

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES: February 25, 1981

The Finance Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met Wednesday, February 25, 1981, in the Council office with 14 people in attendance.

The first item discussed was the FY81 administrative budget and the projected expenditures for the remaining eight months.

The projections indicate the Council could have a \$44,000 deficit by the end of September.

The deficit is occurring in two line items, salaries and travel. One staff position, approved by National Marine Fisheries Service, has not been funded. The Council's travel request was cut by \$64,000 when our grant was awarded.

The Committee realizes the possibility there will not be additional funding, so recommends the following suggestions that would allow the Council to stay within the granted amount:

1. Change the location of the May Council meeting from Kodiak to Anchorage.

2. For the April meeting and possibly others, when a report from the Advisory Panel and/or the Scientific and Statistical Committee is not required, no expenses for these members will be authorized.

3. The September Council meeting is tentatively cancelled.

The Finance Committee suggests the current attendance policy for the Advisory Panel members be changed. This policy states if a member misses three consecutive meetings without a valid excuse, that members be dropped and a new appointment made. With the current funding problems, the Committee suggests Advisory Panel members be requested to attend if there is an agenda item scheduled in that members' field of expertise. If there is an Advisory Panel report required, all members will be invited, but should they choose not to come, that would not be classified as an unexcused absence.

Next, the Executive Director informed the Committee of the 2.5% reduction of COLA for staff and Council members.

The FY81 programmatic (research/contract) budget of \$619,880 was reviewed, and it was noted \$115,000 had been obligated for three projects. They were:

"Feeding Habits for Walrus/Bristol Bay Clams" \$10,000

"Fisheries Data Summation" \$55,000

"Halibut/Crab Pot Study" \$50,000

The SSC's report on RFP's and contracts was then given by Dr. Rosenberg. They recommended the following:

1. RFP for Herring Stock Data not go out for bid, as this project has been funded to ADF&G by the State of Alaska.
2. Hold the "Incidental Catch of Salmon" RFP until Dr. Burgner has had an opportunity to comment, probably at the next meeting. The projected funding level is \$50,000.
3. The Marine Mammal Data RFP as modified by the SSC be released. This project is to be a joint funding of the Marine Mammal Commission and the North Pacific Council. The Finance Committee concurred.

The SSC accepted final reports for the following contracts:

"Offshore Salmon Study - Alaska" Natural Resources, Inc.

Balance of Contract - \$6,067.75

"Halibut/Crab Pot Study"

Balance of Contract - \$50,000

The Committee recommends final payment for both contracts up to the amount contracted for, only.

Dr. Harville briefed the Committee on problems ahead with respect to State monitoring, data collection, and management-related research, because of the threatened cuts in Federal grant-in-aid funding for fisheries. Augmentations to the FY81 budget for the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act (P.L. 88-309) and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (P.L. 89-304) totalling \$4.5 million have been impounded and will not be released unless action is taken by the Congress to override the deferral of those funds.

The projection for FY82 is even more dismal, with possibility of loss of all funding for those programs (approximately \$11 million nationwide, \$3+ million for the Pacific Coast). The loss to the State of Alaska would be about \$3/4 million, most of which goes to fisheries programs important to Council management plans (e.g. coded wire-tag recovery for salmon, monitoring and management-related research on shellfish and groundfish). Harville warned that if these cuts did occur, this could have major impacts on Council priorities for use of programmatic funds.