

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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DRAFT AGENDA
Thirty-Seventh Plenary Session
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
January 5-9, 1981
Baranof Hotel
Juneau, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 5 in the Baranof Hotel, Juneau, Alaska and will adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 1981. The meetings will be devoted mainly to salmon FMP amendments for 1981. The Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on January 5 to hear staff reports and public testimony, on January 6 to hear public testimony, on January 7 to hear public testimony and discuss salmon regulations proposed for 1981, and, finally, on January 9 to review results of separate deliberations on salmon management issues. The Council and Board will meet separately on Thursday, January 8 to consider proposed 1981 amendments. The Council will meet on Thursday in the Elks Hall.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet in Seattle in the Auditorium of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center from 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 5 to about 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6. The Center is located at 2725 Montlake Boulevard. The Advisory Panel will meet in the Elks Hall in Juneau from 9:00 a.m. on January 5 to about 5:00 p.m. on January 6.

All meetings are open to the public.

INFORMATION ON THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Preregistration will be required for all public comments which pertain to a specific agenda topic. Preregistration is accomplished by informing the Agenda Clerk early in the meeting of the agenda item to be addressed and the time required. Public comments may be scheduled for C. OLD BUSINESS, D. NEW BUSINESS, and E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS. There will be a general comment period, agenda item G, scheduled for late afternoon on Friday for testimony on matters not on the current agenda.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

B. SPECIAL REPORTS

- B-1 Executive Director's Report
- B-2 Reports from AP and SSC on non-agenda items

C. OLD BUSINESS

- C-1 Election of new officers by Advisory Panel
- C-2 Council representation at Sitka public hearing
- G-3 Meeting sites for 1981

D. NEW BUSINESS

- D-1 Schedule for Limited Entry Workgroup
- D-2 Other New Business as Appropriate

E. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

E-1 Salmon Plan

Final action on 1981 amendments to the Salmon FMP. ADF&G staff will report on the 1980 season, stock status, and state management plan. The council staff will review progress on the plan, the contract report by Natural Resources Consultants, and limited entry in the FCZ. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission will discuss limited entry on hand trollers, and NMFS will field legal questions. After approval by the Council, the 1981 amendments will be sent to Washington, D.C. to begin Secretary of Commerce review.

E-2 Other FMP's

No formal actions are anticipated on other FMP's though they may be discussed.

F. CONTRACTS AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

F-1 Contracts

Contract 80-5: "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishery Off Alaska." Given SSC concurrence, this contract could be approved for final payment.

Contract 81-3: "A Comparison of Halibut and Crab Catches In: (1) Side-Entry and Top-Entry Crab Pots; and (2) Side-Entry Crab Pots With and Without Tanner Boards." Given SSC concurrence, this contract could be approved for final payment.

F-2 Request for Proposals

RFP 81-1: "Study of Data on Feeding Habits and Food Requirements of Marine Mammals in the Bering Sea." The SSC will hear a report from the NMFS Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle on which tasks have been completed already. The SSC can then recommend to the Council how to proceed with this RFP.

RFP's for Herring Stock Data and Incidental Salmon Catch may be available for Council review.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

H. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

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AGENDA

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE January 5-6, 1981

The SSC will meet at 9:00 a.m. Monday, January 5th in the auditorium at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle. On Tuesday, January 6th, the meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 2:00 p.m. This schedule may be lengthened or shortened depending on the agenda and the travel arrangements of the SSC members traveling to the Council meeting in Juneau.

1. SSC Committee Appointments

The SSC will discuss membership appointments in a closed meeting Monday evening (time and location to be announced during the regular meeting). A recommendation of a replacement for Steve Pennoyer is needed, and discussion of a possible replacement for George Rogers may take place. The decision on a replacement for Dr. Rogers will be made at the February SSC meeting.

2. King Crab FMP

There will be a meeting of the SSC subcommittee (Marasco, Lechner, Pennoyer, Burgner) to review public testimony on the king crab FMP.

