

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Telephone: (907) 271-2809
FAX (907) 271-2817

#3-93

NEWSLETTER

07/02/93

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Met June 21 - 25

During the June meeting in Kodiak, Alaska the Council provided closure on a number of important issues including gear allocations of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI), salmon bycatch management, Atka mackerel management in the BSAI and the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), and a proposed delay of the pollock 'A' season in the BSAI. These and other issues are detailed inside.

The next meeting of the Council will be in Anchorage the week of September 20-27. At that time the Council will be addressing several issues, including: final action on the Block proposals to the sablefish/halibut IFQ program; status of the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan (Observer Program); initial discussion of a proposed halibut cap on the charter boat industry; final action on proposed rebuilding strategies for Pacific Ocean Perch (POP); initial groundfish specifications for the 1994 fishing year; and, more discussion on comprehensive planning for the groundfish and crab fisheries.

Secretary of Commerce Announces Council Appointments

Official word of Council appointments was received on June 28. Council member *Walter Pereyra* was appointed to a second three-year term, and *Robin Samuelson* has been appointed to his first three-year Council term. New appointments become effective on August 11.

Mr. Samuelson, of Dillingham, Alaska, served on Alaska's State Board of Fisheries from 1989 to 1992 and fishes commercially for salmon and herring. Dr. Pereyra is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for ProFish International, a vertically integrated seafood company with primary emphasis on North Pacific bottomfish fisheries.

Appointments to seven voting NPFMC Council seats are made by the Secretary of Commerce through nominations submitted by the Governors of the states of Alaska, Washington and Oregon. Each governor must submit three nominees for each vacancy. Terms are staggered so that no more than three seats are available for appointment each year. Four other voting positions are held by representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska

IN THE NEWSLETTER

COUNCIL MET JUNE 21-25	1
COUNCIL APPOINTEES ANNOUNCED	1
HENRY MITCHELL LEAVES COUNCIL	2
SCALLOP MANAGEMENT	2
SABLEFISH & HALIBUT IFQ PLAN	2
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING	3
EXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION	4
CRAB MANAGEMENT	4
PACIFIC COD ALLOCATION	4
SALMON BYCATCH/IVIP	5
SEPARATE ATKA MACKEREL IN GOA	6
20 NM SEA LION ZONES	6
TOTAL WEIGHT MEASURE FOR CDQ	6
BSAI ATKA MACKEREL TAC	7
BSAI POLLOCK 'A' SEASON	7
ISSUES AT A GLANCE	7
CALL FOR PROPOSALS	9
ATTACHMENT I	10
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE	12

Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fisheries, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of State, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission are each represented on the Council by a non-voting member.

Henry Mitchell Leaves Council

At the recent NPFMC meeting in Kodiak, Council member Henry Mitchell was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his three terms on the Council. During his nine years as a Council member, Mitchell served as chairman of the Habitat Committee, as well as a member of several other Council groups and committees, including the Halibut Regulatory Amendment Advisory Group, Permit Review Group, and the Advisory Panel Nominating, Fishery Planning, Data Gathering, and Observer Committees.

Scallop Management

The Council reviewed a draft analysis for a proposed Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the scallop fishery in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI). Three alternatives were examined in the analysis: continuing State management (status quo), incorporating scallops into the GOA and BSAI groundfish FMPs, and developing a separate scallop FMP. Both alternatives to the status quo may limit access to the fishery with a vessel moratorium, but most management measures would be deferred to the State of Alaska, including setting of harvest levels and in-season management of the fishery.

At the June meeting, the Council received public testimony and recommendations from the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee on this analysis. The Council recommended that the analysis be sent out for public review after suggested revisions were incorporated. Revisions will include: expanded descriptions of vessel participation and available scallop resources, impacts of management authorities and observer programs, some consideration of Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs), and an additional alternative of full Council management. A revised analysis will be ready for public review prior to the September meeting, likely in early August.

The Council also reaffirmed their previous Control Date of January 20, 1993, which was set to notice the industry that a moratorium for this fishery may be implemented. As anticipated, effort in this fishery has apparently increased, with 20 vessels licensed to fish scallops as of May 28, 1993.

