

ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES

Sitka, Alaska  
September 5-7, 2001

The following AP members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Benson, Dave	Falvey, Dan	Ridgway, Michelle
Boisseau, Dave	Fraser, Dave	Steele, Jeff
Bruce, John (Chair)	Jones, Spike	Stephan, Jeff
Burch, Alvin	Kandianis, Teresa	Ward, Robert
Cross, Craig	Mayhew, Tracey	Yeck, Lyle
Ellis, Ben	Nelson, Hazel	
Enlow, Tom	Norosz, Kris	

**Steller Sea Lion SEIS**

The AP recommends that the Council reaffirm its selection of Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative with the following modifications:

- A** Incorporate all of the additional recommendations of the RPA committee included in the minutes of the Aug. meeting:
- 1 W/C-GOA pollock C season start date of Aug. 25
  - 2 Revised platooning for the Atka Mackerel fleet
  - 3 Additional restrictions for the Bering Sea cod and pollock fishery
    - a) Closure of Area 8 haulouts (at Reef, Lava, Bishop Pt) to 10 miles for longliners >60'
    - b) Implement a 3 season split of trawl cod at 60/20/20 (50/30/20 for CP and 70/10/20 for CV) with rollover provisions.
    - c) Limit A season SCA pollock harvest to 28% of annual TAC prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>
- B** Incorporate the following recommendations on issues identified by staff, and presented by Chairman Cotter:
- 1 The 19 additional "RPA" haulouts should be treated consistently with CH haulouts.
  - 2 The 5 northern BS 20 mile haulout closures should apply to the Atka Mackerel, pollock, and P.cod fisheries only.
  - 3 Assignment to mackerel platoons should be random (so switching of assignments between vessels is not allowed) and apply to a specific vessel (not a permit).
  - 4 Seasonal splits of P. cod do not apply to longliners <60 (catch fixed gear vessels <60 between the open access seasons accrues to the <60 reserve quota).
  - 5 Maintain the <99' safety exemption in the SCA. NMFS should set aside such A season pollock quota in the SCA as needed for vessels <99' to harvest their full A season pollock quota in the SCA during the period from Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - 6 The SCA pollock limit in the A season should be allocated amongst the sectors proportionally (each sector would be limited to 28% of its annual pollock allocation.)
  - 7 300,000lb trip limits in the GOA and tender restrictions east of 157 degrees W lon in the GOA, as well as stand-down provisions and exclusive registration provisions would be retained.
  - 8 Cod rollovers within the trawl sector should occur within a season prior to allocating to other gear types. Rollovers will continue into subsequent seasons but may be reapportioned if one sector is unable to reach its TAC.
  - 9 Jig gear is exempt from haulout closures except in Area 9 and in the Seguam Foraging Area.

The AP requests that the Council request the BOF to seriously consider adopting parallel restrictions in the parallel cod, pollock and mackerel fisheries in state waters in a timely manner.

Additionally, the AP recommends adding an option to Alt. 4 or some other remedy, which would create an exemption for longline cod CVs >60 in Area 8 to operate between 3-10 miles. *Motion passed 16-1-3.*

*Motion passed 18-1-0*

Further, the AP requests the Council to send the SEIS and draft BiOp out for public review for final action at the October meeting and include the following:

- A Review the use of the CS+/- methodology for consistency (are effects evaluated primary, secondary, or tertiary effects – do secondary or tertiary effects rely on assumptions or documented causal relationships). Clarify that there is no weighting assigned to these findings (one CS+ for species “A” doesn’t necessarily cancel one CS- for species “B”), and that these ratings are only relative comparisons of the alternatives (option 1 may be negative relative to option 2, but the underlying condition may be negative, positive, or trivial in both options.)
- B Include a table (as presented by Chairman Cotter) of the rookery/haulout closures by gear type listing each site (as per table 21 for 2001 RPAs) and clarify that table 3.6 does not reflect the Alt. 4 closure specifications.
- C Review using 1998 TAC as the reference point for “question 2” (prey availability) is the SSL CS+/- analysis
- D A more extensive discussion of the importance of AFA in the gathering of data, monitoring of the fishery, enforcement and management.
- E Amplify the discussion on VMS issues, including:
  - 1) implementation schedule
  - 2) reliability
  - 3) consequences of failures
  - 4) fisheries and sectors where VMS monitoring may not be needed to achieve quota monitoring goals.
- F Clarify that application of Alt. 4 Global Control Rule reduces TAC to the amount necessary for bycatch and puts that species on MRB only status.
- G Analysis of the economic impacts to industry of management and enforcement measures as proposed in each alternative, including compliance costs for vessels to carry observers, observer costs, increased transit costs, impact of lost crew space on production.

Finally, for ongoing SSL issues, the AP recommends:

- 1- An ongoing analysis of the telemetry data that integrates both location and dive behavior from individual at sea trips, to directly estimate spatial and temporal foraging patterns.
- 2 - An ongoing study to outline the statistically significant and biologically important differences in SSL demographics and population trends in the 1970’s and 1980’s compared to the 1990’s.
- 3 - Reassessment of the listing status of the western and eastern SSL stocks.

*Motion passed 19-0*

## **MINORITY REPORTS**

### Alternative 4, Option 1

*A motion to include analysis of Option 1 in the SEIS failed 3-17-0.*

*The minority believes that option 1 would offer the communities of Chignik the opportunity to maintain a fishing economy in their communities using a gear type and harvest methods which would not adversely affect the jeopardy finding. Signed: Hazel Nelson, Dan Falvey, Michelle Ridgway*

### Alternative 4, Option 3

*A motion to include analysis of Alternative 4, option 3 failed 5-12-2. The minority feels that the AMCC GOA Pacific cod zonal approach warrants full analysis in the SEIS to provide the Council the opportunity to make an informed decision in October based on the merits of this plan.*

*Signed: Michelle Ridgway, Hazel Nelson, Bob Ward, Dan Falvey*