The SSC will also review the NRC paper on size limits for king crab in the Bering Sea. The subgroup will make a report on their review of the paper. A recommendation or evaluation on this paper will be made to the Council if appropriate.

3. Salmon FMP (E-1)

The SSC subcommittee on salmon (Burgner, Rosenberg, Millikan, Pennoyer) will review the NRC report, "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishery Off Alaska."

The SSC will review the proposed amendments for the 1981 salmon FMP and make recommendations on the options to the Council as appropriate.

4. GOA Groundfish FMP

A report by Steve Hughes on stock status of sablefish should be available for discussion. Also, Jim Balsiger will brief the SSC on the stock status information presented at the INPFC meeting in November.

The SSC will review the analysis presented to the Council in December by Michael Mayo, on the costs to domestic fishermen, of foreign trawling in the GOA. Comments on the validity of the analysis could be passed on to the Council if appropriate.

5. Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish FMP

The ad hoc SSC subgroup will present material for discussion of incidental species catch of groundfish in the Bering Sea. This will allow the subgroup to present a final report at the February SSC meeting.

6. Contracts (F-1)

Contract 81-3 "A Comparison of Halibut and Crab Catches In: (1) Side-Entry and Top-Entry Crab Pots, and (2) Side-Entry Crab Pots with and without Tanner Boards."

The contractor has been asked to respond to a number of questions which came up in the discussion of the draft final report at the December meeting. The response to this request should be available at the meeting so the final report can be reviewed for approval.

Contract 80-6 "A Study to Determine the Applicability of Limited Entry in the Halibut Fishery Off Alaska."

The draft final report will be reviewed for approval by the SSC. A halibut subgroup (Marasco, Miles, Richardson) will make a report to the SSC. Public comments received on the report will be available for review.

Contract 80-5 "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishery Off Alaska."

This draft final report will be distributed by the January meeting to allow review for approval at the February meeting. The salmon subcommittee has had an opportunity to review this report so if the SSC want to adopt their recommendation, contract approval would be possible at this meeting.

7. Research Projects (F-2)

(a) Feeding Habits of Marine Mammals

The SSC sent a letter to Dr. Aron December 12, requesting information on tasks 1-3 in RFP (81-1). A briefing by Dr. Aron is scheduled at the January meeting. In addition, representatives from the Marine Mammal Lab will be available to discuss the RFP. The SSC can then decide what will be included in the final RFP.

(b) Incidental Catch of Salmon

Bud Burgner is to have a draft RFP ready for discussion.

(c) Herring Stock Data - Draft RFP

To be ready for discussion.

(d) Salmon Research for Incidental By-Catch

This project has been undertaken by the Japanese Hokuten Trawlers Association. The material is included for information only.

8. Other Business

Recommendations should be made by the SSC for the Plan Maintenance Teams for the various FMP's. At the same time, the present Plan Development Teams should be reviewed to determine if any changes are required.

A G E N D A

Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting
Gold Room, Baranof Hotel
Juneau, Alaska
January 5-19, 1981

NOTE: The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council will meet jointly from January 5 through January 9, 1981 to listen to staff reports and public testimony on troll salmon and to discuss these and related topics of mutual interest.

I. Southeast Alaska, (including Yakutat) - January 5-11, 1981

- A. Troll Salmon
 - 1. Staff Reports
 - a. ADF&G
 - b. Washington Department of Fisheries
 - c. Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
 - d. North Pacific Management Council
 - 2. Public Hearing

NOTE: Everyone intending to present oral testimony to the Board is requested to preregister by 10:00 AM Tuesday, January 6, 1981.

NOTE: A special teleconference will be held on January 7, 1981 at 1:30 PM in the State Court Building, Courtroom "A", Juneau, linking Sitka and Ketchikan.

