

MOTION BY BOB ALVERSON ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

I move that the Council respond to Senator Gordon Smith's request for comment on Senate Bill 1549, Cooperative Hake Improvement and Conservation Act 2005, by directing the Executive Director to write a response that incorporates the following points:

- Thanks the Senator for providing the Council an opportunity to comment on the legislation.
- Reaffirms the Council's belief that rationalization programs should be developed within the regional Council process.
- Unlike S 1549, the Bering Sea crab rationalization program was developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with Congressional oversight. The Pacific Council wants to be afforded the opportunity to work with members of the industry in crafting a comprehensive rationalization program for the West Coast Pacific Hake Fishery.
- The Council is currently in the process of developing an individual quota (IQ) program for the West Coast trawl fishery, including the hake fishery. The requirement for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement the provisions of the Bill within six months of becoming law is an unrealistic time frame and will likely impede efforts to develop a more comprehensive program in a timely manner.
- There are no provisions to protect against unreasonable accumulation of quota shares by individuals and/or corporations, a feature that must be part of a rationalization program to preserve and protect the unique characteristics of West Coast fishing communities.
- Collection of critical economic data must be mandated.
- Tracking of catches is currently done using paper documents processed by state fish and wildlife agencies. Creation, funding, and maintenance of an electronic tracking system would need to be part of an implementation plan, including the tracking of bycatch allowances required under the bill.
- The issue of U.S. ownership of quota shares needs to be addressed through a regional public process.

****THIS MOTION May or may not have been modified by amendments. The Final Adopted motion is available in the Final September 2005 Council Meeting Minutes and Voting Log.****