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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement for the month of January resulted in 18 boardings, 3 citations, but no reports of violation or seizures. The activity is summarized below:

	<u>Number of Foreign Vessels</u>					
	<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>Total</u>
Italy	0	0	0	12	0	12
Japan	66	0	0	11	0	77
S. Korea	2	0	0	0	0	2
Spain	0	0	0	15	0	15
Mexico	0	0	0	1	0	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>38</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>51</u>
Total	106	0	0	52	0	158

	<u>Number of Boardings</u>					
Italy	0	0	0	3	0	3
Japan	3	0	0	4	0	7
Spain	0	0	0	7	0	7
U.S.S.R.	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	3	0	0	15	0	18

	<u>Number of Citations</u>					
Japan	1	0	0	0	0	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	4	0	0	0	0	4

Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program

Information collected by observers in 1977 on total catch of foreign vessels fishing in the Northwest Atlantic and the North Pacific and Alaska FCZ has been instrumental in determining dates of quota attainment by foreign nations in certain fisheries and subsequent closing of them. This information has proved to be an excellent adjunct to the nation's own catch reporting system and to Coast Guard/National Marine Fisheries Service boardings at sea.

A summary table for observer coverage in the month of January follows; 11% coverage was achieved in January. Summary tables for observer coverage in the last quarter in 1977 show that 26% of foreign vessel days on grounds in North Pacific and Alaskan waters and 21% of foreign vessel days on grounds in the Northwest Atlantic were covered.

FOREIGN FISHING FLEET OBSERVER PROGRAM - JANUARY 1978

	Atlantic Squid Fishery	Bering Sea- Aleutian Longline Fishery	Bering Sea Stern Trawl Fishery	Bering Sea Trawl Factory Ship Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Longline Fishery	T O T A L
<u>ITALY</u>							
Observers	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Vessels	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
<u>JAPAN</u>							
Observers	1	0	2	1	1	-	5
Vessels	9	4	59	1	6	-	79
<u>KOREA</u>							
Observers	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
<u>POLAND</u>							
Observers	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<u>SPAIN</u>							
Observers	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Vessels	15	-	-	-	-	-	15
<u>MEXICO</u>							
Observers	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vessels	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>							
Observers	3	-	1	-	0	-	4
Vessels	13	-	35	-	7	-	55
<u>TOTALS</u>							
Observers	13	0	3	1	1	0	18
Vessels	49	4	96	1	13	0	163

FOREIGN FLEET OBSERVER COVERAGE - NORTHWEST ATLANTIC
April 11 - December 31, 1977

Fishery & Country	No. of Vessels In The Fishery	No. of Vessels Assigned Observers	% Vessels Covered	No. of Vessel Days on Grounds	No. of Observer Days on Vessels	% of Vessel Days Covered
<u>Hake:</u>						
USSR	34	26	76%	1739	479	28%
Bulgaria	2	1	50%	67	23	34%
Total for Period	36	27	75%	1806	502	28%
<u>Herring:</u>						
E. Germany	19	10	53%	753	155	21%
W. Germany	6	5	83%	54	51	94%
USSR	2	1	50%	19	12	63%
France	1	0	0	1	0	0
Poland	5	3	60%	112	92	87%
Total for Period	33	19	58%	939	310	33%
<u>Squid:</u>						
Spain	79	20	25%	2919	280	10%
USSR	19	10	53%	489	137	28%
Japan	16	8	50%	715	281	39%
Italy	8	6	75%	392	62	16%
Poland	2	2	100%	8	3	38%
Total for Period	124	46	37%	4523	763	17%
<u>Mackerel:</u>						
USSR	1	-	-	2	-	-
E. Germany	3	-	-	88	-	-
Bulgaria	1	-	-	21	-	-
Poland	4	-	-	16	-	-
Total for Period	9	-	-	127	-	-
GRAND TOTAL FOR PERIOD	202	101	50%	7395	1,575	21%

FOREIGN FLEET OBSERVER COVERAGE
NORTH PACIFIC AND ALASKA
March 1 - December 31, 1977

Fishery & Country	No. of Vessels In The Fishery	No. of Vessels Assigned Observers	% Vessels Covered	No. of Vessel Days on Grounds	No. of Observer Days on Vessels	% of Vessel Days Covered
<u>Bering Sea & Aleutian Trawl</u>						
Japan	267	94	35.2	38641	11101	28.7
USSR	39	8	20.5	3207	391	12.2
S. Korea	10	3	30.0	668	117	17.5
Taiwan	2	0	0.0	82	0	0.0
Total for Period	318	105	33.0	42598	11609	27.3
<u>Bering Sea Crab</u>						
Japan	23	18	78.3	2254	2015	89.4
Total for Period	23	18	78.3	2254	2015	89.4
<u>Bering Sea Longline</u>						
Japan	4	0	0.0	1596	0	0.0
S. Korea	1	0	0.0	51	0	0.0
Total for Period	5	0	0.0	1647	0	0.0
<u>Gulf of Alaska Trawl</u>						
Japan	27	11	40.7	2723	342	12.6
USSR	19	3	15.8	2261	211	9.3
S. Korea	9	0	0.0	384	0	0.0
Poland	1	0	0.0	60	0	0.0
Total for Period	56	14	25.0	5248	553	10.2

