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 Contact: Edna Ross
 Phone: 202 - 634-7405

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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WASHINGTON REPORTS

Joint Ventures

On March 29, 1979, the North Pacific Council requested an additional extension of the comment period on NOAA's interim joint venture regulations. The period for comment already had been extended on April 5, from April 9 to May 9. Because the North Pacific Council will be proposing a new method of standardizing determinations of domestic allowable harvest (DAH) and U.S. processing capacity, the comment period was extended again, until June 4.

Applications for the Soviet joint venture in the Washington, Oregon, California (WOC) trawl fishery were approved on April 26. The applications are for 14 Soviet vessels to receive 35,000 metric tons of Pacific hake, 1,500 metric tons of jack mackerel, and incidental species from U.S. harvesters in the WOC fishery in 1979. Only 5 of the Soviet vessels may receive U.S. harvested fish between 9 and 12 miles offshore. The retention of incidental catch by the foreign vessels is limited to the percentages specified in the foreign fishing regulations.

Approval of the Soviet applications for an experimental operation involving U.S. harvested Gulf of Alaska groundfish has been delayed pending a review of new information on the utilization of Alaska groundfish by domestic processors. A decision is expected in mid-May.

Public Affairs Workshop

A successful Public Affairs Workshop was held in Washington, D.C., on April 16-17, 1979. The 13 attendees represented NMFS Northeast and Southeast Regional Offices, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, NMFS Office of Resource Conservation and Management, and all but one of the Councils.

Secretary's Annual Report on the FCMA

NMFS expects printed copies of the 1978 FCMA Report to be available for distribution in June. The report is required by Section 304(f) of the Act, and covers activities relating to the conservation and management of fishery resources undertaken under the Act during calendar year 1978. Copies of the printed report will be sent to Councils, Congressional offices, and other interested parties (representatives of Federal, State, conservation groups, etc.).

Meeting of Council Executive Directors and Chairmen

The Mid-Atlantic Council will host the next meeting of Council Executive Directors (June 18, 1979) and Chairmen (June 19-20, 1979) at the Sheraton-Valley Forge Hotel, Route 363, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include the following topics: plan review and development process, budget, Councils' role in fishery development, enforcement, joint ventures, and other administrative matters.

Semiannual Agenda of Regulations

On April 30, 1979, in compliance with Executive Order 12044, NMFS published in the Federal Register (44 FR 25354) the NMFS/NOAA Semiannual Agenda of Regulations. The NMFS agenda was an addendum to the Department of Commerce's Semiannual Agenda of Regulations, which appeared in the Federal Register (44 FR 12562) on March 7, 1979. The NMFS agenda was presented in two parts.

Part 1 (Schedule A) listing all significant regulations under consideration:

- Determination of Critical Habitat for Kemp's Ridley and Loggerhead Sea Turtles (50 CFR Part 226).
- Designation of Critical Habitat for the Hawaiian Monk Seal (50 CFR Part 222).
- Regulation Declaring Port Canaveral Navigation Channel A Restricted Fishing Area (50 CFR Parts 222 and 227).
- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act: Interagency Cooperation (50 CFR Part 402).
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Regulations
- Atlantic Mackerel Fishery Management Plan.(FMP).
- Atlantic Squid Fishery Management Plan.
- Butterfish Fishery Management Plan.
- Extension of Commercial/Recreational Salmon Off California, Oregon, and Washington Fishery Management Plan.
- Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fishery.
- Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Regulations.
- High Seas Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- Pacific Billfish Preliminary Fishery Management Plan.
- Pacific Halibut Fisheries Regulations.
- Stone Crab Fishery Management Plan.
- Trawl Fisheries of Washington, Oregon, and California Preliminary Fishery Management Plan.
- Trawl and Herring Gillnet Fishing in the Eastern Bering Sea Preliminary Fishery Management Plan.

Part 2 (Schedule B) listing those existing regulations that have been scheduled for review during the forthcoming year:

- Administration of Pribilof Islands (Marine Mammals) (50 CFR Part 215, Subpart B).
- Regulated Commercial Fisheries (50 CFR Part 240).
- Salmon Fisheries (50 CFR Part 241).

- Continental Shelf Fisheries Resource (50 CFR Part 295).
- Field Organization of the National Marine Fisheries Service (50 CFR 210).
- Offshore Shrimp Fisheries Act (50 CFR Part 245).
- Uniform Standards for Organization, Practices, and Procedures -- Regional Fishery Management Councils (50 CFR Part 601, Subpart C).
- U.S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Fried Scallops (50 CFR Part 266, Subpart B).
- U.S. Standards for Grades of Raw Headless Shrimp (50 CFR Part 265, Subpart A).

Recognizing (1) the complexities in the development process of FMP's and PMP's, and (2) that the above lists may not be all-inclusive because of such complexities, NMFS included a detailed explanation in the Federal Register notice. An excerpt from that explanation follows:

"The initiation of preparation of FMP's is the responsibility of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. In the course of the development of such plans (and regulations) the Councils are required by law to conduct public hearings on the draft plans during which, among other things, alternative means of regulating the fishery are considered. However, at the time the semi-annual regulatory agenda is published, the National Marine Fisheries Service, in the case of many plans, is unable to determine either the specific plan objectives or the alternatives for management since the Councils have not as yet approved such plans nor submitted them to the Secretary of Commerce for review and possible adoption and implementation. Hence, the information about some plans must, of necessity, be quite limited."