Sablefish And Halibut IFQ News

The final rule implementing Amendment 15 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, Amendment 20 to the FMP of the Gulf of Alaska, and a Pacific Halibut Regulatory Amendment is in the final stages of internal review at NMFS and NOAA. If the Secretary of Commerce signs the final rule it will be submitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Once published in the *Federal Register*, there is a 30-day APA delayed effectiveness (cooling off) period. After the cooling off period, barring court ordered injunctions, the rule will become effective. Fishing under the sablefish and halibut IFQ program is still anticipated to begin in 1995.

In other IFQ news, the Council voted to release for public review an analysis of two proposals to amend the sablefish and halibut IFQ programs. Known as "Sitka Block" and "Full/Partial Block," the proposals would limit the way future transfers of quota shares (QS) and IFQs may be traded. The documents will be available on July 26, 1993. To request a document please contact the Council office. The Council is scheduled to make a final decision on these proposals at the September 1993 meeting in Anchorage. The Council did not release the analysis of the "1,000 Pound Minimum Allocation of Halibut IFQs," effectively ending further consideration of that issue.

Both block proposals require that transactions of QS be limited to pre-determined blocks of shares, and limits the number of blocks a person may own or otherwise control. The "Sitka Block" proposal sets the block size to be the amount allocated at the time of implementation. The "Full/Partial Block" proposal limits the size of full blocks to 20,000 pounds. If a person receives less than 20,000 pounds it will be a partial block. If a person receives more than 20,000 pounds they will receive at least one (or more) full block and one partial block.

Comprehensive Planning Program

The Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) met on Sunday June 20, 1993, before the actual start of the Council meeting. The Committee heard a progress report by Council staff and reviewed a staff discussion paper entitled "Potential Elements of Individual Fishing Quotas or License Limitation Programs in the North Pacific Groundfish and Crab Fisheries." In addition, the CPC heard public testimony, including a discussion of a paper prepared by Dr. Scott Matulich of Washington State University, titled "Rationalizing Comprehensive Rationalization: Reconsidering Efficiency and Equity Implications of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ) in North Pacific Fisheries." This paper focuses on the effects on processors of an individual quota program. Both discussion papers are available for public review, and may be received by contacting the Council office.

The Committee and the public were also apprised of the development by the staff of the Quota Share Assessment Model (QSAM), an interactive spreadsheet which allows users to examine different allocation scenarios and to see how they, as individuals, or industry sectors, would fare. QSAM is also available to the public; contact the Council office for more information.

During the plenary session the Council tackled some of the hard decisions necessary to keep the Comprehensive Planning Program on track. Basing their decisions on the discussion papers mentioned above, and on public testimony, the Council asked that the analysis of the IFQ alternative focus on a comprehensive program which includes all groundfish, crab, and prohibited species under the Council's jurisdiction. This action drops, from further in-depth analyses, an option to include all species except prohibited species, and an alternative to include only prohibited species in the program. The Council also chose to drop further in-depth study of license limitation for groundfish, but chose to continue development of a license limitation alternative in the BSAI crab fisheries. The deleted alternatives will be discussed only qualitatively in the final, detailed analysis.

The Council also asked the staff to do further qualitative work on the issue of allocations to processors. These allocations could take the form of direct allocations to processors of harvesting IFQs or they could be in the form of a second processor "pie" of quota shares. The "two-pie" schemes would allocate harvesting shares to harvesters and processing shares to processors, with a requirement that the two parts be matched for any processing to occur. Under this scenario catcher-processors would receive both harvesting and processing shares. The papers mentioned above discuss these issues.

In other action, the Council asked the staff to develop "fishery profiles" which would discuss the various sectors of the industry, including crew, communities, processors, and harvesters. These "fishery profiles" could dovetail with work currently underway to develop "representative vessel and processor profiles."

Finally, the staff was asked to examine the feasibility of a "crew license" program. This alternative would issue transferrable licenses to crew members. Only licensed fishing crew could work on fishing vessels. The Council asked only for an examination of the issue, aware that very little data exist regarding fishing and processing crews.

