

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES
Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan
Implementation Oversight Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Nestucca Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
March 5, 2001

Call to Order

The Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee (SPOC) meeting was called to order by Dr. David Hanson, Chair.

Members in Attendance

Mr. Bob Alverson, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. LB Boydston, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Ralph Brown, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Jim Caito, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Jim Golden, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, designee for Mr. Burnell Bohn
Dr. David Hanson, Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Mr. Bill Robinson, National Marine Fisheries Service

Others in Attendance

Mr. Steve Bodnar, Coos Bay Trawler's Association
Ms. Eileen Cooney, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration - General Counsel
Mr. Brian Culver, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Jim Glock, staff, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Rob Jones, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Cmdr. Ted Lindstrom, US Coast Guard
Mr. Rod Moore, Seafood Processors Association
Dr. Donald Mclsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Jim Seger, staff, Pacific Fishery Management Council

Meeting Summary

General Discussion

Bob Alverson and Ralph Brown recalled the SPOC's previous discussion about allowing limited entry vessels to use alternative gears in order to reduce bycatch or incidental catch as well as to provide better access to species that might be otherwise unavailable. This idea has been suggested to the Council by various stakeholders, and Bob wanted the SPOC to keep it on the radar screen. He suggested removing or revising the permit gear endorsements could reduce some of the allocation disputes, or at least change the nature of those disputes.

Don Mclsaac presented a letter dated February 15, 2001 he sent to Randy Fisher regarding the Council's Fiscal Year 2002 Congressional funding needs (Attachment 1). In particular, he discussed Table 1 at the end of the document that lists strategic plan implementation costs. He presented a second document that outlines costs associated with establishment of marine reserves (Attachment 2). The committee discussed personnel and funding needs for these projects and how receptive Congress might be to providing the necessary funds. The committee concurred with Dr. Mclsaac's figures. LB Boydston reported California will not be able to complete its efforts to assume nearshore fish management, but he hopes this can be accomplished next year. Jim Seger briefed the committee on outside funding sources. No large scale funding sources have been identified at this time. Eileen Cooney discussed the process for accepting outside donations.

The committee discussed its role and the Council's role in setting up marine reserves. There are several agencies and groups moving forward on this, and the committee believes the Council needs to establish its role in the process quickly and effectively. LB asked for a presentation to the committee and Council of a summary of who is doing what so the Council can figure out where to plug in.

Recommendation The SPOC requests preparation of a summary of the agencies and groups currently moving forward to develop marine reserves, who has funding and who is doing what. The report would be presented at the April meeting.

LB summarized a subgroup conference call held January 18, 2001 to discuss an implementation strategy for limiting participation in the open access fishery (Attachment 3). He presented the proposed schedule, noting it is optimistic and achievement would require a substantial commitment of Council resources. He said the committee and Council should consider the costs and benefits of this, and also the interplay with State management goals and activities. The subgroup recommended the Council move forward with developing a restricted access program for the identified fisheries. The SPOC appointed a core policy group to guide and make recommendations on plan development process. The group includes one representative from each coastal state and NMFS and will meet after the April Council meeting, pending Council approval. The core group will consider ways and means of soliciting and receiving public input to the process, specifically how to involve the myriad of different user groups. Council and agency staff (Dr. Hastie) will need to be tasked with preparing plan development documents and to analyze fishery data, as directed.

Recommendation: The SPOC requests Council concurrence. This will be a major work load issue the Council should consider in the context of the other high priority groundfish issues.

Ralph Brown reported on activities relating to buyback efforts. He said the current proposal is to purchase all permits (including state permits) and the vessel, with the goal to increase average vessel revenue by 50%. This would require a reduction of 40%-65% of the current fleet. He said the Fishermen's Marketing Association circulated a questionnaire to all limited entry permit holders regarding their willingness to submit bids, and 77% of the respondents said they would. Of the \$50 million originally proposed, \$38 million would reduce trawl sector leaving \$12 million which would be applied to reduce fixed gear. To reduce an equal number of fixed gear vessels, given current bid prices, would require a total \$74 million. Under the proposal, all commercial fishers would contribute to the purchase of the vessels and associated permits. He believes Senator Wyden will sponsor a bill, once the remaining details are worked out. State legislation would also be necessary.