State/Federal Fisheries Management Program Policy Workshop

The workshop was held April 17-19, 1979, at the Belmont Conference Center, Elkridge, Maryland. Representatives of the NMFS Regional Offices, two NMFS Fisheries Centers, NMFS headquarters office, NOAA Office of Policy and Planning, the Office of Sea Grant, and the Office of Coastal Zone Management comprised seven task teams. The product of the task teams was individual analyses concerning critical issue areas identified at the Denver meeting. Staff members of the State/Federal Division, NMFS, Washington, D.C., in cooperation with the task team chairmen, will consolidate these individual issue papers, as appropriate, into a single policy document. The draft document will be reviewed initially by the workshop participants prior to formal review by NMFS Regional and Center Directors, and subsequently submitted to Terry Leitzell, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, for comment. Following Mr. Leitzell's review, NMFS plans to make copies of the report available to State Directors, Interstate Commissions, etc., for review and comment, as well as to the general public through the Federal Register. It is anticipated that the final document, with recommendations, will be made available to Mr. Leitzell in September 1979.

Report on Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions (IMFC)

In response to a request from Senator Warren G. Magnuson, the General Accounting Office (GAO) reviewed the functions, activities, and utility of the three IMFC's in light of the FCMA. The Comptroller General reported the GAO findings to Sen. Magnuson in a February 26, 1979, letter. In essence, the report recognized that the commissions still are providing useful service and assistance to the member States, and that the States generally support a continuing role for the commissions on matters not subject to FCMA jurisdiction.

The NMFS State/Federal Division (F31) has a limited number of copies of the report, which will be made available upon request.

Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program - April 1979

NATION	Atlantic Billfish & Shark Fish.	Bering Sea Aleutian Island Crab Fish.	Bering Sea Aleutian Island Trawl Fish.	Bering Sea Aleutian Island Longline Fish.	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fish.	Gulf of Alaska Long- line Fish.	Total
<u>JAPAN</u>							
Observers	6	7	5	3	-	0	21
Vessels	25	7	75	8	-	3	118
<u>KOREA</u>							
Observers	-	-	2	-	-	0	2
Vessels	-	-	7	-	-	1	8
<u>POLAND</u>							
Observers	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
<u>TAIWAN</u>							
Observers	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>							
Observers	-	-	4	-	0	-	4
Vessels	-	-	8	-	1	-	9
<u>TOTAL</u>							
Observers	6	7	11	3	0	0	27
Vessels	25	7	93	8	1	4	138

Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activities for the month of April resulted in 43 boardings, 1 citation, 4 reports of violations, and no seizures. The activity is summarized below:

Number of Foreign Vessels

	<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Eastern Pacific</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>Off Atlantic Region</u>	<u>Total</u>
Italy	0	0	0	0	2	2
Japan	154	0	0	26	2	182
Mexico	0	0	0	0	4	4
Poland	3	0	0	0	0	3
S. Korea	16	0	0	0	0	16
Spain	0	0	0	0	9	9
Taiwan	1	0	0	0	0	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	195	0	0	26	17	238

Number of Boardings

Japan	24	0	0	6	0	30
Poland	2	0	0	0	0	2
S. Korea	10	0	0	0	0	10
U.S.S.R.	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	37	0	0	6	0	43

Number of Citations

Japan	1	0	0	0	0	1
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Number of Reports of Violations

Japan	4	0	0	0	0	4
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Fishery Management Plans (FMP's) (continued)

<u>Council:</u>	<u>Plan:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
NORTH PACIFIC	High Seas Salmon Fishery	FMP undergoing Secretarial review.
	Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery	Amendment #4 was received in the Washington Office on April 4, 1979. It was distributed to Washington Office reviewers, Department of State, and the Coast Guard on April 11, 1979.
WESTERN PACIFIC	Precious Corals Fisheries of the Western Pacific	DEIS/FMP undergoing Washington Office review.

Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's)

During the month of April, the following action was taken on PMP's:

<u>Region:</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action:</u>
NORTHWEST	Trawl Fisheries of California, Washington, and Oregon	The second amendment to the PMP is undergoing Washington Office review.

Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of April resulted in 138 boardings, 3 citations, 18 reports of violations, and no seizures. The activity is summarized below:

<u>Number of Boardings</u>					
<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Eastern Pacific</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>Off Atlantic Region</u>	<u>Total</u>
0	5	0	6	127	138
<u>Number of Citations</u>					
0	0	0	0	3	3
<u>Number of Reports of Violations</u>					
0	0	0	1	17	18

Congressional Activities

Bills Introduced

Whales (H. Con. Res. 92, AuCoin/OR, 4/2/79, Committee on Foreign Affairs). Urging an indefinite moratorium on the commercial killing of whales.

FCMA Amendment (S. 917, Magnuson/WA, 4/9/79, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation). To authorize appropriations to carry out the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 during fiscal years 1980, 1981, and 1982, and for other purposes.