3. Consideration of Proposals

- B. Special Report on United States-Canada Treaty Negotiations by Dr. Lee Alverson, Chief U.S. Negotiator - 1:30 PM January 9, 1981
- C. Southeast Alaska and Yakutat - Other Fisheries - January 10-11, 1981
 - 1. 1981-1986 AL&P Timber Operating Plan and its effects on Fisheries
 - 2. ADF&G Staff Reports
 - 3. Public Hearing
 - 4. Consideration of Proposals

II. Prince William Sound - January 12-13, 1981

- 1. ADF&G Staff Reports
- 2. Public Hearing
- 3. Consideration of Proposals

III. Westward (including Kodiak) - January 14-15, 1981

- 1. ADF&G Staff Reports
- 2. Public Hearing
- 3. Consideration of Proposals

IV. Cook Inlet - January 16, 1981

- A. Conclusion of Business Remaining from the Anchorage Portion of the Board Meeting

- V. Statewide - January 17-18, 1981
 - 1. ADF&G Staff Reports
 - 2. Public Hearing
 - 3. Consideration of Proposals

- VI. Other Business
 - A. Policies and Resolutions
 - B. Board Regional Hearings
 - C. Legislation
 - D. Election of Officers
 - E. Miscellaneous Business
 - F. Other

WARNING: The dates listed on this agenda for considering proposals from each region of Alaska are tentative dates. Since it is impossible to predict accurately how long each segment of the Board meeting will take, the public is urged to keep this factor in mind. At the meeting, a region may be discussed either earlier or later than it appears on this agenda. Thank you for your cooperation. For daily information, call: 465-4113.

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Certified by: *Paul H. Branson*

Date: *December 19, 1980*

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES: December 8-10, 1980
Anchorage, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage December 8, 9 and 10. Members present were:

Steve Pennoyer and alternate John Clark
Donald Rosenberg
Bud Burgner
Al Millikan
Larry Hreha
Edward Miles
Rich Marasco
Jim Balsiger (alternate for Bill Aron)
George Rogers
Jerry McCrary (alternate for Jack Lechner)

B-5 MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Pennoyer informed the SSC that it was his intension to resign from the SSC effective at the end of this meeting. Mr. Pennoyer regrets this decision but finds his duties at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are demanding his full attention. The SSC will consider this resignation and recommend a replacement at our next meeting.

B-5 SSC OPERATIONS

The SSC reviewed our draft document entitled "Scientific and Statistical Committee Organization and Operations, Policy and Procedures." The SSC made modifications to this draft document and recommends to the Council our modified document for Council considerations (dated December 8, 1980, copy appended). The SSC requests that the Council approve this document as its SSC policy and procedures.

C-1 SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The SSC met in closed session on December 8, 1980 to discuss matter of membership on the SSC. The results of that session are as follows:

- a. International Pacific Halibut Commission Letter of October 22, 1980. Although the SSC strongly supports the concept of a close working relationship between the SSC and the IPHC staff, we believe that it is more appropriate to achieve this by calling on international commission members as needed as advisors rather than by appointment to the SSC. This was determined to be the best course at the time the former Director resigned from the North Pacific SSC (see SSC minutes, March 22, 1977). We support the policy that membership on the SSC should not be based solely as representation from an agency or specific group.
- b. Recommendation for Vacant SSC Position. The SSC reviewed resumes for two individuals which have been recommended for the vacant SSC position. The SSC was not displeased with the qualifications of these two individuals. The committee was concerned that we had not solicited interest from all the scientific community. Therefore, in order that all interested scientists may have an opportunity, the SSC is postponing its recommendation and is requesting that all interested scientists be invited to apply. This will allow the SSC to make a final recommendation by the February Council meeting.
- c. Dr. George Rogers. The SSC regrets that Dr. Rogers has found it necessary to resign from the SSC. Throughout his four years of tenure with the committee, Dr. Rogers has made many significant contributions to the committee's deliberations. The committee will surely miss Dr. Rogers' contributions and hopes that he will be able to continue, at least in an informal manner, his relationship with the committee and the Council.
- d. Officers. The SSC requests confirmation of the following officers for the 1981 year.

