

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

November, 1978

#14-15

Note: This NEWSLETTER will cover the activities of the NPFMC for the months of November and December. No meeting of the Council will be held during the December regular meeting period due to the holiday schedule.

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was held Nov. 30-Dec. 1 and included these highlights:

BERING SEA HERRING - A report was received by the Council on development of the herring FMP to date. Council funded research and other material is being pulled together by the plan development team, with the plan scheduled for implementation by early 1980. As a note of interest concerning herring, stocks of herring worldwide are generally in a reduced state.

TROLL SALMON - Final approval and recommendation that the plan be forwarded to the SOC was given for the High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175 Degrees East Longitude (troll salmon FMP). The plan provides for complementary regulations with adjacent State of Alaska waters by adopting the State power troll limited entry system for the FCZ (with a modification to allow for certain exceptions where some "grandfather" rights to the fishery will be recognized); closing Federal waters west of Cape Suckling; adopting a 28-legal length limit for chinook; prohibiting net fishing other than specified; prohibiting hand trolling; adopting State seasons and sportfishing regulations; setting no limit on the number of lines and consideration in the calculation of MSY of waters from 0-200 miles. The plan is considered "interim" in the sense that a comprehensive FMP for the management of chinook and coho in all waters off the coast of Southeast Alaska will be developed for implementation by 1980. A planning team has been named and initial work is being developed with the State of Alaska.

FOREIGN PERMITS - Foreign permits were recommended approved for four vessels to operate in 1979 in support of the KMIDC joint-venture, (Korea). Applications were recommended approved for 22 Republic of China vessels to fish in the Bering Sea area and applications from Poland to fish for pollock and other species were disapproved. Also

recommended disapproved were 11 applications from Mexico.

NEW AGENDA ITEM - The Council received the first of a new agenda item report--a monthly cumulative domestic catch report from ADF&G.

BERING SEA SHRIMP FMP - Review of the first draft of this plan was deferred one month (January meeting) on the advice of the SSC, which had conducted an exhaustive review of the plan at this stage. The SSC directed attention to certain portions which need more attention.

NMFS REPORT - The seasonal departure of vessels from the fishing grounds off Alaska is under way this month. Five Polish vessels which commenced fishing in November indicate they will depart Dec. 1, having not found enough pollock to sustain their fishing effort. One U.S. vessel engaged in the KMIDC-Davenny joint-venture during November. Activity in that venture is ending with no indication of start-up dates for 1979.

CONTRACT REPORTS - Final reports were received as follows: "An Investigation of Joint U.S./Foreign Ventures in the Developing Commercial Fishery off Alaska," "Investigations on the Continental Origin of Sockeye and Coho Salmon in the Area of the Japanese Land-based Fishery," and "The Social and Economic Impacts of a Commercial Herring Fishery on the Coastal Villages of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim." With respect to the herring study, the Council approved the proposals and conclusions drawn in the report for use as guidelines in the development of the FMP.

ADVISORY PANEL APPOINTMENTS - New and re-appointments were made to the 25-member AP at the expiration of the two-year terms. Twenty original members were reappointed, three new members were appointed (Jack Phillips, longliner, Pelican, Ed Linkous, troller, Ketchikan and Robin Chlupach, consumer, Palmer area). Public notice is being made of two existing vacancies on the Advisory Panel, with nominations open through Jan. 26.

SCIENTIFIC & STATISTICAL COMMITTEE - Dr. James Crutchfield, a former member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and renowned economist, was appointed as the 10th member of the SSC.

CLAM STEERING COMMITTEE - Henry Wendler (alternate for Gordon Sandison) and Kirk Beinigen (alternate for John Donaldson) were appointed as a steering committee to assist the plan development team for Bering Sea clams.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - A recommendation from the Finance Committee calling for Council participation in the funding of the coded wire tag recovery program for salmon off the coast of Alaska was accepted by the Council. The action added \$30,000 to a previous commitment of \$44,000. Total amount of the contract is \$156,000. Also participating in the recovery program is the PFMC and ADF&G.

TANNER CRAB - The most recent NMFS trawl survey indicates a dramatic decline in Tanner crab (C. bairdi) from 1977 totals of legal size crabs. The comparison: 1977=92 million, 1978=45 million. The Council will look further at this and especially at CPUE rates as a more accurate indicator of stock strength.

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - The Council directed that certain proposals approved previously for inclusion in the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP, and others received more recently be incorporated into the plan after implementation Dec. 1, 1978. They are: remove the one-hour tow duration restriction and delete the requirement for the use of off-bottom trawls from Dec. 1 - May 31 (domestic); allow fishing between 169-170 degrees West longitude from 3-12 miles offshore (foreign); relax the regulation which allows only 25% of FAC to be taken during Jan. 1 - May 31 and Dec. 1-30 combined (foreign); restricting incidental catches of blackcod in joint-venture catches and allocations to 0.5% of the total pollock catch and allowing foreign longlining in waters to depths of 400 meters (from 500 meters) from May 1 to Sept. 30.

-SPECIAL NOTICE-

ADVISORY PANEL NOMINATIONS - Two vacancies exist on the AP. (See p.2). Names of those who wish to be nominated for membership on the panel have to be sent to the Council office prior to the Jan. 25-26 meeting. The Council will receive the nominations and act on them to name the new members at the February meeting. All names should be sent to: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 3136 DT, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The meeting was held Nov. 2-3 and included these highlights:

HALIBUT FMP - The Fishery Management Plan for Halibut off the Coast of Alaska was approved to go forward to the SOC for review. The plan contains:

1. Size limit - 32" heads-on and 24" heads-off.
2. Gear restriction to hook and line only.
3. Sport limit of 2 per day.
4. Catch limits of: 3 million pounds in Area 2N
9½ million pounds in Area 3
½ million pounds in Area 4
5. Four split seasons to begin in May, each 15-20 days in duration.

TANNER CRAB - The following action was taken on amendments to the Tanner crab plan: Amended the FMP to allow foreign fishing in the area west of 173 degrees West longitude and south of 58 degrees North latitude with the catch not to exceed 2,500 mt in that area (C. opilio only) and the TALFF remains at 15,000 mt.; Amended the Kodiak Area Tanner crab OY to 20-35 million pounds; recommended no allocation be given to the Republic of Korea which had requested 15,000 mt of Tanner crab (C. opilio) and amended the FMP to require that all foreign crab catcher vessels associated with a given mothership operate only in one area (north or south of 58 degrees) at any given time.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS- A meeting schedule for the first three months of the year was adopted as follows:

January 25-26	Anchorage
February 23-24	Anchorage
March 23-24	Juneau

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS IMPLEMENTED-FMPs for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery and Tanner crab were implemented Friday, Dec. 1, 1978. They become the first FMPs which the has developed to be put into place as management regimes for fisheries off the coast of Alaska. Other plans to follow include those for shrimp, halibut, Bering Sea/Aleutian groundfish, king crab, troll salmon, herring and clams.

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