In September the Council may be further refining the specific elements of the potential IFQ program, including landings history criteria for qualification and initial allocation as well as ownership and transferability restrictions.

Exclusive Registration

Last December the Council approved an exclusive registration amendment for trawl vessels engaged in directed pollock fisheries. Under that amendment, these vessels would have been required to register in either the BSAI or the Western/Central GOA, but could not fish in both. As of the June meeting in Kodiak, that amendment had not been forwarded for Secretarial review. At this meeting the Council rescinded their action from December in order to consider a broader alternative this coming September. The Council gave notice that they may adopt an exclusive registration amendment which applies to trawl vessels fishing for all groundfish species. If approved in September, this amendment would require trawl vessels to register in either the GOA or the BSAI and would apply to all groundfish species. The analysis of the exclusive registration alternatives will be available in mid-July and public comment will be received until the September Council meeting. The Council will also be taking oral testimony at the Council meeting.

Although the analysis contains other alternatives (exclusive registration for pollock only, cod only, and alternatives which include factory longliners), the Council indicated that the alternatives to be considered in September would be either status quo or exclusive registration for all species, but only applicable to trawl vessels.

Bering Sea Crab Management

At the Kodiak meeting the Council reviewed the State of Alaska's management of the king and Tanner crab fisheries in the Bering Sea. This included reports from ADF&G biologists and also a summary report on recent Alaska Board of Fisheries actions on crab management. Two major issues of concern were the Board's decisions to make the Norton Sound king crab fishery a super-exclusive registration area and to set pot limits for Bering Sea crab fisheries.

After receiving these presentations and hearing concerns from interested members of the public, the Council decided to arrange a joint meeting with the Board of Fisheries, to be held sometime in September to discuss crab management in the Bering Sea. In addition, the Council is initiating a request for proposals for possible amendments to the Bering Sea crab FMP. Proposals will be due on August 15, with Plan Team review in the latter part of August, and Council review at the joint meeting in September. Please refer to the attachment for more details on submission of proposals for crab, halibut, and groundfish management.

Council Decision on BSAI Pacific Cod Allocation

After two years of analysis and consideration of the BSAI Pacific cod allocation issue, the Council has given final approval for Secretarial Review of a proposed amendment to the BSAI groundfish FMP. The Council's preferred alternative provides for the following in regards to the BSAI Pacific cod fisheries:

- A. Allocate 2% of the ITAC to jig gear; of the remaining ITAC, 55% is allocated to trawl gear, and 45% is allocated to fixed gear. In addition, the bycatch of cod in other fisheries will come out of each gear group's respective allocation.
- B. Provide the framework ability for the Council to seasonally apportion the fixed gear allocation between trimesters during the fishing year. The apportionment decision will be made through the September-December annual specifications process.
- C. Provide authority for the Regional Director to reallocate cod from fixed gear to trawl gear, or vice versa, during the year in the event that one group or the other will not be able to harvest their allocation. That portion of the jig gear allocation that is expected to go unharvested may be transferred to other gears at the beginning of the third trimester.

- D. Require all trawl and longline vessels below 125 ft participating in the BSAI directed cod fishery to carry an observer at least 30% of the time while in that fishery. Vessels less than 42 feet will be exempt from this requirement.
- E. This action, including all of the provisions listed above, would sunset on December 31, 1996.

The Council also recommended initiating action on the following two items. First, direct staff to begin study on a regulatory amendment to require a minimum 8" mesh size requirement for trawl vessels participating in the BSAI trawl cod fishery. The Council requested that a report on this proposal be presented in September. The second request is to initiate an FMP amendment to require retention of all species in both GOA and BSAI federal fisheries. A discussion paper on full utilization of groundfish catch will be developed for consideration at the September Council meeting.

BSAI Salmon Bycatch Management Program Endorsed

Two years' of work pursuing a salmon bycatch management program by the Council, staff, and industry culminated in a program recommended by the Council during this past meeting in Kodiak. The Council has pursued several proposals addressing the incidental capture of salmon in the BSAI trawl fisheries including time/area closures to trawl fisheries triggered by attainment of an established number of chinook salmon (Amendment 21b), salmon caps, a proposed Vessel Incentive Program (VIP) for salmon, and lastly, an industry-sponsored concept of establishing a voluntary "salmon foundation" program that could result in reduced bycatch of chinook salmon through a combination of incentives.