Chairman Donald Rosenberg
Vice Chairman Richard Marasco

C-3 "POLICY ON CLOSED PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEETINGS"

The SSC reviewed the draft policy presented by the Council staff on the matter of closed meeting for the PDT. The SSC is concerned that the policy would be excessively restrictive to the action of the PDT and could restrict input from the public and other agency personnel (other than those assigned to the PDT). We also believed that this proposed policy may be viewed by the public as not to be in their best interest. The SSC reviewed our statement contained within our September 25, 1980 document entitled "North Pacific Fishery Management Council Operations, A Critique with Suggestions for Improvement." Specifically, our statement concerning this matter is contained in Annex I, item C. The SSC still supports that statement.

E-1 SALMON FMP

The SSC reviewed the statement of purpose and objectives for the Intercouncil Salmon Coordinating Committee as provided in the memorandum dated December 1, 1980. The SSC has no comment on either the purpose or the specific objectives.

E-2 HERRING FMP

The SSC considered recent revisions in the draft Fishery Management Plan for Bering/Chukchi Sea Herring. The SSC recommends the plan be approved for submission to the Secretary after minor revisions for clarification are incorporated into the discussion on herring savings areas.

The revisions are intended to clarify the herring savings area concept. The intent of the plan is to provide an initial Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC) for high seas groundfish and trawl fisheries before OY is set. Any surplus OY will be allocated to high seas fisheries after the onshore fishery is completed. If the surplus OY is caught and the AIC is caught, specified offshore areas would be closed to trawling to prevent further harvest of herring.

Four alternate savings areas are presented in the plan. On the basis of the information presented to it, the SSC is unable to find any clear justification for choosing one option over the others. While it is not possible to quantify the savings in each area precisely, each option would appear to provide only relatively small differences in savings.

The point was made in the public discussion that since the difference in savings between areas would be small in each case, the SSC should recommend the option which causes the least economic disruption for the foreign fleets concerned. However, the SSC thinks this is an issue which falls completely under the judgment of the Council.

The SSC discussed two divergent estimates of the 1980 herring spawning biomass in the eastern Bering Sea. The standard and accepted aerial survey technique utilized for the FMP indicated a significant decrease in abundance from 1979 levels while a predictive modeling technique suggested 1979 and 1980 biomass levels should have been similar.

After considerable discussion with team members and ADF&G biologists by our subgroup, it was concluded that there was ample evidence that the population had declined. However, the exact extent of the decline is uncertain.

The aerial survey estimate suggests that OY was exceeded while the modeling technique indicated that a small OY surplus is available. We conclude the OY was achieved during the onshore fishery and no surplus is available for allocation to offshore fisheries during the November 1980 to March 1981 period. The SSC recommends that the Regional Director be notified of this determination.

The SSC also received public comments regarding concern over the formula to determine AIC (page 94). The SSC recognizes the limitation of the formula but considers it the best alternative available. We therefore recommend that the AIC formula remain in the plan.

Although we received testimony, pro and con, that AIC need not be included in OY, we did not pass judgment on this issue.

E-3 KING CRAB

The SSC took no action regarding the draft King Crab FMP. We have scheduled a meeting of our subcommittee during the January SSC meeting to start preliminary discussion of the public testimony.

E-4 TANNER CRAB

The SSC reviewed draft amendment #7 and our past reviews of the documents which support the various options proposed.

The SSC finds that the data and analysis provided in the report entitled "Market Aspects of the Foreign Allocation of C. opilio Tanner Crab in the Bering Sea Under the Framework of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976" by J. Richardson, is the best information available at this time. We therefore recommend to the Council the option setting OY equal to DAH but not to exceed ABC. The SSC concurs with the conclusion in the above report that the U.S. industry can harvest the total OY for C. opilio and that the actual amount harvested will be based upon market conditions. We support the conclusion that a foreign allocation does have a direct effect on those market conditions. The DAH for C. opilio in the Bering Sea is expected to range from the 1980 harvest of 39.6 million pounds up to the ABC which is 91 million pounds.

The SSC reviewed the changes in OY in the draft amendment. The SSC provides the following comments.