FOREIGN FLEET OBSERVER COVERAGE
NORTH PACIFIC AND ALASKA
March 1 - December 31, 1977
(continued)

Fishery & Country	No. of Vessels In The Fishery	No. of Vessels Assigned Observers	% Vessels Covered	No. of Vessel Days on Grounds	No. of Observer Days on Vessels	% of Vessel Days Covered
<u>Gulf of Alaska Longline</u>						
Japan	22	6	27.3	2681	174	6.5
S. Korea	6	0	0.0	624	0	0.0
<u>Total for Period</u>	28	6	23.2	3305	174	5.3
<u>Wash -Oregon Cal. Trawl</u>						
USSR	42	26	60.5	3541	846	23.9
Poland	6	5	83.3	545	203	37.2
<u>Total for Period</u>	48	31	64.6	4086	1049	25.7
<u>Grand Total for Period</u>	478	174	36.4	59318	15400	26.0

Foreign Fishing Regulations

On January 26, 1978, NOAA published a final amendment to the foreign fishing regulations in the Federal Register, Section 611.11(d). The regulations provide U.S. fishermen an option to elect to institute arbitration proceedings to resolve gear conflict claims against foreign vessels when such claims exceed \$25,000. For lesser claims either the U.S. fishermen or the foreign vessel owner or captain, or their agent, may request the claim arbitrated. The final amendment is the same as the interim amendment published on December 14 which was reproduced in the November Issue (Vol. 1, No. 11) of the Council Memorandum. A "Compensation for Fishing Gear Conflicts" pamphlet is now being prepared for printing within the next several weeks. This pamphlet will assist U.S. fishermen in selecting an appropriate mechanism to obtain compensation.

Joint Ventures

The National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing an interim policy to govern issuance of foreign fishing vessel permits to allow foreign vessels to purchase or receive fish from U.S. fishing vessels in the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ). The proposed interim policy which will be published in the Federal Register on February 8 is designed to address only permit applications submitted under preliminary fishery management plans (PMP's) in effect on January 1, 1978, for the 1978 fishing season and will be replaced by a more comprehensive policy covering both PMP's and fishery management plans (FMP's) that are implemented by the Secretary. The proposed interim policy is being published to solicit public comments. Comments received by February 23, 1978, will be considered by the NOAA Administrator before adopting an interim policy.

The following interim policy has been proposed to govern the Secretary's consideration of applications for such permits.

The Secretary of Commerce shall encourage the development of all segments of the U.S. fishing industry consistent with the purposes of the Act and other applicable laws. As one means of carrying out this objective, the Secretary may approve applications for foreign fishing vessel permits to allow foreign vessels to purchase or receive fish from U.S. harvesting vessels within the Fishery Conservation Zone on a case-by-case basis. Any such permits granted shall contain appropriate conditions and restrictions.

Permits shall be approved only when the Secretary is satisfied that

- (1) the optimum yield for the fishery involved will not be exceeded;
- (2) the capability and intent of the U.S. fishing industry to harvest fish to be sold or delivered exceeds the capability and intent of the U.S. industry to process such fish; and
- (3) the relevant foreign vessel has capability and intent to process such fish.

Actions with respect to applications for permits for 1978 shall have no precedential effect on any applications for permits for subsequent years.

In implementing this policy, the Secretary of Commerce may also take into consideration one or more of the following in evaluating a proposal to issue a permit to a foreign vessel to purchase or receive fish from a U.S. harvesting vessel within the Fishery Conservation Zone.

- (1) Potential for displacement of any domestic fishing and associated industries for other stocks or species.
- (2) Potential for gear conflicts between U.S. vessels involved in harvesting such fish and other stocks or species.
- (3) Employment opportunities or losses for domestic labor.

- (4) Impact on ex-vessel, wholesale, and retail prices.
- (5) Impact on income of domestic fishermen, processors, and industry workers.
- (6) Impact on the U.S. consumer.
- (7) Impact on the degree of market control by either U.S. or foreign processors.
- (8) Impact on export or import restrictions imposed by foreign nations on U.S. products.
- (9) Effect of overall U.S./foreign trade policy guidelines.
- (10) Potential for expansion of U.S. fleets.
- (11) Possible detrimental effects to any segment of the fishing industry.

Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of January resulted in 9 boardings, 2 citations, and 3 reports of violation. They are summarized below:

<u>Number of Boardings</u>					
<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>Total</u>
0	0	0	9	0	9
<u>Number of Citations</u>					
0	0	0	2	0	2
<u>Number of Reports of Violation</u>					
0	0	0	3	0	3

Status of FCMA Reports of Violations

The following table reflects the status of processing through the Notice of Violation stage of Reports of Violation issued under the FCMA since March 1, 1977, through January 9, 1978.