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act Amendment (S. 952, Durkin/NH, 4/10/79, Committee on Environment and Public Works). To amend the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act.

S. 952 would increase the appropriation authorization from \$20 million per year to \$40 million per year beginning with FY 80. At least 50 percent of all amounts appropriated must be used solely for fishery enhancement projects, such as fish ladders, in connection with small-scale hydroelectric power dams. The term "small-scale hydroelectric power dams" is defined as dams with potential power output of 15 megawatts or less.

Seals (H. Con. Res. 111, Nowak/NY, 4/25/79, Committee on Foreign Affairs). To urge the Canadian Government to reassess its policy of permitting the killing of newborn harp seals.

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act Amendment (H. R. 3808, St. Germain/RI, 4/30/79, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries). To amend the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act in order to extend the authorization for appropriations to carry out the purposes of the Act, and to initiate an emergency investigation on the striped bass in Atlantic coastal waters.

Committee and Floor Action

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act Amendment (S. 838). On April 10, 1979, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation ordered favorably reported to the Senate, S. 838, a bill to amend the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act in order to extend the authorization for appropriations and to initiate an emergency investigation on the striped bass in Atlantic coastal waters.

On April 30, the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries ordered reported favorably, with amendments, to the full Committee H.R. 2035, a bill to authorize funds for cooperative State programs for conservation of anadromous fish for FY 1980-1982.

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

During the month of April the following actions were taken on FMP's:

<u>Council:</u>	<u>Plan:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
NEW ENGLAND	Atlantic Groundfish Fishery	On April 19, 1979, the Council voted on one new amendment to the FMP. The cod and haddock fisheries in the Gulf of Maine for the 61-125 GRT vessel class were closed on April 22, 1979. The yellowtail flounder fishery west of 69° W. longitude was closed to all vessel classes on April 28, 1979. The closure will be in effect until the end of the 1978-79 fishing year (September 30, 1979).
	Atlantic Herring Fishery	On April 19, 1979, the Council voted on two new amendments to the FMP.
MID- ATLANTIC	Atlantic Mackerel Fishery	FMP undergoing Secretarial review.
	Atlantic Squid Fishery	FMP undergoing Secretarial review.
	Butterfish Fishery	The FMP was disapproved on April 23, 1979.
	Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries	Amendment 4 was distributed to Washington Office reviewers, the Department of State, and the Coast Guard on April 13, 1979. Comments were due in the Washington Office by April 30, 1979.
GULF OF MEXICO	Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico	FMP undergoing Washington Office review.
PACIFIC	Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fishery off Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California	Emergency and interim final regulations implementing an amendment to the FMP were approved on April 13, 1979. They were published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on April 25, 1979. These emergency regulations are in effect from April 25 to June 3, 1979.

FCMA Amendment. On April 23, 1979, the Senate Committee on Commerce reported S. 917 (S. Rpt. 96-72), a bill to extend the appropriation authorization for the FCMA during FY's 1980-1982, and for other purposes. On April 30, the Senate passed S. 917. As passed by the Senate, S. 917 would (1) amend section 406 of the FCMA to authorize the appropriation of \$30 million for FY 1980, \$40 million for FY 1981, and \$47 million for FY 1982; (2) update the definition of the term "fisheries" in the shipping law, section 4311 of the Revised Statutes (46 U.S.C. 251), to conform with the definition established by section 101 of the FCMA (16 U.S.C. 1811), which reflects the U.S. extension of jurisdiction to 200 miles; and (3) amend Section 204 (b)(6) of the FCMA to deny access to the U.S. fishery conservation zone to fishing vessels of a foreign nation certified by the Secretary of Commerce as being in violation of Section 8(a) of the Fishermen's Protective Act (so-called Pelly Amendment).

On April 30, the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries ordered favorably reported, with amendment, H.R. 1798, a bill to extend the appropriation authorization for the FCMA for FY's 1980-1982.

Endangered Species Act Amendment. (H.R. 2218) on April 30, the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries ordered favorably reported to the full Committee, H.R. 20 and H.R. 2218. H.R. 2218 was ordered reported with an amendment which would extend for 3 years the existing exemption for scrimshaw and sperm whale oil permit holders.

Alaska/Land Conservation. (H.R. 39) On April 23, the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries reported H.R. 39 (H. Rpt. 96-97, Parts 1 & 2), the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (so-called D-2 Lands).

Hearings

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act. On April 2, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held reauthorization hearings. Assistant Administrator Terry Leitzell testified, supporting extension of the Act.

Endangered Species Act. On April 3, the Senate Resource Protection Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Public Works held reauthorization hearings which included comments on S. 242, 243, and 298, bills to eliminate the Endangered Species Committee and to exempt the Tellico and Columbia Dams from the provisions of Section 7 of the ESA. Assistant Administrator Terry Leitzell testified in support of reauthorization, but opposed enactment of the three bills.

On April 6, the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries held reauthorization hearings. Assistant Administrator Leitzell was the NOAA witness; he supported reauthorization.

