

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

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Teleconference

May 14, 2001

Call to Order

The Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee (SPOC) meeting was called to order by Dr. Don McIsaac. He provided introductory comments, reviewed agenda topics, and discussed the ground rules for public comment.

Agenda topics included: trawl permit stacking, conversion of the open access fishery to limited entry, and marine reserves.

Members in Attendance

Mr. Robert Alverson, Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Mr. Phil Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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
Mr. Bill Robinson, National Marine Fisheries Service

Others in Attendance

Mr. Steve Bodnar, Coos Bay Trawler's Association
Mr. Burnell Bohn, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ms. Eileen Cooney, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration - General Counsel
Lt. Brian Corrigan, US Coast Guard
Mr. Brian Culver, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Bob Eaton, Pacific Marine Conservation Council
Mr. Steve Freese, National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Gerald Gunneri, Coos Bay Trawler's Association
Dr. Jim Hastie, National Marine Fisheries Service
Cmdr. Ted Lindstrom, US Coast Guard
Mr. Jim Lone, Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Mitch Lesoing, Quileute Natural Resources
Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors
Ms. Michele Robinson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Jim Seger, staff, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Ms. Cyreis Schmitt, National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Bob Strickland, United Anglers of Southern California
Mr. Chuck Tracy, staff, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Dan Waldeck, staff, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Frank Warrens, Groundfish Advisory Panel

Meeting Summary

Trawl Permit Stacking

A primary reason for going forward with development of a trawl permit stacking program is to ensure

Strategic Plan capacity reduction goals are realized. It was suggested that even if a buyback program is funded by Congress, the buyback program may not achieve a sufficient reduction in capacity. Therefore, *the committee believes it is prudent to go forward with developing a trawl permit stacking program.*

Dr. McIsaac informed the SPOC that there was money in the Council budget for implementation of the Strategic Plan (\$10,000), but this money is not earmarked for specific Strategic Plan initiatives.

The SPOC discussed the limited amount of time available and the resources required for other Council workload items, both of which will constrain the development team. It was suggested that at this meeting the SPOC could settle on the composition of the development team, describe a set of issues for the team to grapple with, and choose a time line for development of the trawl permit stacking program.

The SPOC discussed the composition of the development team, notably whether agency representatives, General Counsel, or SPOC representatives would be formal committee members. It was decided that a smaller development team was likely to be more efficient. Agency staff and General Counsel will work with the development team, but will not be formal members of the team. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will provide technical support as needed. The SPOC will monitor progress of development team to ensure the team is on track and addressing the issues raised by the SPOC. The SPOC also developed a framework of issues to be addressed by the development team and a time line.

Public Comment relative to permit stacking: Members of the public expressed interest in serving on the development team if appointed by the SPOC. The public echoed the views of the SPOC regarding the need for both buyback and permit stacking to achieve capacity reduction goals. The public supported the development team composition, noting similarities to the Council's Ad-Hoc Buyback Committee. The need for processor representation was stressed.

The SPOC recommends formation of a development team composed of:

- *Three trawlers (one each from Washington, Oregon, California)*
 - *Marion Larkin, Kelly Smotherman, TBD*
- *Two at-large trawl representatives*
 - *Steve Bodnar, Pete Leipzig*
- *One processor representative*
 - *Rod Moore*
- *Two GMT representatives*
 - *Jim Hastie, Brian Culver*

The SPOC also discussed the need to include a representative from the “small trawler” segment of the groundfish fishery as one of the trawler representatives on the development team.

The SPOC recommends several issues to frame the work of the development team:

- *What are the goals and objectives of a stacking program?*
- *Voluntary versus mandatory stacking?*
- *Unstacking allowed?*
- *Review fixed gear permit stacking program for use as a framework.*
- *Inter-relationship of the buyback program to trawl permit stacking.*
- *Technical issues, e.g., length endorsements, full additional limit.*
- *Would current trip limits be treated equally or weighted?*
- *Develop several options, including individual fishing quota.*

The SPOC stresses the importance of NMFS and state involvement in the development process, agencies should prioritize attendance at development team meetings. This is critical because whatever the development team comes up with will have to be implemented by NMFS and the states, therefore involvement during development should ensure a workable program.

The SPOC recommends the following time line for development of the trawl permit stacking program:

- *June 2001, Council confirms recommendations of the SPOC;*
- *July 2001, Development team meets;*
- *September 2001, Development team provides progress report to SPOC;*
- *September 2001, Council reviews progress;*
- *November 2001, Council considers adoption of goals, objectives, and options;*
- *Winter 2001-2002, Options analyzed.*
- *April 2002, Council considers action on trawl permit stacking options.*

Open Access to Limited Entry

Mr. Boydston reviewed the work produced by the SPOC subcommittee, which includes a history of the open access fishery, an analysis of the fishery from 1994-1999, and a problem statement (see attachments). The subcommittee also posed several questions in their meeting summary for consideration by the Council and groundfish advisory bodies, which are detailed in the subcommittee meeting summary (see attachment).

The SPOC discussed the importance of getting this information to the advisory bodies for review prior to the June 2001 Council meeting. It was decided the information should be provided in the Council briefing book.

Public comment on conversion of open access to limited entry: Mr. Moore stressed the importance of notifying the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) of what they are expected to review at the June 2001, which allows the GAP to prioritize their agenda.

The SPOC recommends that the materials developed by the subcommittee be included in the Council's June briefing book for review by the groundfish advisory bodies.

Marine Reserves

There were two items under this agenda topic (1) status report on West Coast marine reserve efforts, and (2) the need for a marine reserves development team.

Mr. Seger described the status report he is working on for the June 2001 Council meeting. He is also working on an outline of long-term issues the Council will face regarding marine reserves. There will be a need to integrate external marine reserve initiatives into the Council process. He intends to outline points to consider in developing a process to accomplish this integration (see attachment). Mr. Seger also noted responses from the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Program to the questions raised by the Council and its advisors will be provided at the June 2001 Council meeting.

The SPOC discussed appointing a development team for marine reserves. It was noted that money for marine reserves was not allotted in the Council budget for 2001.

Mr. Anderson noted that at the April 2001 Council meeting the GAP and Habitat Steering Group recommended the Council appoint a marine reserves committee with broad representation from the Council advisory bodies. He noted that the team appointed by the SPOC to develop a plan design for marine reserves had broad representation. He suggested that at the June Council meeting, after the Council receives the marine reserves status report, the Council could formalize a marine reserves committee and task them with scoping alternatives for dealing with marine reserve issues.

Dr. Mclsaac noted that under the current funding level there is no money earmarked for a marine reserves committee.

It was suggested that Mr. Seger coordinate a meeting of the interested advisory bodies to determine if the marine reserves plan design team was the appropriate committee to continue as a development team under the SPOC. It was stressed that, while consideration of team structure would occur, a marine

reserves development team would not be able to meet unless money were made available.

Public comment on marine reserves issue: there was no comment.

Adjournment

The SPOC meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 P.M., Monday, May 14, 2001.

PFMC
05/21/2001