<u>Region</u>	<u>No. Issued</u>	<u>No. In Region To Be Processed</u>	<u>No. In Washington</u>	<u>Notices Of Violation Or Other Actions to Respondents</u>
Northeast	289	21	85	183
Alaska	26	2	5	19
Northwest	38	3	10	25
Southwest	5	0	0	5
TOTAL	358	26	100*	232

*59 violations received on 1/9/78

Congressional Activities

Law Enforcement - On January 19, 1978, the House passed H.R. 2329, the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act. The bill authorizes enforcement agents of both the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior (DOI), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOC), to carry firearms and conduct warrantless searches and seizures as provided by law; permits the Secretaries of DOC and DOI to establish and conduct national training programs and to accept the services of volunteers in conducting fish and wildlife programs under their jurisdiction; provides for the designation of State or Federal agents as fish and wildlife enforcement officers; permits the Secretaries of DOC and DOI to dispose of forfeited or abandoned property; and contains clarifying amendments to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

FCMA Amendment/Northern Marianas - Senator Inouye (Hawaii) introduced S. 2454 on January 30, 1978. This bill would amend Section 302(a)(8) of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act in order to provide the Northern Marianas with representation on the Western Pacific Council.

1978 State Directors' Meeting

On January 31, 1978, a program planning committee, comprised of State Directors representing the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts and the Great Lakes area, met under the Chairmanship of Ted Bampton (Connecticut) to confirm the dates and site for the 1978 State Directors' Meeting and to prepare a tentative agenda for the meeting. It was decided that the 1978 meeting will convene at the National Wildlife Federation Building in Washington, D.C., in April 6-7, 1978. A tentative agenda was prepared which soon will be circulated to the State Directors' for review and comment.

Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's)

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

<u>Region</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
Southeast	Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks	The plan has been approved by the NOAA Administrator and appeared in the <u>Federal Register</u> 1/27/78, and regs will be effective on or about 3/1/78.

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

During the month of January, the following actions were taken on the implementation of FMP's:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>New England</u>	Atlantic Groundfish	Emergency Regulations promulgated extending '77 plan; Draft SEIS undergoing public review
	Atlantic Groundfish Amendments for 1978	Council drafting plan
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	Atlantic Mackerel Fishery	Council working on FEIS
	Squid Fishery	Council working on FEIS
<u>Pacific</u>	Northern Anchovy Fishery	DEIS/FMP undergoing 45 day public review period
	Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries	Began Secretarial (DOC) review 1/3/78 on FEIS/FMP
<u>North Pacific</u>	Commercial Salmon Troll Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska	FEIS/FMP undergoing Secretarial (DOC) review

Revisions in North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

Bud Walsh, Deputy Administrator designate, and Dave Wallace attended the January 26-27, Council meeting in Anchorage to present their views on the FMP's for "Tanner Crab off Alaska" and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish during 1978." The Council made the following changes in the groundfish FMP:

- a. Raise sablefish Optimun Yield (OY) from 10,000 mt to 13,000 mt
- b. Specify the MSY and OY for "other species" at 16,200 mt and postpone the 10% reduction in OY for one year.
- c. Reduce OY reserve from 30% to 20%.

The Council agreed to submit additional material to justify its specification of Tanner crab OY.

In addition, based upon the advice of the Regional Attorney, the Council decided to make revisions in the salmon FMP "Commercial Troll Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska."

Limited Entry Workshop and Conference

A national steering committee has been established to plan and coordinate the workshop and subsequent conference. The committee includes members from Councils, NMFS, and the University of Washington with geographical representation from the Northeast, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific areas.

The workshop will be held at the Lake Wilderness Center just outside Seattle on May 16-18, 1978. Attendance will be by invitation only, consisting primarily of the authors, members of the steering committee, and a limited number of experts knowledgeable and/or experienced in limited entry programs. The workshop's primary task will be to review and critique papers selected for the conference and to make plans for the conference.

The conference is planned for July 17-19, 1978, and will be held at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Denver. While the conference will be open to the public, most of the attendance is expected to consist of individuals identified by Regional Fishery Management Councils and NOAA.

The agenda for the steering committee's January 18 meeting included (1) approval of the workshop program--establishing the time, format, and participation; (2) selection of location for the workshop and the conference; and (3) format and participation guidelines for the conference.

As the plans are finalized, information will be included in future issues of the Council Memorandum.

Economic Data Planning Meeting

Plans for collecting economic data was the subject of a two day meeting attended by representatives from Regional Councils, NMFS Regions, Centers and Headquarters Offices and by Sea Grant. Regional Councils represented at the meeting were New England, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf, Caribbean and Pacific. The meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on January 25-26, 1978 was sponsored by NMFS. The attendees described the data needs and plans of their respective organizations, and steps which need to be taken in order to obtain the kinds of economic and sociological data required for fishery management plans. A report is being prepared which summarizes the discussions at the meeting, and which includes recommendations regarding socio-economic data collection. Before being sent to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, the report will be reviewed by the meeting attendees and then by the Regional Councils, as well as the Assistant, Regional and Center Directors of NMFS. If you have any questions about this activity, please contact Dr. Hoyt Wheeland, Director, Office of Information Systems, NMFS, Telephone Number (202) 254-7806, who served as Chairman of the meeting.

Joint Council/NMFS Workshop on Foreign Fees

To fulfill a commitment made at the Council Chairmen's Meeting (September 1977, Portland, Oregon), NMFS has taken action to plan a Joint Council/NMFS Workshop on the Foreign Fee Schedule for 1979.

