

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been only three weeks since the last Council meeting, so this report will not be very long.

Staff travel has been minimal. Jim Richardson spent three days in Juneau working with ADF&G, CFEC, and NMFS, primarily on data gathering and analysis systems. Steve Davis attended the meeting of the Crab Subgroup in Seattle last week. The rest of the staff has stuck close to home, trying to get everything done as required by the last Council meeting and get ready for this one. We also, of course, have a number of FMP's in process at the staff level.

Revised Meeting Schedule

We have shifted the May meeting from Kodiak to Anchorage. It is currently scheduled for May 28 and 29 at the Captain Cook Hotel. We were unable to find space at the Westward or the Sheraton for those dates. The Advisory Panel will meet at the Captain Cook on May 27.

We have tentatively scheduled a public hearing on Amendment #3 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP for April 22 in Anchorage, the day before the April Council meeting. We do not expect to have the SSC or AP meet in April. I would like to confirm the April 22 hearing date at this time so I can get out the Federal Register notice and public notices. I do not believe it is necessary to have more than one public hearing on this amendment.

Marine Mammal Exemption Permit for Japanese Mothership Salmon Fishery

Hearings were held before an administrative law judge in Seattle on March 5 on the application from Japan for a marine mammal exemption permit for their mothership salmon fishery inside the FCZ. No ruling has come down as yet, but attendees indicated they were fairly optimistic that the judge would rule that a permit could be granted.

Limited Entry Workgroup

John Garner, who had arranged to work as a consultant with the Limited Entry Workgroup, has become embroiled in a governor's task force that has not allowed him any time for work on our project. He has suggested that we try to find someone else to do the job, and has recommended two people.

Workgroups

Council members, AP members, and industry representatives met several times in Seattle since the last Council meeting to try to come to agreement on the incidental catch restrictions for American fishermen in Area A of the Bering Sea. They have done so, and that report is included under agenda item E-6(e).

Miscellaneous Information

Copies of the GIFA with Norway, which is currently in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee awaiting confirmation, are available at the Council office if you want them. We also have copies of the 1981 and 1982 NOAA budget showing the reductions made by the Reagan administration and the program cuts which they expect to make, included in your books under item F-3(a).

STATUS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Salmon FMP

Amendment #2 for 1981 will be given final consideration by the Council in March. The NEPA 45-day public comment period ended March 23. Secretarial review of the proposed amendment #2 is scheduled to begin April 6.

2. Herring FMP

The FMP will be reviewed by the Council in March and then sent to Washington, D.C. to begin Secretarial review.

3. King Crab FMP

The Council will review the FMP and Draft Joint Statement of Principles for Management of Domestic Fisheries and consider management arrangements with the State of Alaska.

4. Tanner Crab FMP

The Council will discuss with the Board inconsistencies between the FMP and State regulations and determine if a new amendment (#8) is necessary.

Amendment #7 for 1981 was approved by the Secretary of Commerce, but publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is postponed because of the President's freeze on regulations.

Amendment #6 is being held back from being published as a Notice of Final Rulemaking due to the President's freeze.

5. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Amendment #10 was approved for Secretarial review by the Council in February. The amendment was sent to Juneau on March 20 for preliminary review and then it will go to Washington, D.C.

Amendment #9 has been approved by the Secretary of Commerce, but its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking has been delayed by the President's freeze on regulations.

6. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

Implementation of the FMP has been delayed from being published as a Notice of Final Rulemaking by the President's freeze on regulations.

Amendment #1 for 1981 will be given final consideration this month and then sent to Secretarial review.

Amendment #2, which increases JVP for yellowfin sole and other flatfish, has been changed to increase OY for Pacific cod. The amendment is awaiting implementation of the FMP.

Amendment #3 for 1982 was approved for public review by the Council in February. A public hearing is proposed for April 22 in Anchorage. Final Council consideration should come in May.