the March meeting, summarized the status of chinook stocks coastwide as follows:

1. Columbia River -- record low runs; predicted lower for 1982.
2. Washington coastal stocks - near escapement levels.
3. Oregon coastal stocks - stable at recently improved levels.
4. British Columbia - a 50-60% decline in Georgia Straits and Fraser River escapements over the last ten years.
5. Southeast Alaska - stable at depressed level with some rebuilding begun.

The PMT concluded that the 1981 regulatory regime contributed to the improvement in Southeast Alaska runs, noting less positive improvement to other stocks.

It was the consensus of the PMT that major natural chinook stocks on a coastwide basis (Columbia River to Cape Suckling, Alaska) are still viable but currently achieving escapements far below optimum or even minimum escapement goals. The PMT did not reach a consensus that an amendment to the FMP is necessary to address this problem.

The PMT suggested that the Council proceed on the assumption that an amendment may be necessary so that implementation requirements can be met, and suggested that the following alternatives be addressed:

Alternative 1: Status quo, harvest guideline of 272,000.

Alternative 2: Status quo, harvest guideline of 243,000.

Alternative 3: Total closure of the FCZ as part of a time/area approach to reducing catch and redistributing catch, or used in conjunction with other options.

Alternative 4: No directed fishery for chinook salmon in S.E. Alaska. The possibility of an incidental catch allowance while coho and pink fishing should be considered.

The factors considered for each of the four alternatives are included in the report of the Plan Maintenance Team, made a part of these Minutes as Appendix II.

Report on Canadian Troll Catch

Garnet Jones of the Division of Oceans, Government of Canada, reported that preliminary British Columbia troll catches in 1980 were down from previous years. Figures for the 1981 catch were not yet available, but Mr. Jones hoped to have them for the March meeting. North Coast troll catches in 1980 totaled 243,000 fish, compared to the 1971-1980 period high catch of 358,000 in 1972. The British Columbia ocean troll catch, not including Georgia

Straits, was 722,000 fish in 1980, compared to a 1971-1980 period high of 1,005,000 in 1974. Mr. Jones noted that Canada has no directed net fisheries on chinooks.

Ken Petrie, also with the Division of Oceans of the Government of Canada, said that Canada has taken many steps to get the troll fishery into shape and halt its expansion. They have implemented gear restrictions, such as the use of barbless hooks only and a maximum of six lines, a later season opening date for cohos (July 1 rather than June 15) to reduce the overall exploitation rate coastwide, and a shortened troll season, April 15 to September 30 rather than April 15 to October 31. In 1981 they began monitoring juvenile chinook areas and closed one major chinook area from April 15 to May 15, re-opened it for seven days, and then closed it again until July 1. This resulted in a major savings of legal size chinooks. Area restrictions imposed in the Georgia Straits reduced the number of boats in that area from 1,000 to 345.

Changes were also made in the recreational fisheries. The size limit for chinooks was raised from 12" to 18", the bag limit was reduced, and the Fraser River was closed entirely to recreational fishing.

Mr. Petrie said that final tabulation of 1981 harvest figures is a high priority item and will be provided to the Council as soon as they are available.

Report of the SSC

After reviewing the report of the Plan Maintenance Team and various reports on the status of stocks contributing to the Alaska troll fishery, the SSC developed the following recommendations.

Optimum Yield and Seasons. The SSC found that the conservation issue identified last year seems to have been addressed by the current management regime. Preliminary escapement data for the major Southeast Alaska streams indicates that escapement levels have increased. The total increase is estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000 fish. The 15-year rebuilding plan proposed last year provided for an estimated average increase of 7,500 fish annually during the first five years. The SSC concluded that the 1981 management measures are meeting the needs of Southeast Alaska chinook stocks and the rebuilding plan.

The SSC found that a conservation issue exists for natural stock escapement levels of Columbia River bright chinook stocks (21,000 fish in 1981) compared to the 1981 minimum escapement goal of 40,000 fish established by the Washington Department of Fisheries. The SSC recommended that this conservation issue be addressed in a manner similar to that for the Southeast Alaska chinook stocks and that a plan for rebuilding the stocks to an identified escapement goal be developed and adopted. The formulation of this rebuilding plan would require active and

cooperative participation from all management and user groups. A combination of the following courses of action could be used to increase escapement:

- (1) Reduction of interdam loss;
- (2) Reduction of in-river harvest;
- (3) Reduction of Oregon/Washington coastal harvest;
- (4) Reduction of British Columbia harvest;
- (5) Reduction of Alaskan harvest;
- (6) Increased survival of downstream migrants.