Bering Sea. The proposed amendment provides for an OY range of 34 to 44 million pounds. At the time that the amendment was drafted this was the best available information. The estimate has been updated by the PDT. The PDT is now recommending that the OY range for 1981 should be 28 to 36 million pounds. The SSC agrees with the scientific reason for this proposed reduction and recommends to the Council an OY range for C. bairdi in the Bering Sea of 28 to 36 million pounds. The SSC also noted that the 1979-80 harvest of C. bairdi in the area exceeded the upper end of that range (36.6 million pounds).

Chignik and South Peninsula. The SSC has not received any written reports which support the proposed OY values. The SSC did request and received a presentation by the staff of ADF&G on these proposed OY values.

The SSC was informed that Chignik area value was the upper limit of a proposed harvest guideline of 2 to 5 million pounds. This harvest guideline was based upon 3 years of historic catch data.

The South Peninsula value was the upper limit of a proposed harvest guideline of 3 to 6 million pounds. This harvest guideline was based upon an annual pot survey and a noted decrease in the commercial catch.

Since the SSC has not had the opportunity to review the actual data or written staff reports, we did not take a position on these proposed changes.

The SSC would like the Council to note that other OY values in the plan should be reviewed and possibly amended. The SSC had assumed this would take place when we approved the initial draft amendment of our September 1980 meeting.

The SSC also finds that neither the Council staff nor the management agencies know who is responsible for maintenance of this or any of the Council FMP's. The SSC once again recommends that the Council accept the concept for plan maintenance outlined in Annex II to our document entitled "North Pacific Fishery Management Council Operations, A Critique with Suggestions for Improvement," dated September 25, 1980, and that the Council and the management agencies proceed to appoint staff members to Plan Maintenance Teams. This should be done for every plan which has been submitted or approved.

E-5 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP

The SSC reviewed the proposed amendments to the FMP. The SSC recommends the amendment be released for public review subject to the following modifications:

- a. That clarification of what is meant by the statement "Sablefish catch levels not to increase" that is included in Options A, B, and C be made. It was determined that "catch" should be replaced with OY.
- b. That the following option be included:

Option D (Status Quo)

- (1) Foreign trawling allowed only with off-bottom gear from December 1 to May 31. No restrictions on trawl gear from June 1 to November 30.
 - (2) POP TALFF = 10,205 mt.
 - (3) POP DAH = 1,315 mt.
 - (4) Sablefish OY = 7,100 mt.
 - (5) Present sanctuaries in the FMP would be continued.
- c. That the following option be included which proposes the use of a communication mechanism to resolve gear conflicts:

Option E

- (1) Adopt an agreed on communication system to minimize gear conflicts.
- (2) POP TALFF = 500 mt.
- (3) POP DAH = 500 mt.
- (4) Sablefish OY not to increase.
- (5) Present sanctuaries in the FMP would be continued.

It should be noted by the Council that the amendment package has been developed on the basis of a 12 month fishing period.

E-6 BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLAND GROUND FISH FMP

Incidental Catch. The SSC reviewed the status of the analysis of the incidental catch in the Bering Sea which is being undertaken by the ad hoc SSC subgroup. We were informed that the report of that group is being developed. We received a presentation by Dr. Low of the NWAFC on the status of a computer model which will allow detected analysis of possible impacts of time/area closures.

We were informed that the final report will be available by our January meeting. We are planning a review of that report during January and should then be able to provide the council with guidance by the February meeting.

DAH - Pacific Cod. (Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea). The SSC received an industrial update of forecasts for the 1981 domestic catch levels of Pacific Cod for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. It was indicated that domestic catch levels could approach 70 to 90 thousand mt. The SSC recommends that catch levels of this magnitude be accommodated by the following:

- a. the unallocated TALFF's for all species in the Western and Central Gulf management areas be held until April,
- b. that 50% of the TALFF for Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area not be allocated until April, and
- c. that 10% of the TALFF for all other species for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands management area not be allocated until April.

It is recommended that the State Department consult with NMFS prior to the release of the unallocated TALFF. Actual calculation of this unallocated TALFF concept is provided in Table 1.

