

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director



ESTIMATED TIME 1 Hour
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DATE: September 8, 1995

SUBJECT: Council Operations

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Consider establishing committee to review Council operations and report in January.

**BACKGROUND**

Last April the SSC made the following comments concerning Council operations:

In its January 1995 minutes, the SSC noted the current magnitude and complexity of the workload undertaken by the Council is overwhelming its staff, the staffs of cooperating agencies, and the advisory bodies of the Council. This is compromising the effectiveness of the Council management efforts and adversely impacting the preparation and review of documents prepared by the Council staff and outside organizations (such as oil and gas lease sales).

The SSC thanks the Council's Executive Director for making available earlier Council reports dealing with workload issues and the development of its processes and procedures for operations. The SSC reviewed documents prepared following five meetings held by the Council between 1984-1990 with particular attention focussed on the current policy document (1990) on annual management cycles.

The SSC believes that strict adherence to the 1990 rules would provide a step forward to enhancing Council operations. The SSC, however, believes that more must be done in the face of declining budgets and staffs and the growing complexity of management issues which include ITQs, increasing diversity of constituents, the high level of overcapitalization, and bycatch and use issues.

**The SSC accordingly suggests that a special meeting of a newly formulated policy and planning group be held as soon as possible.** The group would include representation of the Council, its staff, the AP and the SSC, as was done effectively in the past. The group should be charged with updating the current operating procedures in the face of human resources limits. While not trying to limit the agenda, the SSC suggests that an examination of the meeting schedule, particularly in regard to frequency and the timing of meetings, alternate schedules for TAC determination, and the development of a new approach for prioritizing amendment proposals might be particularly helpful to the Council process.

In March, I had provided the SSC with a review of past Council considerations of operations. The cover memo with a short history is provided here as C-6(a). We will have a pretty good idea of staff tasking coming out of this meeting, and it may be appropriate to establish a committee as the SSC suggests to review our schedule and operations and report back to us in January or April depending on progress made. As far as rearranging our meeting schedule, we are more-or-less locked in to our 1996 schedule unless we want to pay penalties to the hotels that we have booked. We could, however, consider changing the annual cycle for 1997 if appropriate.

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: Clarence Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: March 6, 1995

SUBJECT: Policy and procedures

At the January 1995 SSC meeting, you noted in your minutes that Council schedules, procedures and rules of operation are frequently not followed now due to the press and urgency of fishery management issues. You suggested that it might be useful to form a subcommittee of Council, AP and SSC members to examine operations and procedures with staff.

I have put together the following summary of past activities on this subject, beginning with the April 1984 meeting of the Council. Please let me know if you want this to be a discussion item on the April SSC agenda.

### **April 1984 - Anchorage**

In April 1984, the Council held its 60th plenary session and devoted it entirely to policy and planning, setting of objectives, and responding to industry concerns over the process the Council used to come to decisions. Attachment 1 has an agenda, a list of products desired from the meeting, and Branson's introduction to the meeting which is self explanatory, as is the industry letters included there that triggered the review. Attachment 2 includes the meeting notebook materials dealing with procedures and documentation. Attachment 3 includes those portions of the meeting minutes pertaining to policy and procedures and treatment of amendment proposals and annual management cycles. Appended to the minutes are comments by the SSC and several work groups that met on particular subjects.

### **May 1984 - Anchorage**

In May 1984, the Council reviewed the recommendations developed at the April meeting and took final action to adopt policies on annual management cycles and plan team composition and tasking. Attachment 4 has the notebook materials and the minutes on the subject.

### **August 1985 - Girdwood**

The Council met in Girdwood Alaska on August 12-14, 1985. Their focus was on Magnuson Act reauthorization, the various studies completed by the U.S. Inspector General, OMB, and the Council/NOAA Task Force commissioned by Tony Calio on the council process, and revisions to the Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan and goals and objectives. There was little discussion of policy and procedures.

### **April-May 1987- Anchorage**

The Council's Policy and Planning Committee met in Anchorage on April 22 to review Council operating procedures. They recommended shifting the March-May meetings to April-June beginning in 1988, shifting the groundfish proposal deadline to October 1, and formation of a plan amendment advisory group to initially review plan amendment proposals. They also made six recommendations concerning plan team operation. The Council reviewed the Committee's recommendations in May 1987 and adopted almost all of their recommendations, particularly the revised management cycle and proposal forms. Attachment 5 has the notebook materials and pertinent minutes.

### **June 1990 - Juneau**

The Council held a retreat on June 22-23, 1990 in Juneau to receive a report from its ad hoc Performance Review Committee and to consider an array of topics including overfishing, groundfish amendment cycles, meeting efficiency, AP operations, plan team member performance, record building, and committees. Regarding groundfish amendment cycles, the following six major conclusions were drawn:

1. Adopt new groundfish amendment cycle that calls for proposals in July and perform analysis from September to April.
2. During analytical period, use the December and January meetings for review and checkpoints on analyses and their direction.
3. Need strong coordination between the Region , Center and Council staff on staff coordination and efficiencies to complete assignments.
4. Staffs should interface with industry to ensure input and feasibility.
5. May want to completely reexamine FMPs and rewrite given current fisheries.
6. Need careful editing of analyses to remove inflammatory statements.

The Council's Policy on Annual Management Cycles, originally adopted in May 1987, was revised to solicit groundfish proposals in July instead of September. Attachment 6 is a copy of the performance review report that triggered the above considerations.

Attachment 7 has our current policies.