In selecting the desirable combination of actions, avoidance of major social and economic disruption should be the determining factor.

The SSC examined the effects of several of these courses of action on the escapement of Columbia River bright chinook stocks and concluded that neither the North Pacific Council nor the Alaska Board of Fisheries, either singly or in combination, has the ability to completely resolve this conservation issue without the cooperative support of other agencies, including but not limited to the Canadian Government, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Washington Department of Fisheries, enforcement officials in Washington State, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville Power Authority, Corps of Engineers, the treaty tribes, and others.

Based on available data and analysis, the SSC recommended that the 1982 optimum yield be maintained at 243,000 to 272,000 fish and that the Council take an active role in developing the proposed rebuilding plan.

The SSC recommended that the PMT/PDT be directed to develop an amendment to the FMP for the 1983 season which will allow OY to be adjusted annually to account for Southeast Alaska hatchery stock production.

Area. The SSC recommended that the PMT be instructed to make sure that the FMP is clear regarding which waters are covered by the Plan.

Size Limit. The SSC supported the Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposal to allow the retention of chinook salmon under 28 inches which have a tag attached or a fully healed, clipped adipose fin, with the understanding that these salmon may not be sold.

In-Season Management. The SSC reviewed Board proposal 112, which would close specific areas during the coho season rather than closing the entire management zone, and determined that the

Regional Director currently has this authority and, therefore, no plan amendment is required. The SSC found Board proposal 113, providing for no in-season closures during the troll season, contrary to the requirements of the rebuilding plan adopted last year.

Gear. The SSC recommended that the status quo be maintained for all gear regulations.

Foreign Fisheries. The SSC recommended that the Gulf of Alaska PDT consider, as part of the rewrite of the Gulf FMP, the use of time and area trawl closures when high concentrations of salmon are observed.

Report of the Advisory Panel

Optimum Yield. The Advisory Panel endorsed the PMT alternative harvest guideline of 272,000 chinook for 1982 and suggested that it would be difficult to justify additional cuts in the Southeast Alaska optimum yield without some assurance of a reduction in Canadian interceptions and resolution of the question of inter-dam losses of both returning fish and juvenile fish. The Advisory Panel felt that last year's reductions by the Council contributed to the improvement of Southeast Alaskan stocks, and that additional restrictions on the troll fishery would place undue hardship on the fishery's participants.

Seasons. The AP voted to maintain the status quo for chinook and coho seasons, i.e., chinook - May 15 to September 20 and coho - June 15 to September 20. The Advisory Panel suggested that the Regional Director be granted authority to close specific areas within the FCZ during coho season, rather than the entire FCZ to achieve management goals.

The Advisory Panel voted to maintain the status quo for the number of lines fished by power trollers; to repeal the ban on treble hooks; to adopt a single management system over the waters of Alaska by reconciling the State's definition of the FCZ; and to maintain the status quo for non-FCZ hand and power troll allocations.

Public Testimony

A summary of public testimony received on the 1982 salmon management proposals is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix III.

Council Session, Wednesday, January 6

Chairman Tillion suggested that the Council ask the Board to match the Council's OY range of 243,000 - 272,000 fish set last year. The Council could then recommend that the NMFS Regional Director hold the troll catch in the FCZ to the lower end of the range, subject to final action taken on 1982 salmon proposals at the March Council meeting. Holding the catch to the lower end of OY would result in additional chinook savings of about 9% over last year.

Don Bevan moved that the Council ask the Board to match its OY range of 243,000 - 272,000 chinook salmon and that the Council grant authority to the the Regional Director to implement whatever closures may be necessary to hold the troll catch in the FCZ to the lower end of the range, subject to changes which may result from final Council action on the troll salmon proposals at the March meeting; seconded by Keith Specking.

Gene DiDonato favored delaying final action until the March meeting, to allow for final tabulation of data and completion of discussions with the Canadians; however, he felt that managing to the midpoint of the 243,000-272,000 chinook optimum yield would not provide sufficient relief for depressed southern stocks.

Mr. Collinsworth spoke against the motion, citing the need for demonstration of reciprocity from the Canadians before taking further cuts in the Southeast Alaska troll fishery.

Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 7 to 3, with Council members Collinsworth, Mace, and DiDonato in objection.