After review of these concepts and accepting public comment, the Council endorsed the industry "salmon foundation" proposal, with further review of a salmon VIP in September. The industry "salmon foundation" proposal is composed of the following components:

- A. Adoption of federal regulations requiring:
 - 1. mandatory retention of all salmon bycatch with a stiff penalty for discard;
 - 2. posting on the NMFS computer bulletin board chinook bycatch numbers on a vessel-by-vessel basis; and
 - 3. implementation of more specific data gathering and/or logbook procedures as appropriate to develop bycatch pattern analysis.
- B. Initiate sampling of retained chinook as appropriate to conduct bycatch pattern and stream-of-origin analysis.
- C. After sampling, preserving retained salmon in a "food grade" state, and turning them over at point of landing for distribution to food banks or related public use, provided that such fish are not placed in commerce.
- D. A critical mass (70 to 80 percent of the fleet) of vessel owners paying an assessment of \$20 per chinook to a private research foundation to support development of data concerning marine chinook bycatch patterns and avoidance and stream-of-origin identification. The Foundation board is to be composed of marine fishery and terminal fishery representatives and others as appropriate. The Foundation is to recommend appropriate conservation-oriented bycatch management measures based on data developed within the scope of its research program.

The Council understands that industry representatives will be meeting soon to organize and establish the foundation. Industry representatives will present a status report on the development of the foundation at the next Council meeting in Anchorage.

Gulf of Alaska Atka Mackerel

The Council approved an amendment to the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish FMP, that establishes Atka mackerel as a separate target species. Atka mackerel, which had been included in the 'other species' category, has recently become a target fishery in the GOA. High landings of Atka mackerel in 1992 accounted for almost the entire total allowable catch (TAC) of "other species," resulting in "other species" becoming non-retainable early in the year. The other species category contains bycatch species, and those of minor commercial importance including sculpins, skates, squid, smelts, sharks, eulachon, capelin, and octopus. The Council determined that by separating Atka mackerel from the other species category, management and conservation of this species would be improved with harvest levels based on biological stock assessments. In addition, this action would allow small directed fisheries for other species (particularly squid and octopus) to continue throughout the year in the GOA. A 1994 quota for Atka mackerel in the GOA will be set this year during the September/December specifications process.

Extension of the 20 Nautical Mile Sea Lion Protection Zones

At the April Council meeting, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a regulatory amendment modifying the seasonal 20 nm Sea Lion Rookery protection zones. Specifically, the proposal considers expanding the seasonal no trawl zones around Steller sea lion rookeries at Sea Lion Rocks, Akun, Ugamak, Akutan, Agligadak and Seguam Islands, to November and December when significant pollock harvest is forecasted for these months.

Though the current pollock fisheries ("B" season and CDQ) are expected to harvest allocated amounts of pollock before November, NMFS believes it necessary to have the authority to prevent potential detrimental effects on the survival and recovery of Steller sea lions during the late fall-early winter months in case unforeseen circumstances result in pollock harvest into November and December.

The Council recommended to extend the 20 nm trawl prohibition areas during November and December when significant pollock harvest is expected in those months through in-season management. Existing trawl prohibitions around Steller sea lion rookeries would remain in effect. Trawl closures around Akun, Akutan, Ugamak and Sea Lion Rock Steller sea lion rookeries would be extended to 20 nm on November 1 by in-season action if 71,500 mt of pollock harvest is forecasted in the Bering Sea, or around Agligadak and Seguam Steller sea lion rookeries if 7,160 mt of pollock harvest in the Aleutian Islands is projected.

The Council believes that this alternative would afford substantial protection for Steller sea lions without unduly impacting bottom trawl fisheries for which no effect to Steller sea lions has been documented. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, this amendment could be implemented this fall.