In a memorandum dated January 31, 1978, NMFS (1) notified Council Chairmen that the workshop is tentatively planned for June 1978 (exact dates not yet determined), and (2) requested Chairmen to provide input on the following items:

- (a) suggested specific dates for the workshop
- (b) suggested location
- (c) a contact person from each Council
- (d) Council recommendations for Council co-chairman
- (e) items and format for the agenda
- (f) suggested consultants

Administrative Officers Workshop

A workshop for Council administrative officers was held January 17 through 19 in Arlington, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss operations and begin preparing a standard handbook that might be followed in the future. Several questions affecting operations were surfaced and a list of these questions will be put together and forwarded to Washington for guidance on how to deal with them. Many of the questions raised related to the issue of Council status, reinforcing the need for an early resolution of this problem.

Concerning the handbook, the administrative officers agreed to develop an outline of their existing procedures by April 1. These various outlines then would be matched against each other to identify common areas around which a handbook might be developed. Selected NOAA/NMFS headquarters administrative, finance and grants management staff attended and provided guidance in their areas of expertise.

New England Council

- o Members of the Council continued to participate at length in the U.S.-Canadian marine resource and maritime boundary negotiations.
- o The Groundfish Committee met twice to make recommendations for the 1978 optimum yields, based on NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center (NEFC) stock assessments, and to consider several proposals of allocating the total allowable catch among groundfish vessel and to spread the catch through the year.
- o The Herring Committee met twice to review in detail the management options outlined in the staff herring report.
- o The Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed possible management measures for offshore recreational fisheries; a comprehensive NSF-sponsored, socio-economic study of the New England fisheries by the Universities of Maine and Rhode Island, and the staff analysis of herring management options.
- o The Chairman and members of the Council attended a meeting with Mr. Schoning (NMFS) on the administration of the Observer Program.
- o The Chairman and members of the Council attended a meeting with Secretary Kreps (DOC) on enforcement problems, Council communications, assistance to the industry, and the respective roles of the Departments of Commerce and State under the FCMA.
- o The Council held its monthly meeting on January 18 and 19 and reviewed herring and groundfish management at length. It recommended provisions of the 1978 groundfish plan to be taken to Public Hearings beginning January 26 in Atlantic City.
- o Dr. Vidaeus attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., on economic data needs for development of fishery management plans.
- o The staff assisted the Mid-Atlantic Council in groundfish public hearings in Atlantic City and Centereach, New York, on January 26 and January 30.
- o The Council received a contract report that compiled descriptive material necessary for the development of an ocean perch management plan.
- o The Council testified before the Senate Commerce Committee oversight hearing in Portland, Maine, on January 9.
- o The Council staff had several meetings with NMFS/NEFC staff on the development of scallop and silver hake management plans.

Mid-Atlantic Council

- o The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council held two official meetings during the month of January. The first meeting, closed to the public, was held on January 4 in Arlington, Virginia, to discuss progress on U.S./Canadian Boundary Negotiations. The Council's regular monthly meeting was held in Claymont, Delaware, on January 11 and 12.
- o Negotiations between Canada and the United States on fishery matters occupied a considerable amount of Council's time during the month. A team of Council members attended meetings in Boston, Ottawa, and Washington, D.C., as well as the meeting on January 4 in Alexandria to discuss current status of negotiations. The Mid-Atlantic Council, in the spirit of cooperation and in recognition that some agreement with Canada regarding fisheries is desirable, have been working closely with the U.S. negotiators to bring about equitable solutions on management of common resources. The Council's position on this matter and the details of the negotiations are being kept confidential so as not to jeopardize success of future talks with the Canadians.
- o Based on comments received at public hearings in December, the Council reviewed and amended the squid and mackerel plans. A limited number of copies have been circulated for final comment. The Council will take action on these plans at its March meeting and forward them to the Secretary of Commerce.
- o The Council reviewed and discussed Senate Bill 2265, The Marine Migratory Fish Conservation and Study Act of 1977, and went on record as being opposed to the bill as written. The bill, as written, would preempt the rights of the various states to manage migratory species within the territorial sea. Senator Weicker sponsored the bill and was notified on January 31 of the Council's willingness to assist in rewriting the bill.
- o Council conducted public hearings in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Chincoteague, Virginia, and Centereach, New York during the month on proposed revisions of the groundfish plan for 1978. Based on comments received, a letter has been sent to the New England Council outlining regional views and concerns.

- o Council, again, discussed NMFS's proposal to collect marine recreational fisheries statistics in 1978 and drafted a letter to Mr. Schoning urging that the study be funded and conducted on the east coast as soon as possible.
- o Council reviewed an RFP for the collection of mackerel statistics for private boats. The mackerel plan requires reporting from commercial operators and recreational party boats but, however, does not require licensing of private boats. Information from the private boats is necessary for full coverage of harvests of the mackerel resource. NMFS proposed broader survey, if conducted, would displace the need for this specific RFP for mackerel.
- o Council discussed information relative to the preparation of a management plan for sharks and requested that a letter be drafted to the Secretary of Commerce requesting lead role in the preparation of the plan.
- o Council set up advisory subpanels pertaining to gear conflicts and shark management. Letters were sent during the month to request appropriate modification of the charter to allow for the establishment of these subpanels.
- o Contracts with states were supplemented during the month and extended for another year so that state fishery agencies could participate in extended jurisdiction activities.
- o Staff reviewed and commented on several foreign fishing permit applications received during the month.
- o Staff met with the state liaison officers during the month to review their activities and seek ways to improve communications on Council activities.
- o Council staff hosted a meeting of administrative officers from around the country on January 17 through 19 in Arlington, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss operations and begin preparing a standard handbook that might be followed in the future. Several questions affecting operations were surfaced and a list of these questions will be put together and forwarded to Washington for guidance on how to deal with them. Concerning the handbook, the administrative officers agreed to develop an outline of their existing procedures by April 1. These various outlines then would be matched against each other to see where there was any common areas around which a handbook might be developed.
- o On January 19, Council forwarded a letter to the Secretary of Interior inquiring on what regulations and restrictions are to be imposed on oil companies involved in offshore drilling to prevent pollution.