Don Bevan then moved for reconsideration of the motion after discussions with the Board; seconded by Harold Lokken. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Council/Board Action

Optimum Yield

Vice-Chairman Lokken explained the Council's actions to the Board and asked them to consider adopting the Council's range for optimum yield and to withhold final action on the 1982 troll salmon regulations until the March Board meeting. Don Collinsworth explained the Council's decision to maintain an OY range of 243,000 - 272,000 fish and asked the Board to consider taking complementary action.

Vice-Chairman Lokken encouraged the Board to adopt the Council's OY range as visible evidence to the Court in the Confederated Tribes case that the Council and Board are working together to address the conservation problems facing upper Columbia River chinook stocks. The purpose for deferring final action until the March meeting is to allow for changes which may be substantiated by data on the coastwide troll fisheries still being compiled and to see what concessions Canada is willing to make in the government-to-government negotiations scheduled for February.

Don Bevan explained that the Council is asking the Board to set the numbers for their OY range at 243,000 - 272,000 fish, but not necessarily to also manage to the lower end of that range.

Nick Szabo said that the Board's OY range for 1981 (272,000 - 288,000 fish) afforded improvement to the stocks in accordance with the 15-year rebuilding plan established last year, and felt that rebuilding is right on or ahead of schedule.

Bob McVey countered that the benefits to Southeast Alaskan stocks were notable, but benefits to the Columbia River and other Pacific Coast stocks were far below even the minimum goals. He explained that adopting the 243,000 - 272,000 optimum yield and managing to the lower end of the range would provide an additional reduction of 9% from the 1981 catch level and place the State of Alaska in a better bargaining position with Judge Craig when he renders his preliminary decision on the Confederated Tribes case in February.

Gene DiDonato said that the majority of stocks contributing to the Southeast Alaska troll fishery originate in British Columbia and from the Columbia River south. Southeast Alaska stocks make up only a portion of the stocks contributing to the fishery, and the decline in British Columbia and southern stocks must be halted. This is a coastwide concern which must be addressed by all the participants involved, including Canada.

John Harville agreed, suggesting that the Council and Board address the issue as a coastwide problem in an attempt to pressure others with joint responsibility for the fishery to do likewise. Continuity between the Council and Board will send a signal to the Canadians that they must do their part to contribute to the solution.

Board Action

Jim Beaton moved that Board proposal 109 be amended to read:

"5 AAC 35.365 SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA-YAKUTAT CHINOOK AND COHO SALMON TROLL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN.

"(b) The Board recognizes ... The department shall make inseason adjustments to limit salmon fishing seasons, periods, and areas for conservation purposes and to limit the total commercial king salmon harvest by all gear types to a range of 243,000 to 288,000 fish."

The motion was seconded by Harry Sundberg. Upon call for the question, the motion to amend proposal 109 carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

It was then moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 109 as amended. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Board Chairman Szabo asked the Canadian officials present to submit their report to the Board as soon as possible on the the 1981 sport, troll, and net catches by statistical area by week; their analysis of the 1981 fishery; and a description of their plans for the 1982 fishery and the benefits they expect to derive from these measures.

Proposal to Extend the Troll Fishery West of Cape Suckling

Board proposal 128, submitted by the Pelican and Elfin Cove Advisory Committees and Alessandro T. Hill, would open the area west of Cape Suckling to trolling. Their justification in support of the proposal was that it would reduce effort and harvest on Southeast Alaska stocks and provide economic advantages to the westward areas.

Board Action

It was moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 128 to open the troll fishery to areas west of Cape Suckling. Upon call for the question, the motion failed by a vote of 0 to 7.

Council Action

Don Bevan moved that the Council concur with the Board's decision not to open the troll fishery west of Cape Suckling; seconded by Bob Mace. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Treble Hooks

Board proposal 127, submitted by the Alaska Trollers Association and the Elfin Cove, Ketchikan, and Pelican Advisory Committees, would repeal the ban on treble hooks adopted by the Board in 1981. Justification for the proposal was that existing studies on single hooks versus treble hooks show no significant difference in mortality rates.

Board Action

It was moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 127 to repeal the ban on treble hooks. Upon call for the question the motion failed by a vote of 3 to 4.

Board member Chris Goll suggested that the ADF&G staff clarify the regulation to specifically state that only single hooks may be used in the troll fishery.

Council Action

Bob Mace moved that the Council concur with the Board to continue the ban on treble hooks; seconded by Don Collinsworth. Upon call for the question, the motion carried with Joe Demmert in objection.

