

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Certified by Stephanie Madsen
Date 84-18-96

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES JANUARY 29-31, 1996 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Advisory Panel members in attendance:

Bruce, John (Chair)
Alstrom, Ragnar
Benson, Dave
Burch, Alvin
Cotton, Bruce
Cross, Craig
Fanning, Kris
Gundersen, Justine
Highleyman, Scott

Jones, Spike
Madsen, Stephanie (Vice-Chair)
Nelson, Hazel
Paddock, Dean
Roos, John
Sevier, John
Wurm, Robert
Yeck, Lyle

Advisory Panel members absent are Dan Falvey, David Fraser, Arne Fuglvog, John Lewis and Pete Maloney.

AP Election of Officers

The AP usually postpones the election of officers until the April meeting, but given the circumstances of the vacated Vice-Chair position, the AP took the following action:

Roos/Cotton nominated Stephanie Madsen as Vice-Chair. Highleyman/Cotton moved nominations be closed. Motion carried with no opposition.

The AP members acknowledged Beth Stewart for the tremendous job she did as Vice-Chair and conveyed their appreciation for her outstanding work. Chair Bruce concurred and was sorry to see Beth go.

Roos/Cotton nominated John Bruce as Chair. Highleyman/Cotton moved to close nominations. Motion carried with no opposition.

C-1 BSAI Pacific Cod Allocations

Due to time constraints and the need for the comprehensive analysis necessary to justify a change in the current P. cod allocation, the AP recommends simplifying the BSAI current analysis to include only the (1) status quo, and (2) rollover of the current allocation for one year. The AP further recommends that during that one-year period, staff undertake the comprehensive analysis necessary to make an informed decision with regard to the other alternatives identified. Motion carries 10/5.

The AP recommends that the analysis should include the impact of:

1. Moratorium
2. License Limitation, including:
 - a. Area endorsements of BS/AI, WGOA, CGOA and EGOA
 - b. CDQ allocations of 7½% of all groundfish and crab
 - c. Southeast trawl ban
 - d. Ownership caps
 - e. Crossover restrictions
 - f. Vessel size increase restrictions
 - g. Jig gear/small boat exemptions
3. Trawl zone closures:
 - Pribilofs
 - Red king crab
4. Marine mammal no trawl zones
5. Halibut/Sablefish IFQ system and Quota Share ownership
6. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization proposal and Council action
7. Estimated impacts on the P. cod fisheries in the GOA as well as estimated impacts on other fisheries in the Bering Sea for all options.
8. New cost benefit analysis based on recent information.
9. Analysis of observer coverage levels.
10. Analysis to include apportioning the catcher/catcher processor halibut PSC in the same percent levels as allocation options.

The motion carried 12/1/2. NOTE: Initially, this motion was made with basically the same verbiage except it contained a *two-year* rollover and the motion failed 6/10. A motion to reconsider action carried on a vote of 10/4 leading to the passage of the above motion.

The AP recommends that the Council begin an analysis to ban trawl target fishing for Bering Sea P. cod during the hours between dusk and dawn (as listed in Civil Twilight tables) and that an industry group be appointed to help work out any enforcement, management or operational problems. Motion carries 13/1/2.

C-2 Sablefish/Halibut IFQs

The AP recommends that the Council send out the Sweep-up provision for public review, but that final action on the Buydown amendment be delayed until final action on Sweep-ups. The motion carries 10/6.

The AP further recommends that an analysis be initiated to examine Bering Sea ownership caps. Options should include a range of .5 to 2%. Motion carries unanimously.

The AP recommends that the Council initiate an analysis for a regulatory amendment authorizing black cod longline pots in the Bering Sea area. Motion carried unanimously.

C-3 Crab Management Issues

The AP recommends the Council not proceed with analysis of PSC flexibility of the *C. bairdi* Tanner crab bycatch limits established for Zone 1 and 2 of the BSAI. Motion carries 14/0.

The AP supports the SSC's summary/recommendations of the crab management issue reached this week with particular emphasis on industry membership in either the Crab Rebuilding Committee or the committee proposed by the SSC. The AP requests a report from this committee at the September meeting. Motion carries 17/0.

The AP recommends that the Council request that analysis of all PSC crab caps be made a priority and remain on the accelerated track. Motion carries unanimously (17/0).

The AP recommends that the Council initiate analysis on appropriate Tanner and red king crab caps in the Gulf of Alaska for all gear types. Motion carries unanimously (17/0).

A motion was made to request that the Council reconsider its prior action and close the Bristol Bay red king crab area to year-round bottom trawling. A motion was then made to table this motion until the April meeting. The motion to table carried 9/8.

C-4 Improved Retention and Utilization

The AP notes that industry operations personnel are not present on the Improved Retention and Utilization committee, specifically the offshore surimi operators.

C-5(a) Pollock ITQs

The AP moved to table agenda item C-5(a). Motion carried unanimously.

D-1(b) Halibut Grid Sorting

The AP supports the IPHC position to "hold onto the grid sorting concept as a possible enhancement to future bycatch reduction programs, but recommend against implementing it as a stand alone requirement." The AP believes that attempts to reduce halibut mortality is important and would urge the Council to examine other experimental programs such as possible grid sorting on catcher vessels delivering to shore side processors as well as addressing the problems of conflicts with VIP and degradation of data that have been identified in this analysis. Motion carried 15/0.

D-1(c) Pollock Trimester Allocations in the Gulf of Alaska

The AP recommends that the Council adopt Alternative 2, Option 1. The AP further requests that the Council review the priority of the regulatory amendment that would include a provision providing a mechanism to return to the quarterly system when the GOA pollock TAC reaches a predetermined level. It is important that this regulatory amendment begin immediately. Motion carried unanimously (17/0).

D-1(d) BSAI Pollock 'B' Season

The AP recommends that the Council send the analysis forward with the status quo and September 1st dates. The AP further recommends that the analysis should include: (1) the impact to the existing 5-block salmon closure, and (2) the effects on the yellowfin sole fishery. Motion carried unanimously.

The AP also recommends that the following alternative be included in the analysis:

- a. Delay of 'B' season for the offshore sector only.

Motion carried unanimously.