South Atlantic Council

- o Chairman Joseph participated in the Eastland Study Implementation Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 5, and in the Limited Entry Workshop Steering Committee Meeting in Seattle, Washington, January 18-19.
- o The Snapper-Grouper Plan Development Team met in Charleston, South Carolina, January 10-11, and the Steering Committee met, January 13, to lay the groundwork for objective setting at the January Council meeting.
- o The South Atlantic Council's King and Spanish Mackerel Steering Committee met with staff and selected members of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in Charleston, January 13, to evaluate proposals received for development of the mackerel plan. The Steering Committee and staff participated in an Inter-Council session in Tampa, Florida, January 18, to finalize recommendations to the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils at their upcoming meetings. Issuance of contract by Gulf of Mexico Council targeted immediately following February meeting, with Inter-Council session with selected contractor scheduled February 17 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- o Administrative Officer Hensley participated in Administrative Officers' Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, January 17-19. Discussion revolved around possible development of Council Administrative Handbook.
- o Mr. Goldstein, Staff, represented Council at public meeting at Big Pine Key, Florida, January 17, to consider designation of Looe Key Reef as a Marine Sanctuary. Report of meeting, including recommendations, developed for Council consideration at January meeting.
- o DOC Audit Exit interview held January 23 in Charleston, with Finance Committee Chairman Gould, Executive Director, Premetz, and Administrative Officer Hensley representing Council.
- o Council Information and Education Committee met in Charleston, January 23, to finalize recommendations to Council.
- o The South Atlantic Council met in Charleston, South Carolina, January 24-26.
- o Council will sponsor a workshop in Charleston, February 22-23, to identify the economic and social parameters needed for optimum yield (OY) determination, the kind of economic and social information that should be available and how it should be used. Twenty-four social and economic scientists are scheduled to participate.
- o Goals and objectives for the Snapper/Grouper plan were adopted and management options will be considered at the February Council meeting.

- o Proposals submitted by contractors were reviewed for the mackerel FMP and the contractor selected by the Inter-Council Committee was approved.
- o The lead Council definition and flow-chart developed by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils was adopted with minor modifications.
- o In the interest of economy, the Council suggested joint development of a coral plan with the Gulf Council taking the administrative lead.
- o Chairman informed the Council of the upcoming Limited Entry Workshop in Seattle and of preparations being made for the Council Chairmen's Meeting in Charleston, March 27-28.
- o Steering committees were appointed for the spiny lobster, coral and calico scallop FMP's. Several other Council committees were re-affirmed and/or restructured. The Operations and Procedures Committee was replaced by an Ad Hoc Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP) Review Committee.
- o Finance Committee reviewed the fiscal year 78-80 budget and recommended Council approval. Council adopted this recommendation.
- o A notice of availability of an RFP for the swordfish plan will be published in the Commerce Business Daily in mid-February. Plans are to select a contractor in May.
- o Underwent a DOC audit and the exit-interview indicated no significant problems. A final audit report is due within the next several weeks.
- o Reviewed the material contained in the annual report and approved and submitted the report to the Secretary.
- o Approved an expenditure up to \$12,000 for the establishment and implementation of an Information and Educational (I&E) Program. There are initial plans for the development of a brochure and printing of 25,000 copies for distribution. It will be recommended that I&E be a separate line item in the budget.
- o The first draft of the billfish FMP should be available in early February and the Council will be working with NMFS on preparation of a DEIS as necessary.
- o Council was informed of two unsolicited proposals for a study of the Georges Bank fishery and performance of Regional Fishery Management Councils. The Council is not interested in the Georges Bank study and felt an evaluation of Councils' performance was premature.
- o Recommended a liberal enforcement attitude regarding participation in U.S. sports fishing tournaments by foreign sport fishing vessels.

- o A motion was passed recommending the squid fishing regulations be modified so that the southern boundaries of area 1 be established at 36° latitude with the 100 fathom curve serving as the shoreward boundary.
- o Considered a proposal to establish Looe Key Reef, Florida, as a marine sanctuary. Council recommended delaying this action pending completion of a coral FMP.
- o Chairman urged Council participation in the Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium scheduled for March 29-30, 1978. Chairman stated that per diem would be paid; but salaries would not.
- o The Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee has scheduled a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia February 10, 1978, to consider the changes in the billfish PMP published in the Federal Register January 27, 1978. The committee will comment as appropriate.
- o Reviewed a resolution by the American Fisheries Society for the establishment of an ecological reserve and a supplemental appropriation for prey predator research. Council agreed that priority attention should be given to prey predator research and will submit a copy of its own prey predator resolution to the society. Council questioned the wisdom of supplemental for this work considering other even higher priority research needs and indicated it was not prepared to adopt the principal of ecological reserve considering current state of knowledge relative to South Atlantic fisheries.
- o Council considered the NOAA program for OY determination and recommended delaying adoption of the procedures pending the outcome of its upcoming workshop and more experience in FMP development.
- o The Mid-Atlantic Council has suggested a joint meeting in 1978 within the South Atlantic geographic area. Council endorsed this joint meeting.
- o Next Council meeting is scheduled for Key West, Florida, February 28-March 2, 1978, at the Key Wester Inn.