Retention of Tagged Undersized Salmon

Board proposal 130, submitted by ADF&G staff, would allow tagged, undersized salmon and those with fully healed adipose fin clips to be retained; require that the tags and heads be submitted to the Department along with the date and location of the catch; and prohibit the sale of troll-caught chinook salmon under 28 inches in length. The Council's Troll Salmon FMP would require amendment to allow retention of these salmon.

Board Action

It was moved and seconded that proposal 130 be amended by striking the words "fully healed". Upon call for the question, the motion to amend the proposal passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

It was then moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 130 as amended. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Council Action

Don Bevan moved that the Council amend the fishery management plan to provide for the retention of tagged, undersized chinook salmon in the troll and sport fisheries in the FCZ; seconded by Don Collinsworth. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Number of Lines

Board proposal 120, submitted by Chuck Porter, would allow trollers to have more than one legal limit of gear on board. Proposal 121, submitted by David R. Carlson, would reduce the number of gurdies allowed on power troll vessels from six to four north and west of Cape Spencer. Proposal 122, submitted by the Angoon Advisory Committee, would allow the use of four lines on hand troll vessels. Proposal 125, submitted by Chuck Porter, would allow the use of down riggers by hand troll vessels.

Board Action

It was moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 120. The motion failed by a vote of 0 to 7.

It was moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 121. The motion failed by a vote of 0 to 7.

It was moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 122. The motion failed by a vote of 1 to 6.

It was moved and seconded that the Board adopt proposal 125. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 4.

Council Action

Bob Mace moved that the Council concur with the Board to maintain the status quo for hand and power troll gear, insofar as possible under the National Standards; seconded by Don Collinsworth. Upon call for the question, the motion carried with Don Bevan in objection.

Definition of the FCZ

Board proposal 133, submitted by the Ketchikan Advisory Committee, would clarify the boundaries of state and federal waters as follows:

5 AAC 33.312

"(d) State trolling regulations shall apply in those waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 and those waters of the coastal fishing zone within three miles due west and seaward of the surfline."

The Ketchikan Advisory Committee suggested that confusion resulting from the FCZ closure in August 1981 may be dispelled by maintaining traditional "inside" areas during FCZ closures.

Bob McVey told the Board that the Council must work within the federal definition of the FCZ from which there can be no deviations. NMFS hopes to avoid this problem in 1982 by stating specifically to which waters a given closure will apply.

Net-Marked Salmon

The Council and Board received numerous reports of net-marked salmon caught in the 1981 troll fishery and inspected two net-marked specimens brought to the meeting by members of the public.

The Council asked Bob McVey to prepare a report for the March meeting on the problem of net-marked salmon to give the Council and Board direction for further investigation of the problem.

Scheduling for March Meeting

The Council and Board agreed that the first day of the March joint session will be reserved for staff reports and public testimony on the 1982 salmon proposals.

E-2 Herring FMP

In September the Council voted to withdraw the Herring FMP from Secretarial review so the PMT could make wording changes to clarify certain sections, improve management flexibility, and ensure that the formulas worked as they were intended. In December the Team brought their suggestions to the SSC and Council for preliminary review. The SSC asked the Team to re-evaluate certain suggestions, explain their rationale, and answer a series of questions posed by the SSC. The Team's response to those questions is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix IV. The Council also received the Team's recommended wording changes to the FMP, modified to include alternatives.

The Council received a report on the status of major world herring stocks by Vidar Weststad of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center.

The Council reviewed a letter from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries urging the Council not to resubmit the Herring Plan to Secretarial review. The Board and ADF&G consider an offshore fishery on mixed stocks to be

inconsistent with the State's goal of full utilization of the resource through inshore fisheries managed on a discrete stock basis. The FMP would permit an offshore fishery only if a surplus is determined to exist after the inshore fishery takes place. The State contended that the existing inshore fishery is fully capable of harvesting the biological surplus and felt that the FMP's definition of optimum yield and the potential for a surplus that could be used offshore was inappropriate.

SSC Report

The SSC reviewed the proposed revisions to the Bering/Chukchi Sea Herring FMP and the PMT's response to the SSC's questions on the Plan and offered the following comments and recommendations.

Subsistence Stocks. The SSC concurred with the Team's recommendation that subsistence stocks be included in biomass estimates as originally stated in the FMP which was submitted to the Secretary.

Spawning Biomass Estimates. The Plan Maintenance Team identified the need for alternative procedures to estimate biomass if aerial survey data are not available and proposed several general alternatives to accomplish this. The SSC suggested that a specific, quantitative procedure is necessary as an alternative to aerial survey data.