Aquaculture, On April 5 joint hearings were held by the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment and Oceanography of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee regarding H.R. 20. David Wallace, Director, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, NMFS, was the NOAA witness who testified for aquaculture development; but against the specific provisions in H.R. 20.

Schedule of Upcoming Hearings

The House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Fish and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment Subcommittee has tentative plans to hold the following hearings:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Subject:</u>
May 21, 1979	Klamath River Oversight
June 4, 1979	International Whaling Commission Oversight
June 8, 1979	Oversight on international tuna with focus on South Pacific and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
June 13-14, 1979	Endangered Species Oversight
June 19, 1979	U.S./Canadian Fishing Agreement Oversight
June 25-26, 1979	FCMA Oversight

Hearing room locations and times to be announced later.

Schedule of Upcoming Council Meetings

NEW ENGLAND

Scientific and Statistical Committee (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 78, 4/20/79)

Date: May 2, 1979 (approximately 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Place: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Room 204
Redfield Hall, Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Agenda: Discuss approaches to be used in bio-economic analyses in support of fishery management plans (FMP's) currently under development, the proposed Groundfish Task Force; National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) logbooks, definition of optimum yield (OY), and other business.

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 84, 4/30/79)

Date: May 16-17, 1979 (convening at approximately 10 a.m. on 5/16; adjourning at approximately 5 p.m. on 5/17)

Place: Holiday Inn, Downtown, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine

Agenda: Discuss: Groundfish; Herring, and Scallop FMP's; personnel policy; and other business.

MID-ATLANTIC

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 72, 4/12/79)

Date: May 9-11, 1979 (convening at 1 p.m. on 5/9; adjourning at approximately 1 p.m. on 5/11).

Place: Golden Eagle, Philadelphia Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey

Agenda: Discuss: (1) Shark, Fluke, and Bluefish FMP's; (2) status of other FMP's; and (3) administrative matters.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (3 open meetings) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 84, 4/30/79)

Date: June 4, July 2, and July 30, 1979 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Place: Best Western Airport Motel, Philadelphia International Airport, Route #291, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Agenda: Discuss: management plans, Council research needs, and other business.

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 90, 5/8/79)

Date: June 13-15, 1979 (convening at 1 p.m. on 6/13; adjourning at approximately 1 p.m. on 6/15)

Place: Best Western Airport Motel, Philadelphia International Airport, Route #291, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Agenda: Discuss: (1) Fluke, Butterfish, and Bluefish FMP's; and (2) other business.

Council-Chairmen (open meeting) (pub. in F.R. pending)

Date: June 19-20, 1979

Place: Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel, Route 363, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Agenda: Discuss: (1) plan review and development process; (2) budget; (3) Council role in fishery development; (4) enforcement; (5) joint ventures; and (6) other business.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 68, 4/6/79)
Date: April 24-26, 1979 (convening at 1:30 p.m. on 4/24; adjourning at approximately noon on 4/26)
Place: Quality Inn-Airport, Savannah, Georgia
Agenda: Discuss: (1) decision process on Snapper/Grouper and King and Spanish Mackerel FMP's; (2) review of Billfish FMP and foreign fishing permit applications, if any, and (3) other business.

Billfish Advisory Subpanel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 89, 5/7/79)
Date: May 16-17, 1979 (convening at 1:30 p.m. on 5/16; adjourning at approximately 12 noon on 5/17)
Place: South Atlantic Council Headquarters, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, South Carolina
Agenda: Review the Billfish FMP.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 89, 5/7/79)
Date: May 17-18, 1979 (convening at 1:30 p.m. on 5/17; adjourning at approximately 12 noon on 5/18)
Place: South Atlantic Council Headquarters, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, South Carolina
Agenda: Review the Billfish FMP.

Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 90, 5/8/79)
Date: May 21-22, 1979 (convening at 9 a.m. on 5/21; adjourning at approximately 12 noon on 5/22)
Place: South Atlantic Council Headquarters, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, South Carolina
Agenda: Review the Billfish FMP.

Advisory Panel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 90, 5/8/79)
Date: May 23, 1979 (9 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m.)
Place: South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina.
Agenda: Review the final draft of the King and Spanish Mackerel FMP.

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 83, 4/27/79)
Date: May 22-24, 1979 (convening at 1:30 p.m. on 5/22; adjourning at approximately 12 noon on 5/24)
Place: South Atlantic Council Headquarters, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, South Carolina
Agenda: Discuss preliminary review of Billfish FMP decision elements; review of final Snapper/Grouper FMP; final draft of Spiny Lobster FMP, and foreign fishing permit applications, if any; status reports of Calico, Scallop, and Coral FMP's; and other business.

The next meeting(s) not scheduled pending progress on FMP development and revision.

GULF OF MEXICO

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 76, 4/18/79)
Date: May 1-3, 1979 (convening at 1:30 p.m. on 5/1; 8:30 a.m. on 5/2 and 5/3; adjourning at 5 p.m. on 5/1 and 5/2 and noon on 5/3)
Place: Tampa Room, Barclay Best Western Hotel, 5303 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida
Agenda: Review status reports on development of FMP's; consider foreign fishing applications, if any; and conduct other business.