Modified Approach to DAH and Reserves. (Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea). It is recommended that the following DAH and reserve mechanism be examined for the possibility of inclusion in the current Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands amendment packages.

The DAH for a fishing year will be set equal to the domestic catch taken during the 12 month period ending the preceding September 30. DAH may not exceed OY.

The reserve will be set to accommodate the difference between the domestic catch forecast from the NMFS survey and DAH as set above. The NMFS survey will be conducted annually by the NMFS Regional Office to compile expected harvest figures from fishermen and processors.

F-1 CONTRACTS

Contract 78-5 "Assessment of Spawning Herring and Capelin Stock of Selected Coastal Areas in the Eastern Bering Sea."

The SSC reviewed Appendix A to the Final Report for this contract. Recommendation of approval of the final report for this contract was made by the SSC of its July 22-23, 1980 meeting. This appendix was the final portion of that contract requiring an evaluation of color and infra-red photography for the assessment of potential herring spawning grounds in the Bering Sea.

The SSC recommends approval of this contract subject to the requirement that the contractor insert a minor modification stating that additional tracks of data are available. The contractor has been notified of this requirement and has agreed to comply.

TABLE 1

GULF OF ALASKA 1981 OY'S, TALFF'S, RESERVES (mt)
November 1, 1980 to December 31, 1981

	<u>Pacific Cod</u>		<u>Pollock</u>	
	<u>West</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>Central</u>
OY	19,320	39,130	66,500	111,066
DAH	2,193	7,058	6,737	15,540
Reserve	3,864	7,826	13,300	22,213
Allocated TALFF	9,094	17,425	29,338	59,181
Unallocated TALFF	4,169	7,621	17,125	14,132
Maximum Possible Resource for Domestic Fishermen (DAH + Reserve + Unallocated TALFF)	10,226	22,505	37,162	51,885

BERING SEA/ALEUTIANS
- 12 month -

	<u>Pacific Cod</u>	<u>Pollock</u>
OY	70,700	1,100,000
DAH	24,265	19,550
Reserve	14,935	50,000
TALFF	31,500	1,030,450
Recommended Unallocated TALFF	15,750 (50%)	103,045 (10%)
Maximum Possible Resource for Domestic Fishermen	54,950	172,595

Contract 79-3 "Ocean Salmon Micro-Wire Tag Recovery Program, Southeast Alaska-1979."

The SSC reviewed the modified draft report (dated November 1980) for the above contract. The SSC finds that the contractor has taken into consideration past SSC comments on this report. We therefore recommend approval of this contract and recommend that the report become an official Council document. We have noted some minor typing corrections.

Contract 80-6 "A Study to Determine the Applicability of Limited Entry in the Halibut Fishery Off Alaska."

The SSC has not been able to complete its review of the draft report on this contract. Our subgroup will complete its review by our January meeting, and we will be prepared to forward comments to the contractor at that time.

Contract 80-5 "A Study of the Offshore Chinook and Coho Salmon Fishery Off Alaska."

The SSC received the draft report entitled "Fisheries Management Plan for the High Seas Salmon Fishery Off the Coast of Alaska East of 175° East Longitude" dated November 1980. The SSC has assigned responsibility for the review to its Salmon Subcommittee. We will be prepared to provide the Council with our preliminary review by the January meeting.

Contract 81-3 "A Comparison of Halibut and Crab Catches In: (1) Side-Entry and Top-Entry Crab Pots, and (2) Side-Entry Crab Pots with and without Tanner Boards."

The SSC reviewed the draft final report on the above contract. The SSC has drafted several questions for the contractor regarding the analysis of the data. These questions are being forwarded and the answer and final draft report will be reviewed at our January meeting.

Contract 79-4 "Analysis of Southeastern Alaska Troll Fisheries Data."

The SSC briefly reviewed the quarterly report dated October 31, 1980. No comments were made on the progress being made by the contractor. The SSC did note the attached preliminary report entitled "Spatial and Temporal Variation in Undersize Chinook Salmon Encounter Rates in the Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery." This report was noted and referred for information to our Salmon Subcommittee.