Caribbean Council

No Meeting/No Report

Gulf of Mexico Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held January 10-12, 1978, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Summary prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o Council's Advisory Panel Committee reviewed changes in the charter proposed by NOAA. Since the committee had a number of questions, a meeting was scheduled for January 17, 1978, in Tampa, Florida, with the NOAA representative to explain the changes.
- o The Chairman of the Groundfish Management Committee reported good progress is being made and estimated that plan development costs are tentatively budgeted at \$10,000 instead of \$50,000. Savings are due largely to NMFS participation in plan development. A contract for \$5,380 for a sociological profile of the groundfish industry was approved by the Council.
- o Received 5 proposals for development of a coastal pelagic FMP which are being evaluated. Hopefully, a contractor can be selected and approved by the Council during its next meeting.
- o Approved the meeting schedule for the next 12 months which includes a joint meeting with the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions and possibility of other Councils in Tampa next October.
- o Adopted a revised resolution encouraging the States to do everything within their authority to protect and manage the coastal estuarine habitats.
- o Approved a new standard operating procedure for contracting activities which includes a standardized RFP (Request for Proposal).
- o Reviewed and approved a Management Committee recommendation of the primary species to be addressed in the reef fish fishery management plan.
- o Approved the initial draft of an information and educational program which will be conducted jointly with the States and includes news releases, brochures, slide presentations, and speeches. The Information and Education Committee will develop the plan in greater detail and present a budget for implementation to the Council.
- o Approved a Trustee Document for its existing staff retirement plan.

- o Council will proceed with a shark FMP including both pelagic and coastal species in coordination with the Mid-Atlantic Council which has the lead role for a pelagic shark plan.
- o Appointed members to a Gulf and South Atlantic joint Calico Scallop Steering Committee. The members are Harmon Shields, William Stevenson, Bob Jones, and Charles Lyles.
- o The Council was informed on the status of the billfish and pelagic shark PMP and expressed some concern over the reduction in optimum yield. The Billfish Management Committee was asked to further examine the plan and comment for the Council on the revisions during the 30-day Federal Register comment period.
- o Received reports from the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center on the billfish stock assessment workshop and the recent ICATT (International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) meeting in Madrid.
- o Reviewed Senate Bill 2265, but took no action.
- o Authorized Dr. Ted Ford to serve on a planning committee for a limited entry workshop sponsored by the University of Washington and scheduled for the fall of 1978.
- o Adopted a definition of "Lead Council" and an implementation plan for joint FMP preparation.
- o Appointed additional members to its Advisory Panels for spiny lobsters, coral, and sharks; and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) members for sharks, coastal herrings, spiny lobsters, and mollusks.
- o Approved the FY 78, 79, and 80 budget information requested by NMFS and developed by Council staff.
- o Reviewed the policy status on foreign participation in domestic recreational fishing tournaments and requested information on recreational fishing regulations in Mexico and the Bahamas.
- o The Council's SSC provided a report on the goals and objectives for the four new FMP's being considered by the Council and determination of optimum yield criteria. The Council members will review and discuss this report at the next meeting.
- o The next Council meeting is scheduled for Brownsville, Texas, Ft. Brown Motor Hotel, February 7-9, 1978.

Pacific Council

- o The Pacific Council has declared its intent to limit access in the commercial troll and charterboat ocean salmon fisheries commencing in 1979. Details of the moratorium will be addressed in the Council's "Management Plan for Anadromous Salmonid Resources of Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho." The Council is expected to review the first draft of this comprehensive salmon management plan at its July meeting in Monterey, California.
- o Organizational structure for preparation of the comprehensive salmon management plan was discussed at the Council's meeting in San Diego, California, January 12-13. The Salmon Management Plan Development Team was supplemented by one task force to develop a system for implementing the moratorium and to consider limited entry schemes, and another task force to consider and make recommendations on anadromous fish environmental problems. In addition, the Council established a position of Plan Coordinator to oversee development of the plan.
- o The Council has recommended rejection of two Soviet fishing permit applications, for the SULAK and TIKHVIN to receive Pacific hake from U.S. catcher vessels in 1978 in the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ).
- o The Council has appointed Bob Bell, California Department of Fish and Game, as its representative to the Billfish Management Plan Development Team. Team members appointed by the Western Pacific Council and the Pacific Council will jointly develop a fishery management plan for billfishes and related species within the jurisdiction of the two Councils.
- o The Council has gone on record as urging Congress to fund the lower Snake River Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan, to restore Snake River runs of salmon and steelhead and to revitalize the fisheries dependent on those stocks.
- o The Council has also gone on record as opposing construction of Asotin Dam on the Snake River. It strongly supports the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation recommendation to include the lower 34 miles of the Snake River in the National Wild and Scenic River System, which would maintain the Snake River in its present free-flowing state.