Total Weight Measurement Requirement in CDQ Fisheries

Over the past year, the NMFS has been developing methods of accurate estimation and reporting of total catch by species for all groundfish fisheries within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the GOA and BSAI. More accurate measurements of total catch would improve: (1) information about total removals from groundfish stocks, (2) in-season management of groundfish total allowable catches (TAC) and other species bycatch, (3) improve the effectiveness of the Vessel Incentive Program (VIP), and (4) data used to prepare stock assessments.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has developed a regulatory amendment that would require improved total catch measurement by operators participating in the Western Alaska Community Development Quota

(CDQ) pollock fisheries. At the April meeting, the Council reviewed and released to the public the draft analysis for this regulatory change.

At their June 1993 meeting the Council took final action on this measure by recommending that catcher/processors participating in the CDQ fisheries be required to carry two observers and provide certified receiving bins for use in volumetric estimates of the catch, or provide tamper-proof scales to weigh all fish prior to sorting and discard. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, the proposed measure will be implemented prior to the start of the 1994 pollock CDQ fisheries.

Atka Mackerel TAC Apportionment in the Aleutian Islands

A proposed change to the BSAI groundfish Fishery Management Plan recommended by the Council in January 1993 will allow the Council to assign TACs to three areas within the Aleutian Islands management area (Area 540). This measure should be approved by the Secretary of Commerce prior to August 20, 1993 and will allow the Council to establish TACs that are reflective of the actual biomass distributions, and in so doing, reduce the chance of local depletion of sedentary fish stocks. The three sub-areas within Area 540 will be separated at the 177°E and 177°W Longitudes.

When recommending this amendment in January, the Council stated its intent to consider the release of Atka mackerel TAC from the unspecified reserve at the June 1993 Council meeting. To date, 37,769 mt of Atka mackerel has been caught in the BSAI, almost all from the proposed Eastern District. The established acceptable biological catch (ABC) for Atka mackerel is 117,100 mt, with an original TAC of 32,000 mt.

In light of this, the Council recommended at this meeting that the Regional Director release 32,000 mt of Atka mackerel TAC from the operating reserve; 27,000 mt to the Central District and 5,000 mt to the Western District, as soon as possible for a fall 1993 fishery. The Eastern District will remain closed to fishing for Atka mackerel.

BSAI Pollock 'A' Season Opening Date

At the January 1993 meeting, the Council requested development of a framework amendment that would allow the opening date for the BSAI pollock 'A' season to be set, on an annual basis, during the September-December annual specifications process. This flexibility would allow for the setting of the opening date to ensure maximum benefit from the BSAI Pollock 'A' season by changing the timing of the fishery to coincide with peak roe maturity and value. At this meeting, the Council decided to not change the start date of the BSAI pollock 'A' season. Therefore, the 1994 BSAI pollock fishery will begin as currently required in regulations, on January 20.

Issues at a Glance

The following section of the newsletter provides a summary of current Council projects, timelines for Council action, and the contact person on our staff for further information.

Comprehensive Planning: Scheduled for September meeting with possible Council action in the form of further refining the specific elements and options of a comprehensive IFQ program. Final Council action still scheduled for June of 1994. Contact person is Chris Oliver.

Salmon Bycatch Management: Action at June meeting endorsing industry program which includes full retention, monetary assessments, and distribution to food banks. Trawl industry group to provide further detail in September. Vessel Incentive Program for salmon will be revisited in September. Contact person is Brent Paine.

Block Proposals for Sablefish/Halibut IFQ Program: Analysis available for public review last week of July. Final Council action scheduled for September. The 1,000 lb minimum proposal has been dropped from further consideration. Contact person is Marcus Hartley.

Proposed Halibut Cap on Charter Operations: Scheduled for initial discussion at September meeting where alternatives for analysis may be proposed. Contact person on this issue is Dave Witherell.

Scallop Management: A draft FMP will be available in early August which includes alternatives delineating State and Federal management responsibilities and includes alternatives for a moratorium on entry into these fisheries. Council may take final action in September. Contact person is Dave Witherell.