The SSC recommended that, in the event that aerial survey estimates are unavailable, a preliminary biomass estimate be calculated by applying standard virtual population analysis techniques using the previous year's aerial survey estimate as a base. This preliminary estimate should be revised in-season as more definitive data on stock size, recruitment, and age composition become available. The Team agreed that such a procedure could be written into the Plan.

Maximum Exploitation Rate. The Team recognized the deficiency of the original FMP in failing to establish an upper limit to the herring exploitation rate and proposed an upper limit of 39%, derived from a yield per recruit analysis. The SSC felt that the 39% maximum exploitation rate is too high in light of uncertainty in biomass estimates, natural fluctuations, forage needs, and other considerations and recommended a maximum exploitation rate of 20%.

Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC). The AIC maximum proposed by the Plan Maintenance Team is 3,000 mt per year. This AIC assures a low level of incidental herring catches but also incorporates a degree of subjectivity in setting annual levels below the maximum and does not accommodate necessary adjustments should an AIC above 3,000 mt be justified. The SSC recommended that AIC be set by the following formula:

$$\text{AIC} = \overline{\text{IR}}_{79-81} \times \text{Groundfish Allocations}$$

The SSC was concerned, however, that on a long-term basis the formula may need to be revised to provide additional flexibility for management, and recommended that the Team consider modifications which could improve the AIC formula for later incorporation into the Plan as an amendment.

Resubmission to the Secretary. The SSC recommended, subject to incorporation of their recommendations into the Plan, that the Council resubmit the Plan to the Secretary.

Other. The SSC discussed the "use it or lose it" aspects of the Plan and issued the following statement:

"The SSC recognizes that management measures could affect the competitive relationship that exists between fishermen and processors. It is not clear at this point in time how management measures proposed for the herring fishery will affect this relationship. When information is provided on this matter, the SSC will re-examine the issue."

Public Testimony

Henry Mitchell, executive director of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, said he was upset by reports that substantial amounts of herring (in the range of 30,000 mt) have shown up on the Japanese market in the last month. He suggested that the Plan include a method to account for illegal harvest, and asked the Council not to resubmit the Plan until this issue has been addressed.

Bob McVey told Mr. Mitchell that it is the opinion of the National Marine Fisheries Service that illegal herring catches of that magnitude are not possible from Alaska's waters. Ron Naab said that the American Embassy in Tokyo and the Japanese government are each investigating these reports, but reports are not yet available. He suggested that herring catches in the range of 30,000 mt would more likely come from the Soviet side of the Bering Sea.

CDR Peter Busick of the U.S. Coast Guard said that a total of 21 boardings have been conducted this fall on vessels which were suspected of illegally taking herring in the Bering Sea; no herring was found on any of the vessels boarded.

Norm Cohen, representing Nunam Kitlutsisti, testified in support of the Board's letter to the Council. He opposed the use of an AIC formula after September 30; favored a maximum exploitation rate of 20%; and urged a moratorium on any kind of high seas herring fishery until the inshore fishery has had a chance to work out its problems.

Denny Kimball, president of the Halibut Producers Cooperative, suggested that all foreign vessels leaving Alaska be instructed to report their departure from the U.S. zone and be inspected before they are allowed to leave. He favored the use of economic disincentives to discourage prohibited species catches.

Council Action

Don Bevan moved that the Council accept the recommendations of the SSC and, after having incorporated these recommendations into the FMP, resubmit the Plan to Secretarial review; seconded by Gene DiDonato.

Don Collinsworth opposed the motion in light of the reasons cited by the Board and ADF&G in their letter to the Council. He said that under current circumstances there is no need for a Herring Plan; however, if the Council feels compelled to submit a plan, the State would propose that it take the form of a "contingency plan." Mr. Collinsworth contended that a single year's surplus should not automatically call forth a new fishery. He said that the existing inshore fishery is capable of harvesting any surplus which may occur.

Don Bevan defended his motion, stating that there are no conservation issues involved, only emotional issues. For two of the last three years the inshore fishery has not harvested what it said it would. Dr. Bevan felt that the information gathered from the offshore fishery will be useful for future management decisions, and urged the Council to adopt the motion.

Upon roll call vote, the motion passed by a vote of 6 to 3 with Council members Collinsworth, Demmert, and Specking in objection.

The Council instructed the Executive Director to have the staff look into the concept of multi-year adjustments to the Herring FMP and report to the Council as soon as possible.