Contract 80-3 "Seasonal Use and Feeding Habits of Walruses in the Proposed Bristol Bay Clam Fishery Area."

The SSC reviewed the quarterly report dated September 1980 on this contract. The Council staff cleared up concerns regarding allocation of additional resources to this contract. The SSC finds that the contractor is making sufficient progress.

F-2 MARINE MAMMAL RFP

The SSC had approached the point of approving, with minor modification, RFP 81-1. This RFP was prepared on October 31, 1980 in line with various reviews of the original draft.

The study was originally requested by the Marine Mammal Commission. Dr. Douglas Chapman, Commissioner of the MMC, prepared the original scope of work which was conveyed to the NPFMC.

However, on December 8, 1980 the SSC received a communication from Dr. William Aron, Center Director NWAFC, pertinent to RFP 81-1. Dr. Aron indicated that a substantial portion of the work requested in that RFP has already been accomplished by personnel of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle.

In view of this information, the SSC recommends that further action on RFP 81-1 be tabled until such time as the information compiled by the NMML can be reviewed and evaluated. A letter of request for additional information, to Dr. Aron, has been prepared. The request was that an appropriate staff member of the NMML present, to the SSC, a written report addressing work statements 1 through 3 of RFP 81-1.

The SSC has requested that the written report be made available in time for the January meeting of the SSC. Dr. Aron and/or his designee has been requested to present a review of that report to the SSC at the January meeting.

F-3 OTHER RFP.

The SSC reviewed the status of other objective statements and work tasks for the studies identified by the SSC programmatic budget subcommittee.

That status is as follows:

- a. Predator/Prey Interactions. The SSC recommends that the Council withdraw the consideration of the study as an RFP. The NWAFC is considering funding this work directly and there is no need for a Council RFP.
- b. Herring Stock Data. The objective and tasks are still being developed and will be ready for our review by our January meeting.
- c. Incidental Catch of Salmon. The objective and tasks are still being developed and will be ready for our review by our January meeting.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATION
AND
OPERATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES
December 8, 1980

The Fishery and Conservation and Management Act of 1976 specifically established Scientific and Statistical Committees to assist in the development collection and evaluation of scientific information relevant to Council responsibilities.

The Operations Policy and Procedures set forth below were developed to assist the SSC of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to provide the Council with timely, accurate and complete scientific advice.

This Committee will address all scientific issues submitted to it by the Council or the Executive Director. For the purposes of this document "scientific information" refers essentially to biological information, environmental data, fishery statistics, and technical socioeconomic information.

Scientific advice to the Council will, as much as possible, be objective and unbiased. It is the explicit intent of the SSC to disassociate itself with nonscientific issues and issues which are clearly of a political nature. Documents and issues not requiring objective scientific findings will not be considered by the committee.

ORGANIZATION

Membership

Members of the SSC are appointed by the Council. The Committee is composed of fishery scientists and economists from state and federal agencies, academic institutions and the private sector. Although there is no official policy on government agency representation, scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the fisheries management agencies of Oregon, Washington and Alaska have served on the committee since its inception.

The Committee should remain small (10-15 members). Expertise of members should cover the range of most species and disciplines which are normally considered by the committee. Specific expertise not available within the committee can be obtained on a case by case basis.

The Committee shall review membership at least once each year relative to the mix of disciplines represented on the committee which are required to fulfill its responsibilities. Recommendations on membership will be submitted to the Council whenever appropriate.

Meetings

Meetings will be scheduled by the chairman of the SSC with concurrence of the Executive Director of the Council, and may be scheduled at any location approved by the Executive Director. Meetings of the SSC as a whole are called to:

1. Review fishery management plans
2. Review reports of subcommittees
3. Consider scientific and technical reports submitted for review
4. Review proposed amendments to FMP's and supporting data
5. Consider special requests from the Council
6. Consider any other issues which are within the purview of the charter

Committee meetings will be open to the public. All documents, unless specifically identified as confidential, will be considered public documents and will be available to the public.