- o At its recent meeting in San Diego, the Council established the following schedule of Council meetings in 1978:

February 16-17, 1978	Portland, Oregon
March 9-10, 1978	Sacramento, California
April 13-14, 1978	Portland, Oregon
May 11-12, 1978	Boise, Idaho
June 8-9, 1978	Arcata, California
July 13-14, 1978	Monterey, California
August 10-11, 1978	Seattle, Washington
September 7-8, 1978	Portland, Oregon
October 12-13, 1978	California (city to be determined later)
November 9-10, 1978	Seattle, Washington
December 7-8, 1978	Portland, Oregon

North Pacific Council

The Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and Advisory Panel (AP) met concurrently on January 26-27, 1978, at the Hill Building, 632 W. 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. A public hearing was held on January 26; no closed session was held. The SSC met on January 25, the AP on January 25, with a joint session of the two advisory groups on January 25.

- o James Campbell, Anchorage businessman, was welcomed to the Council, replacing former member Elmer Rasmuson.

- o Groundfish

Following requests from Mr. James Walsh, Deputy Administrator, NOAA, and Mr. David Wallace, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, the Council took the following action:

1. Changed the "reserve amount for species in the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP from 30 percent to 20 percent.
2. Drafted new language for Section 4.7.10, p. 194, of the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan to specify a figure for maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in the "other species" category.
3. Delayed for one year the reduction by 10 percent of the optimum yield (OY) for "other species."
4. Reconsidered the OY for sablefish to raise it from 10,000 metric tons to 13,000 metric tons and specified that only longlines and pots could be used by a foreign nation in a directed fishery for sablefish.

- o Tanner Crab

The Council directed the staff to conduct a search of letters and documents, including transcript material of all meetings, which dealt with the topic of Tanner crab. The purpose is to clarify the documentation of the TALFF (Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing) figure of 15,000 metric tons for C. opilio north of 58 degrees North Latitude. The Council upheld the 15,000 metric ton TALFF figure previously set. Documentation will be forwarded to NOAA who contend the Council decision is not adequately supported by the record as reflected in the FMP.

- o Troll Salmon

The Council will rewrite the FMP for Commercial Troll Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska. Major deficiencies of that plan include lack of definition of the fishery management unit involved, lack of OY figures and insufficient reporting requirements.

o King Crab

Council adopted objectives for the King crab FMP now in its drafting stage. Principle among the objectives was the adoption of the current State of Alaska objective to stabilize the annual harvest; also adopted were objectives to maintain and avoid disruption of existing socio-economic structures and to maximize benefit/cost ratios for public investment on development, research, management, and enforcement of the King crab fishery. The writing team for the King crab plan presented a two-hour overview of the resource and fishery.

o Herring

Council separated herring from other groundfish and directed development of a separate FMP for herring in the eastern Bering Sea. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has been designated lead agency and plan development team members will be named at the February meeting.

o Economic and Allied Data Needs for Fisheries Management (E&ADN)

Council discussed the NOAA draft paper on E&ADN and the draft response reviewed by the SSC. That response, noting some deficiencies in the proposed national system and suggesting revisions to make it more responsive to Regional Council needs, was endorsed by the Council.

o Management Plan Development and Review Schedules

Management Plan Development and Review Schedules were deferred until the February meeting pending further study. In the interim, legal counsel will review for compliance with the law.

o U.S. and Foreign Fishery Scientists Meeting

A joint meeting of U.S. and foreign scientists for the purpose of discussing all species in the North Pacific was endorsed in principle. Specifics were postponed until after the INPFC (International North Pacific Fisheries Commission) renegotiations are concluded.

o Data Availability

Development will continue on the request by the Council for a schedule of when fisheries data becomes available for management plan drafting purposes.

o Pot Storage

Feasibility of "on-ground" pot storage was referred to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

o Council Chairmen's Meeting

A decision was made to send the Council Chairman or Vice Chairman and the Executive Director to the meeting of Council Chairmen in Charleston, South Carolina. The meeting is scheduled for late March.

o SSC Charter

The SSC will give the Council a letter suggesting changes in the SSC Charter. These were detailed by Dr. Lee Alverson, Chairman, SSC, during his report to the Council.

o Foreign Allocations

Council directed that a study team be formed to deal with the subject of "short allocations" as brought to Council attention by RADM Hayes, United States Coast Guard. The problem centers around the fact that a foreign fishery will be shut down when any quota for a specific area is determined to have been taken. Unrealistically low incidental allocations, when reached, closes the fishery in that area on all species.

o Plan Development Team (PDT)

Council determined that the development teams for the clam and herring resources could benefit from having an ecologist as a member.

o Joint Ventures

Council has directed the Executive Director to write a letter to NOAA urging action on the subject of joint ventures policy, once promised for mid-November 1977.

o AP Membership

The following AP members were assigned to plan development teams for FMP's:

Bering Sea Groundfish	Sig Jaeger Oral Burch
Bering Sea Herring	Al Otness Dan O'Hara
Bering Sea Clam	Harry Wilde Don Rawlinson
Troll Salmon	Bud Boddy Jack Cotant Knute Johnson

Robert Starck resigned from the AP because of time conflicts with his fishing business. A replacement will be named at the February meeting.