Billfishes Advisory Subpanel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 82, 4/26/79)
Date: May 14, 1979 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
Place: Tampa Room, Barclay Best Western Hotel, 5303 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida
Agenda: Review a draft FMP.

Sharks Advisory Subpanel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 82, 4/26/79)
Date: May 15, 1979 (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
Place: Chateau Room B, Landmark Motor Hotel, 2601 Severn Avenue, Metairie, Louisiana
Agenda: Review a draft FMP.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 82, 4/26/79)
Date: May 16-18, 1979 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 5/16; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 5/17; and 8 a.m. to 12 noon on 5/18)
Place: Hacienda Room A, Landmark Motor Hotel, 2601 Severn Avenue, Metairie, Louisiana
Agenda: Review Shark and Billfish FMP's

Joint Meeting of Coral Advisory Subpanels (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44 No. 90, 5/9/79)
Date: May 31, 1979 (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
Place: Gulf of Mexico Council Headquarters, Suite 881, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida
Agenda: Coral Advisory Subpanels of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils will meet to review a draft FMP on corals.

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 90, 5/8/79)
Date: June 5-7, 1979 (convening at 1:30 p.m. on 6/5; 8:30 a.m. on 6/6 and 6/7; adjourning at 5 p.m. on 6/5 and 6/6; and approximately 12 noon on 6/7)
Place: The Iberville Room of the Monteleone Hotel, 214 Rue Royale, New Orleans, Louisiana
Agenda: Review status reports on development of FMP's; consider foreign fishing applications, if any; and conduct other business.

PACIFIC

Dungeness Crab Subpanel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 80, 4/24/79)

Date: May 9-10, 1979 (convening at 1 p.m. and adjourning at 5 p.m. on 5/9; reconvening at 8 a.m. and adjourning at 12 noon on 5/10)

Place: Pony Village Lodge, North Bend, Oregon

Agenda: Discuss the second draft of the Dungeness Crab FMP.

NORTH PACIFIC

Scientific and Statistical Committee (open meeting) (pub. in F.R. pending)

Date: May 22-23, 1979 (convening at 9:30 a.m. on 5/22; adjourning at 5 p.m. on 5/23)

Place: Council Headquarters, Post Office Mall Building, 333 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Agenda: Review King Crab FMP; draft herring FMP/EIS; contract 78-4 report (The Development and Enhancement of a Computerized Information System); alternative statistical reporting requirements for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery FMP; Southeast Coho/Chickook Plan progress; possible Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP rattail amendment; progress report of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Tag Recovery Contract 78-7; domestic annual harvest (DAH)/Processor Preference Working Group report; possible Tanner Crab FMP amendment; "reserved" section options for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery FMP, final report "Graphical & Printed Summaries of Troll Salmon Fishery Data from the Alaska Trollers Association 1977 Troll Logbook Program; and discuss staff support concept.

Advisory Panel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 83, 4/27/79)

Date: May 23, 1979 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Place: Anchorage/Westward/Hilton Hotel, Kenai-Aleutian Room, 3rd & E Streets, Anchorage, Alaska

Agenda: Review: draft FMP/EIS for herring fishery in the Bering/Chukchi Seas; possible rattail amendment to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP; possible amendments to the Tanner Crab FMP; "reserved" section options in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Preference Working Group; west coast salmon problem and possible emergency closures off Alaska; Federal/State regulations and problems with Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP; consider the last planned release of reserves (July 2) to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP and FCMA changes for Oversight Hearings.

NORTH PACIFIC (continued)

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 83, 4/27/79)
Date: May 24-25, 1979 (convening at 8:30 a.m. on 5/24;
adjourning at 5 p.m. on 5/25)
Place: Anchorage/Westward/Hilton Hotel, Kenai-Aleutian Room,
3rd & E Streets, Anchorage, Alaska
Agenda: Provisional Agenda; February 22-23, 1979, and March 22-23, 1979,
minutes; subsequent reports: Executive Director, Alaska
Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), U.S. Coast Guard (USGC), SSC and AP; prelim-
inary Council review of the draft FMP/EIS for the Herring
Fishery in the Bering/Chukchi Seas; Gulf of Alaska Groundfish
Fishery - possible FMP amendment; establish a separate Optimum
Yield (OY) for rattail. or create a special category for un-
utilized and unwanted commercial species; Tanner Crab FMP;
possible amendment reducing total allowable level of foreign
fishing (TALFF) and/or modifying the area open to foreign
fishing; Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery FMP;
Council approval of the Section previously reserved dealing
with Aleutian Islands openings and closures for foreign fish-
ing; Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP and regulations:
discussion of Federal/State regulations and problems; Gulf
of Alaska Groundfish Fishery FMP; consideration of the last
planned release of reserves (July 2) to TALFF; domestic
annual harvest DAH/Processor Preference Working Group report;
Troll Salmon FMP discussion of west coast resource problem
including the potential for emergency closures off Alaska;
consideration of Fishery Conservation and Management Act
(FCMA) changes for Oversight Hearings; report on FMP Deve-
lopment Workshop held May 3-4, 1979, in Anchorage; and
public comment period scheduled for May 24, 1979, at 3:30 p.m.