Committee meetings may be closed to the public for discussions relating to recommendations on membership and procedures. Results of such closed sessions shall be reported during the next open meeting.

Notice of meeting schedules and agenda items will be published far enough in advance to allow full public attendance. The committee will be open to public input regarding specific agenda items or other issues which relate to SSC responsibilities.

A report summarizing the results of the meeting, specifically addressing each topic discussed, will be prepared and submitted to the council. The chairman of the SSC or his designee will attend all Council meetings and will be available to answer questions relative to the SSC report.

Subcommittees

A. Fishery Resource Subcommittees

A subcommittee of at least three SSC members shall be established for each of the resources which form a management unit. Subcommittee members shall be appointed by the chairman of the SSC on the basis of resource and fishery expertise.

The purpose of the subcommittees is to provide initial comprehensive review of major documents and to provide written recommendations and guidance to the SSC and to the plan development teams. Responsibilities specifically include review of:

1. FMP's
2. Proposed FMP amendments
3. Status of stock documents
4. Survey reports
5. Other documents assigned by the chairman of the SSC or the Council.

Subcommittees are also charged with evaluating the adequacy of data, with requesting new or additional data, and with proposing research to acquire needed scientific information.

B. Ad Hoc Committees

Ad hoc subcommittees shall be appointed by the chairman of the SSC whenever appropriate. For example, subcommittees have been appointed to develop procedures to determine DAH, to evaluate coordination of state ADF&G and NPFMC management systems and to determine socioeconomic data needs for FMP's.

Subcommittees will meet independently of the SSC to conduct their business. Reports of their findings and recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the entire SSC.

Staff Support

The Executive Director is requested to assign a staff member as SSC coordinator. The coordinator will be present at all SSC meetings to advise the Committee on administrative matters. It will also be the responsibility of this person to coordinate SSC reports, requests for data, initiate communication with plan development teams, draft routine correspondence on behalf of the SSC, and generally coordinate the activities of the committee.

OPERATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy on Review of Scientific and Technical Documents

It is essential, in order to provide the best possible scientific advice, to maintain scientific integrity and to retain and enhance the credibility of the Committee with the Council, the public and the scientific community, the full and complete consideration to be given each document under review. Accordingly, the following review procedure is established:

Major Documents

A. Each major document must be submitted to the SSC at least thirty (30) days prior to scheduled consideration by the Committee. Major documents are:

1. FMP's
2. Major FMP amendments
3. Final contract reports
4. Status of stock reports
5. Scientific reports
6. Any other document which the Committee feels warrants comprehensive scientific review and/or analysis.

B. Major documents will be reviewed by a Fishery Resource Subcommittee and by the entire SSC.

Major documents will be automatically scheduled for review at the first regularly scheduled SSC meeting following the thirty day review period.

The chairman of the Fishery Resource Subcommittee is responsible for scheduling a comprehensive review of major documents by the Subcommittee prior to the SSC review. A written report of findings will be submitted to the SSC at or prior to the scheduled SSC review.

- C. Major documents which address issues of an emergency nature will be reviewed on an expedited basis only upon request of the Council or the Executive Director. The Committee specifically discourages the emergency review procedure.

Other Documents

- A. Documents of less substance or significance must be received at least fifteen (15) days prior to a regularly scheduled Committee meeting. These include:
 - 1. Minor FMP amendments
 - 2. Project proposals
 - 3. Interim project reports
 - 4. Regulation proposals
 - 5. Data requests
 - 6. Other minor documents submitted by the Council or the Executive Director.
- B. These documents will be placed on the agenda of the first regularly scheduled SSC meeting after the 15 day review period. Fishery Resource Subcommittees have the option to conduct a separate review of these documents prior to SSC review.
- C. The SSC will be flexible in the prosecution of this procedure. Whenever possible, documents in this category which are received late will be considered if the nature of the document is considered high priority or if time permits.

Public Hearings

Whenever practicable, at least one member of a Fishery Review Subcommittee will participate in public hearings conducted by the Council.

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