E-3 King Crab FMP

The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab FMP, DEIS, RIR, and minority report were submitted to the the Central Office to begin NEPA and Secretarial review on December 15. Due to the innovative management concepts presented in these documents, the Council felt it would be advantageous to conduct a "walk-through" of the Plan with the Central Office review staff to hasten the review process.

Bill Gordon said that the Plan Review staff would complete its preliminary review in late January and suggested that the walk-through be scheduled for the week of February 8.

After lengthy discussion on the make-up of the delegation, *Bob Mace moved that the Chairman appoint the delegation for the king crab walk-through; seconded by Joe Demmert. Upon call for the question, the motion carried with Harold Lokken in objection.*

E-4 Tanner Crab FMP

Plan Coordinator Steve Davis reported that problems still exist with pot storage in Bristol Bay. Prior to the beginning of the 1981 king crab season, 30 citations were issued by the Alaska Department of Public Safety for the storage of crab pots outside designated pot storage areas. There have also been reports of gear conflicts with foreign trawlers in pot storage areas. Mr. Davis suggested that the Ad Hoc Pot Storage Committee meet with ADPS enforcement personnel to review the problems with the current storage areas and develop alternatives.

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Pot Storage Workgroup was set for January 18, 1982, in Seattle. Proposals formulated at that meeting will be submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for inclusion in their shellfish proposals to be considered at the spring Board meeting.

E-5 Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Executive Director asked the Council to consider adding a provision to Amendment #11 which would allow the NMFS Regional Director to issue field orders to adjust time and/or area restrictions on foreign fisheries for conservation reasons. This provision is currently included in the FMP as Section 8.3.1.1(H), but applies only to domestic fisheries.

The Council instructed the Executive Director to include in Amendment #11 the provision for Regional Director field order authority to restrict foreign fisheries for conservation reasons.

Public Hearing on Amendment #11

The Council held a public hearing on Amendment #11 on Friday morning, January 8, 1982, in Room 117 of the Federal Building in Juneau. The comment period for Amendment #11 ends on February 8.

A summary of testimony presented at the hearing is made a part of these Minutes as Appendix V.

As a result of hearing testimony requesting that the comment period be extended due to the introduction of new data in a report by Barry Bracken, the public comment period for Amendment #11 was extended to 5 p.m. on March 5, 1982.

E-6 Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Council staff review of Amendment #4 to the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP disclosed the need for several modifications before the amendment is sent to Secretarial review. The staff suggested that the NMFS Regional Director be given authority to issue field orders to adjust time/area closures for conservation reasons, thus enabling immediate response to unanticipated stock conditions. This field order authority would apply to both the foreign and domestic fisheries. Other

inconsistencies which need to be corrected pertain to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for sablefish and Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Other Species.

The Council instructed the Executive Director to make whatever changes are necessary to correct these deficiencies before submitting Amendment #4 to Secretarial review.

F. CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

F-1 Status of Contracts and RFP's

Contract 80-4

The SSC Review Group for Contract 80-4, "To Expand and Enhance the Domestic Commercial Fisheries Catch Data Reporting System Off Alaska," visited ADF&G's offices to review the operation of the Data Reporting System which was developed under this contract. Test runs could not be observed during the review because the system was down, but based on a review of the documentation available and printouts of actual runs on the system, the SSC recommended that the Council approve the contract for final payment.

Upon the recommendation of the SSC, the Council approved Contract 80-4 for final payment.

King and Tanner Crab Observer Program

The SSC reviewed the study proposal, "Determination of the Feasibility of a Crab Observer Program in Providing Specific Data Needs for the Management of the King and Tanner Crab Fisheries," and recommended that the Council proceed with the necessary steps to acquire funding to implement the study. The SSC noted that this study is an expansion of the existing Alaska Department of Fish and Game dockside sampling program and suggested that ADF&G be retained as sole source to conduct the study.

Upon the recommendation of the SSC, the Council instructed the Executive Director to request funding for the King and Tanner Crab Observer Program.

Fishermen's Conference

The Council approved funding of up to \$4,000 for a meeting of the Crab Observer "Fishermen's Conference" in Seattle on January 19.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No further public testimony was presented to the Council.

H. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the 46th Plenary Session of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 1982.

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix I: Advisory Panel's Proposed Regulations for Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary
- Appendix II: Report of the Salmon Plan Maintenance Team
- Appendix III: Summary of Public Testimony on Salmon Proposals
- Appendix IV: Response of the Herring Plan Maintenance Team to Questions of the SSC
- Appendix V: Summary of Public Testimony, January 8, 1982
Public Hearing on Gulf of Alaska Amendment #11