WESTERN PACIFIC

Pelagic Fishery Resources Subpanel (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44,
No. 74, 4/16/79)

Date: May 2, 1979 (9:30 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m.)
Place: Conference Room, NMFS Laboratory, 2570 Dole Street,
Honolulu, Hawaii
Agenda: Discuss management measures for a Billfish FMP.

Council (open meeting) (F.R. Vol. 44, No. 80, 4/24/79)

Date: May 3-4, 1979 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days)
Place: Senate Conference Room No. 6, State Capitol,
Honolulu, Hawaii

Agenda: Discuss: draft regulations for the Precious Coral
Management Plan; review Spiny Lobster and Bottomfish
FMP's; fourth draft of the Billfish FMP; and other business.

COUNCIL REPORTS

New England Council

- o The Council conducted a series of public hearings on the proposed amendments to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Hearings were held on April 9-11, 1979.
- o The Council conducted a series of public hearings on amendments to the Atlantic Groundfish FMP. The hearing dates were April 11-12, 1979.
- o The Scallop O/S Committee held a intercouncil meeting with advisors on April 9, to consider management objectives and strategies for a scallop FMP. Representatives of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and South Atlantic Councils were in attendance.
- o The Groundfish O/S Committee reviewed a staff prepared draft Part I, Statement of the Problem, for a new Groundfish FMP and considered additional interim amendments to the present Atlantic Groundfish FMP on April 11, 1979.
- o The Council met on April 18-19, 1979, at the Holiday Inn, Peabody, Massachusetts.
- o The Council voted to amend the Atlantic Herring FMP. The amendment provides increased optimum yield and seasonal and area allocations in keeping with the historical basis for conducting the fishery.
- o The Council voted to extend the present Atlantic Groundfish FMP for the period of October 1, 1979, to September 30, 1980, or until such time as a new management plan for groundfish and other specified species is implemented.
- o Members of the Council met with staff, representatives from the Region, the Fisheries Center, NOAA, and the Mid-Atlantic Council to discuss creating a task force to provide assistance and advice in the development of a multi-species fishery management plan. It was agreed to establish a steering committee comprised of Douglas Marshall, Executive Director, New England Council; John Bryson, Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Council; Brian Rothschild, Office of Policy and Planning, NOAA; and Richard Hennemuth, Northeast Fisheries Center, NMFS.
- o The Council scheduled the following public hearings on proposed amendments to the Atlantic Groundfish FMP:
 - May 16, 1979 - Holiday Inn, Downtown, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine
 - May 21, 1979 - Gloucester City Hall Auditorium, Gloucester, Massachusetts
 - May 23, 1979 - Dutch Inn, Great Island Road, Galilee, Rhode Island
 - May 29, 1979 - Holiday Inn, Route 25, Riverhead, Long Island, New York
 - May 30, 1979 - Holiday Inn, Hathaway Road, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Mid-Atlantic Council

The Council held its monthly meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 11-13, 1979. During the meeting the Council took the following actions:

- o Adopted for public hearing the draft of Amendment #2 to the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP.
- o Voted to oppose the request of the European Economic Community for a block allocation rather than individual allocations to member countries.
- o Approved a revised plan development schedule which included moving the Bluefish FMP up in priority so that it becomes the next plan to be developed. The staff has initiated the scoping process for the Bluefish FMP and has drafted a work plan for review at the scoping meeting.
- o Amendment #1 to the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Industries FMP has been submitted for Secretarial approval.

South Atlantic Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held April 23-26, 1979, in Savannah, Georgia. Summary prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o The Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP was approved for submission as a discussion paper. Acknowledged problems still exist in proposed regulatory measures to resolve a gear conflict problem off Fort Pierce, Florida, in the king mackerel fishery. The Council will hold a meeting in the Fort Pierce area prior to the public hearings in an effort to get leaders of the two competing fishing groups together and work out a better solution to the conflict. This meeting will be scheduled early in June.
- o The Council approved a motion to request representation on the new U.S./Canadian Fisheries Commission established to manage fisheries shared by both nations. The State Department representative advised that prospects for additional membership on the Commission were poor since it has already been established and the number of commissioners has been agreed upon by both sides.
- o The list of candidates for the fishery economist position has been narrowed to two. These candidates will be interviewed at the next meeting.

- o The Council selected the following sites for hearings on the Gulf Shrimp FMP:

Florida

Mayport

Port Canaveral

Georgia

Eulonia

South Carolina

Charleston

North Carolina

Wilmington

Morehead City

- o The Council decided, on the advice of attorney Tom Kane, to contest the Secretary's decision to establish a Council boundary line at the Dade-Monroe County line in Federal Court. Legal action by the Council on this matter will be delayed pending a decision by the Secretary on the use of public funds for the suit. Mr. Kane estimated that his expenses would be between \$5,000 - \$10,000. Additional expenses could result from related activities of Council members and from testimony of witnesses. The Council was advised of the legal and cost ramifications of this action.
- o The Council accepted the recommendation of the Coral FMP Committee to ask the contractor to cancel a subcontract because of a possible conflict-of-interest problem.
- o The "horse blanket" workshop, set up to consider the impact of Executive Order 12044 and revised Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines, was discussed. The Council expressed concern over additional workloads under these guidelines and will document these concerns for discussion at the Chairmen's meeting in June.
- o S.325, a bill regarding artificial reefs was reviewed. This bill is different from the bill introduced last year, which the Council supported, because it may reduce the ability of States to manage, build, or control activities on artificial reefs built in the FCZ. Council staff was requested to address concerns regarding the bill with Senator Stone before action is taken by the Council.
- o A motion to recommend that tunas be placed under the FCMA was tabled until the May meeting to enable more time to consider this complex issue and review background documents.
- o The next Council meeting will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, May 22-25, 1979. Principal items on the agenda will include consideration of optimum yield (OY) and management measures in the billfish plan, the Fort Pierce option on the mackerel plan, and activities of the Information and Education (I&E) Committee. Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on May 21 and a half day on May 22, 1979.

Caribbean Council

following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held April 11, 1979, in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Summary prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o The Council considered the revisions to the Spiny Lobster FMP. Based on recent discussions over changes in the FMP process required by Executive Order 12044 and revised NEPA guidelines, the plan will undergo further modifications by staff. Projected time for modifications is 2 months.
- o The Reef Fish FMP was reviewed by the plan management committee and the Council, and a number of changes and recommendations were adopted. The plan is undergoing incorporation of these Council decisions by the plan development committee and will be presented to the Council in the near future.
- o An ad hoc committee meeting of various Council members is planned for April 27, 1979, to complete an in-depth review of the proposed guidelines under Section X of the Fishermen's Protective Act. Recommendations and comments will be formulated at that time.
- o The Council reviewed the current budget status report and is projecting a surplus of up to \$50,000 in the FY79 administrative budget.

The contract for completion of the Migratory Coastal Pelagic FMP was endorsed by the Council and will be signed as soon as funds are received from NOAA.

- o The Request for Proposal for mollusks was considered by Council, and the staff was directed to resolve some minor differences regarding evaluation criteria.
- o The Council reviewed criteria for reviewing foreign fishing permit applications as previously suggested by NMFS and adopted these as guidelines.
- o The Council considered an application by the Japanese for longlining and passed a motion not to object to the permit application.
- o Mr. Darlan Brin attended his first meeting as a Council member. Mr. Brin is the new Commissioner of Conservation and Cultural Affairs of the Virgin Islands and replaces Mr. Virdin Brown. Mr. Brin was appointed to the Finance Committee.
- o The Council held an informal evening meeting with members of a local fishermen's cooperative and some individual fishermen to discuss the fishermen's concerns and to get a better feel for the problems facing the local industry

- o The Council decided to initiate plan development on a Deepwater Reef Fish FMP. Method of development will be decided at a later date.
- o The next Council meeting was not scheduled pending progress on FMP development and revision. It is expected that the Council will conduct the majority of business over the next 2 months by committees.

Gulf of Mexico Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held April 3-5, 1979, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Summary prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o The Council decided to ask Terry Leitzell (NMFS), Eldon Greenberg (NOAA), and other NOAA policymakers to meet with them in New Orleans at the Council meeting on June 5-7, 1979. The purpose is to discuss the unique biological characteristics of Gulf fisheries and the establishment of policies concerning the extent to which management decisions in fishery plans can be based on economic or social issues, compared to biological or conservation issues. The Council feels that most of its plans will be heavily laced with social and economic issues, and wants to reach a general agreement with NOAA in establishing such management measures.
- o Dr. Andy Kemmerer of the Fisheries Engineering Laboratory and Special Agent Tom Maher made a presentation to the Council on the observer and enforcement programs. It became clear to the Council during these presentations that each program has a specific and separate role to play in collecting information concerning foreign and domestic fishermen as well as in enforcing fishery management regulations. Following this presentation, the Council requested that NMFS look into the possibility of strengthening its enforcement program even if it requires a reduction in the observer program.
- o The Council tentatively approved the DEIS/FMP on shrimp for public hearings. However, modification to the DEIS will be made by Council staff and NMFS. A final change in the plan was to move the outer limit of a closed fishing area off Texas to 200 miles with an allowance for Royal red fishing with special gear.
- o The Council postponed consideration of the DEIS/FMP for coastal pelagics until May. This will permit the South Atlantic Council to review the current draft and resolve two issues on details of gear conflicts in Fort Pierce and purse seining experiments.
- o The Council discussed the DEIS/FMP for spiny lobster and decided to conduct a final review during June. The amendment to prohibit the taking of berried females was reconsidered and adopted.
- o The Council requested the Shark FMP contractor to attend the May Council meeting to explain his request for contract extension at additional cost.