General Groundfish and Crab Moratorium: Proposed regulations to implement the moratorium are pending and may be published this month. If approved by the Secretary, the moratorium could be in effect in 1994. Contact person is Chris Oliver.

Research Plan: Proposed regulations for the Research Plan (Observer program) are still being drafted. Once published, public hearings will be scheduled for each state represented on the Council, likely this fall. Contact person is Chris Oliver.

PSC Cap for Pelagic Trawl Fisheries: The Council in September will discuss the issue of applying PSC caps to pelagic trawl fisheries, in addition to bottom trawl fisheries.

Rockfish Management: An FMP amendment is proposed and available from the Council for review which contains stock rebuilding alternatives for Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) in the GOA. The Council is scheduled to take final action on this amendment in September. Contact person is Dave Witherell.

Pribilof Trawl Closure: The analysis of a proposed trawl closure area around the Pribilofs is being conducted by analysts with ADF&G. This analysis is scheduled for initial review by the Council in September, with final action scheduled for December. Contact person is Brent Paine.

Exclusive Registration: Council will be taking final action on the exclusive registration issue in September. The primary alternative being considered would apply to all groundfish for trawl vessels only; i.e., vessels would register to fish in either the GOA or the BSAI, but could not fish both. The analysis documents will be available in mid-July. Contact person is Chris Oliver.

Gulf Atka Mackerel: Council took final action in June separating this species as a separate target species in the GOA. Catch quotas for 1994 will be set during the annual specifications process. Contact person is Dave Witherell.

Pollock 'A' Season Framework: A proposed amendment to framework the opening date of the pollock 'A' season in the BSAI was voted down by the Council at the June meeting. Opening date will continue to be January 20.

Directed Fishing Standards: NMFS is preparing a regulatory amendment which re-evaluates the existing directed fishing standards for rockfish and other groundfish species. This analysis is scheduled for initial review by the Council in September. Contact person is Dave Witherell.

Total Weight Measurement: In June the Council adopted regulations which will require operators in CDQ fisheries to carry two observers and use certified bins for volumetric measurement of catch. These regulations should be in effect in time for the 1994 CDQ fisheries. Contact person is Brent Paine.

Control Date: The Council-recommended control date of June 24, 1992 was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20 of this year. This notices the public and industry that participation in the fisheries

off Alaska after that date may not count if an IFQ or License Limitation program is approved by the Council. Contact person is Chris Oliver.

Magnuson Act Reauthorization: In September the Council will be discussing issues surrounding the 1993 reauthorization of the Act. Contact person is Clarence Pautzke.

Call for Proposals: Groundfish, Crab, and Halibut

Attachment I to this newsletter contains forms and instructions for submitting groundfish proposals to the Council for the 1993-1994 annual cycle. Under this cycle, the Council solicits proposals, they are reviewed by the groundfish Plan Teams and the Council's Plan Amendment Advisory Group (PAAG), and the Council reviews them at the September meeting. After deciding which proposals to pursue, an analysis is performed in time for final Council action the following June. Proposals adopted by the Council in this cycle would then be in effect, if approved, for the 1995 fishing year. The Council is soliciting proposals at this time which are due in the Council office by close of business on August 15.

The Council is also at this time soliciting proposals for amendments to the halibut regulations and the BSAI king and Tanner crab fisheries. These are usually on a slightly different schedule than the groundfish cycle, but the Council is soliciting proposals at this time for these fisheries in addition to groundfish. The Council is scheduling a joint meeting with the Board of Fish in September to discuss crab management. Proposals for these fisheries are also due by August 15. Proposers should use the same proposal form as shown in Attachment I. Council review of crab proposals will be limited mainly to those requiring a plan amendment (Category 1 management measures).

In Memory Of M.E. Pete Isleib

Members of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and fishing industry were saddened to hear of the death of former Advisory Panel member Pete Isleib. Isleib was a member of the NPFMC Advisory panel from 1985 - 1990 and had previously served on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He also was a well known ornithologist recognized as an expert on Alaska birds. Pete was remembered during the Council meeting by a special moment in silence. A memorial service will be held in the fall, after the fishing season, so that Pete's many friends can participate.