o Finance Committee Action

A meeting of the Council Finance Committee was held Friday morning, January 27, 1978. Their recommendations, which were endorsed by the Council, included:

1. Unsolicited proposals from MIT for "A Study of Regional Fishery Management Councils" and "The Georges Bank Fisheries; Development of Management Plans" were not needed at present and of marginal value.
2. Changes were approved in the RFP (Request for Proposal) for a study of the impacts of the commercial herring fishery on the village economics of the AYK area.
3. An RFP for data analysis from the 1977 troll logbook study was approved in the amount of \$15,000.
4. The troll salmon observer program was approved in principle. More specific costs and methods will be developed for review at the next meeting.
5. The troll salmon socio-economic study RFP was endorsed for support for other agency funding. The scope and costs are considered too much to conform to Council guidelines for research funding.
6. A chinook salmon smolt tagging proposal was supported in concept. but, again, funding should be from another agency because of the program's expense and duration.
7. The need was recognized for a high seas salmon tagging program. Funding alternatives might include some reallocation of present monies from on-going salmon research programs.
8. A low priority was given an RFP for a study of management strategy in developing troll salmon plans.
9. The Finance Committee directed a staff salary study for presentation at the next meeting.

o Council Regulations

Proposed Council regulations printed in the January 9 Federal Register will be reviewed at the February meeting.

o February Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held February 23-24, 1978, at the Anchorage-Westward Hilton, Anchorage, Alaska.

Western Pacific Council

- o The Council held its ninth regular meeting on January 10-11 at Saipan, and continued with a half-day session at Guam on January 12. The locale and time were chosen to coincide with the inauguration of the first elected government of Northern Marianas, in order to emphasize the Council's interest in having the new U.S. Commonwealth brought into full participation in the Council and the fishery management system of the FCMA. Northern Marianas membership on the Council will require amendment of the Act.

- o At the meeting, the Council considered the implications for Hawaii's fisheries of a bill presently before Congress which would place the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands under the national wilderness area system. A resolution was passed, expressing the Council's concern and requesting that no change be made in the status of the islands that would interfere with the continuation and expansion of commercial and recreational fisheries in the surrounding waters.

- o The Council deliberated on the draft of a memorandum of understanding intended to define the respective responsibilities of the Council and NMFS in the management of fisheries in the Western Pacific region. Among points raised by Council members were: the need for a procedure for automatic appeal to higher authority in cases of disagreement; the need for a standing committee to ensure early consultation with NMFS in the region regarding research programs and fishery development activities; and the desirability of a challenge to the interpretation of the FCMA which has barred the Council from engaging in fishery development. The Council tentatively approved a draft of procedures for developing and reviewing programmatic proposals.

- o The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met in Honolulu on January 24 and 25. The main business of the meeting was a review of the second draft of an FMP for precious coral fisheries, which incorporated the results of a meeting on January 5 of the Planning Team and the Advisory Sub-Panel. The Committee completed its review and succeeded in agreeing by vote on the management measures which it will recommend to the Council. A third draft and the SSC's recommendations will be submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

- o Council Chairman Wadsworth Yee, members Paul Bordallo and Rufo Lujan from Guam, official observer Joaquin Villagomez from Saipan and SSC member Henry Seseapasara from American Samoa met in the Hawaii State Capitol on January 27 with Governor George Ariyoshi of Hawaii, Governor Peter Coleman of American Samoa, Governor Carlos Camacho of the Northern Marianas, other representatives of the Federal, State and Territorial Governments and the Trust Territory and tuna industry representatives to discuss the advisability of United States participation in an international fishery management agency which the member nations of the South Pacific Forum are proposing to establish by a multilateral treaty. It is understood that the principal immediate purpose of the South Pacific countries' is to cooperate in the management of tuna fisheries. On the following day, the island representatives met with Ms. Patsy Mink, Assistant Secretary of State for Fisheries, Oceans and International Scientific and Environmental Affairs, to report to her their consensus, which was strongly in favor of United States participation through the medium of Hawaii and the island Territories. It was suggested that the Western Pacific Council might have a role in coordinating the United States participation.

- o On January 30, Council members Louis Agard, Peter Fithian and Frank Goto, and the Executive Director met with 14th Coast Guard District Commander Admiral James W. Moreau and Doyle E. Gates, NMFS Western Pacific Program Administrator, for a briefing on the recent sightings of unprecedentedly large numbers of Japanese longliners in the FCZ around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The Council members expressed support for strong, positive surveillance of this fleet, which numbers over 20 vessels, with boarding of the longliners and examination of their catches whenever possible, to ascertain the kinds and quantities of non-tuna species they are taking from FCZ.

- o Edwin K. Lee (Administrative Officer) attended the Administrative Officers' Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, January 17-19. Participants discussed Council work procedures and activities and agreed to develop individual administrative handbooks containing internal operating procedures.

- o Schedule of future meetings:
 - Tenth Meeting - March 15-16, Island of Kausi
 - Eleventh Meeting - May 30 to June 2, Pago Pago, American Samoa
 - Twelfth Meeting - August 2-4, Kailua-Kona (with participation of the full Advisory Panel)
 - Billfish Team and Advisory Sub-Panel - February 7, Honolulu (to discuss the objectives of FMP for the billfish fisheries and the possible ways of attaining them)
 The next meeting of the SSC will be held early in April, in Honolulu.