- o The Council reviewed the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCZM) and decided to postpone a final decision on the document until the May meeting so that certain changes can be made in the draft document.
- o A seven-person committee was established to work with the OCZM Sanctuary Office to draft a white paper on the Looe Key sanctuary.
- o The Council passed a motion recommending the FCMA be amended to include tuna.
- o Ms. Sharon Schwab was promoted to staff secretary, and Ms. Jennifer Bustin was hired to fill the vacant position.
- o Three adjustments in Council Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP's) were considered to bring them in line with the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and 5 USC in areas relating to payment for travel time to and from meetings. This matter was referred back to committee and will be considered by the Council in May.
- o At the request of the Information and Education (I&E) Committee, the Council approved distribution of a Request for Proposals to analyze the Council's I&E program and make recommendations for the development of a revised program if necessary. Consideration was given to employing a part-time I&E expert, and this will be reconsidered pending development of a draft position description for review at the May meeting.
- o The Environmental and Management Policy Committee reported on its review of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for Alabama. This review disclosed that fishery matters are adequately covered in the plan.
- o A decision was made by the Council not to review further Coastal Zone Management plans and to rely on NMFS and other agencies to report to the Council on their agency review of such plans as to their adequacy in considering fisheries matters.
- o The large kill of billfish by Japanese longliners was discussed resulting in a Council request to the Japanese tuna industry to voluntarily limit effort in the Gulf. A response was received via Alan MacNow, industry representative in New York, to limit effort to 24 vessels fishing bluefin in April, no vessels in May, and 5 vessels fishing yellowfin in June-July.

- o An update on the vessel enumeration system was presented by John Green. Agreements with Texas and Louisiana are expected to be signed shortly.
- o The travel policy memo from Terry Leitzell (NMFS) was reviewed and authority given for Council staff to be on an actual expense rate of up to \$50/day for all future travel.
- o The next Council meeting will be at the Barclay Inn, Tampa, Florida, May 1-3, 1979.

Pacific Council

- o The Council did not meet in April. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for May 10-11, 1979, in North Bend, Oregon. Among items on the May meeting agenda are consideration of drafts of the billfish, Dungeness crab, and jack mackerel management plans.
- o The Council is proceeding with contracts to assist Oregon and California in monitoring the 1979 salmon fishery. The implementation of the monitoring system will achieve the following principal objectives: (1) determine the effects of the more restrictive regulations and measure the impact on the fisheries; and (2) provide current data on 1979 landings in time for deciding on management measures for 1980.
- o A \$65,114 contract was awarded to Robert Proctor and Associates, Placerville, California, for "Data Acquisition for Determination of Market Channels, Price Trends and Consumer Demand for West Coast Groundfish, Dungeness Crab and Pink Shrimp.
- o Staff member Larry Six met with members of the Western Pacific Council's Billfish Team in Honolulu on April 5-6 to coordinate plan development.
- o A group life insurance package for Council staff was contracted with the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, Kansas City, Missouri. The package is a straight term insurance program providing coverage equal to each individual's annual salary, but not less than \$12,000 per person.
- o An NBI word processing system was leased for the Council's office to expedite plan preparation. The equipment is compatible with the NMFS system and will facilitate communication between the Council's office and NMFS Central and Regional Offices.

North Pacific Council

No meeting was held during the month of April. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, May 24-25, 1979. The June meeting will be held in Homer, Alaska, June 28-29, 1979.

- o Bering Sea Crab Fishery has been characterized a "poor year" by fishermen. Total catch to date (May 5) shows 37 million pounds of C. bairdi and 9½ million pounds of C. opilio. Many of the crab boats left the fishery early to participate in the herring fishery which starts the first of May in Bristol Bay.
- o Bering Sea Herring Fishery will peak during the week of May 11 with herring in good numbers and roe recovery percentages "good." One feature of the fishery is the number of aircraft involved. Nearly 80 fixed wing small planes and a half-dozen helicopters are helping spot fish this year. Harvest potential could approximate 20 thousand tons.
- o Troll Salmon Plan has been signed off by NOAA Administrator Frank with disapproval of a section dealing with a ban on hand trolling in the FCZ. Council had asked for implementation of the balance of the FMP if any portion were to be disapproved. May agenda will see the Council deciding whether or not to consider limited entry or other possible restrictions on hand trolling in an effort to keep the lid on effort in the fishery for the coming season.
- o Council Member Donald L. McKernan died during early May while on a trip to China. Professor McKernan was Director, Institute for Marine Studies, University of Washington, and was the author of more than 150 papers on fish parasitology and biology, fisheries development, oceanography, fisheries administration, ocean science and Law of the Sea.
- o Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish Plan is waiting on a "reserved section dealing with time/area closures in the Aleutian Islands which was postponed from the March meeting at the request of the Japanese long-liners and trawlers. The FMP was forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review in April.
- o Gulf of Alaska FMP may have another species added. A proposed amendment would add "rattails" to the list of species which totals eight at present. The move would allow the assignment of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), and appropriate harvest figures to rattails, removing the rattail total from "Other Species" where it is now. Rattail catch in 1978 was 66 percent of the total foreign sablefish catch.

Western Pacific Council

- o Staff member Kitty Simonds attended the Public Affairs Workshop in Washington, D.C.
- o Jack Marr joined Council staff as Executive Director.
- o Council members met with Hoyt Wheeland, Chief, Data Management and Information Systems Division, NMFS, to discuss NMFS' 5-year socio-economic data collection plan. The meeting was held at Chairman Yee's Capitol office.
- o Staff and members met with Larry Six (Pacific Council) and NMFS representatives to discuss development and timetable for joint Council Billfish FMP. Integrated polished draft to be ready by August Council meeting.

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