July 2, 1993

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council invites proposals to amend groundfish or crab fishery management plans (FMPs), or halibut allocative issues to address pertinent fishery management problems and concerns. The Council has an annual amendment cycle and has formulated criteria for determination of completeness of proposals. To be eligible for Council consideration, proposals must satisfy the criteria outlined below.

PLEASE BE CERTAIN TO COMPLETE ALL PORTIONS OF THIS FORM. SUBMIT THE FORM AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS TO THE COUNCIL OFFICES BY AUGUST 15, 1993. ADDITIONAL SHEETS SHOULD BE ADDED TO THIS FORM AS NECESSARY.

Instructions: Although some requirements may be self-evident, the following summarizes Council expectations for each.

Brief Statement of Proposal - Provide a single, brief paragraph concisely describing the action to be taken. Details should be specified on additional sheets.

Objectives of Proposal - Begin with a concise statement of the problem to be solved by the proposal. Attach sheets as necessary to fully describe the problem, and the implications to American fisheries if the problem is not resolved.

Justification for Council Action - Briefly explain why action by the Council is necessary to address and solve the problem. Is there any other way the problem can be resolved?

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal - Briefly outline the effects you think the proposed amendment will have, not only in solving the problem but also to other sectors of the fishery.

Possible Alternative Solutions - Even if Council action is required, there is probably more than one solution to the problem you have identified. Briefly list possible alternatives to the proposed action that the Council could consider.

Supportive Data and Other Information - Please provide any relevant data or other information available to you.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council welcomes recommendations that will improve the management procedures used to regulate fisheries in the EEZ. Submission of a completed amendment proposal will enhance our ability to respond in a rapid and equitable fashion.

Groundfish proposals received by August 15, 1993 will first be reviewed by the groundfish plan teams and review groups composed of Council, AP and SSC members. Their recommendations will be initially reviewed by the Council in September. Amendments approved for formal analysis will then be prepared for initial Council review in April 1994 and sent on to public review with final consideration by the Council in June 1994. Council-approved amendments then will be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for review and if approved, will be implemented for the 1995 fisheries.

Please be aware that the Council already has many significant issues and problems that need to be addressed. Because of staffing limitations to complete the required analyses, only the very highest priority issues will be considered for the 1994-95 groundfish amendment cycle.

For further information on proposals, please contact Brent Paine or Dave Witherell at (907) 271-2809.

**GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL
North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

Name of Proposer:

Date:

Address:

Telephone:

Fishery Management Plan:

Brief Statement of Proposal:

Objectives of Proposal: (What is the problem?)

Need and Justification for Council Action: (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?)

Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal: (Who wins, who loses?)

Are There Alternative Solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?

Supportive Data & Other Information: What data are available and where can they be found?

Signature:

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The public comment period for the proposed designation of critical habitat for Steller sea lions has been reopened through July 19, 1993 and a public hearing has been scheduled at the Loussac Library, Anchorage from 1:30 to 5:30 pm on July 9, 1993

Areas proposed as critical habitat include: (1) all Steller sea lion rookeries and major haulouts within state and Federally managed waters off Alaska, including a zone that extends 3,000 feet landward and vertical of each rookery and major haulout boundary, and that extends either 3,000 feet seaward from rookeries and major haulouts east of 144°W longitude or 20 nm seaward from rookeries and major haulouts west of 144°W longitude; (2) all Steller sea lion rookeries in state and Federally managed waters off Oregon and California, including the zone that extends 3,000 feet vertical and seaward from each rookery; and (3) three aquatic foraging habitat within the core of the Steller sea lion's geographic range, one located exclusively in the Gulf of Alaska (Shelikof Strait) and two in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area (vicinity of Bogoslof Island and Seguam Pass). The designation of critical habitat does not, in itself, restrict human activities. The primary benefit is that it provides notification to Federal agencies that a listed species is dependent on these areas for its continued existence and any Federal action that may affect these areas is subject to the Endangered Species Act consultation requirements. For more information, consult the applicable Federal Register notice (58 FR 17181, April 1, 1993) or contact the NMFS Protected Resources Division in Juneau, at (907) 586-7245.