

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## NEWSLETTER

### NPFMC MEETING RECESSED TO NEW YEAR

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting held December 12-14 will span the old and new year as the meeting was recessed following three full days of testimony and decision making. Members will convene to resume business on January 10th and 11th, 1980 in the Endeavor Room of the Captain Cook Hotel.

The second of the three day meeting in December marked the first joint meeting between the Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The two groups will meet at least annually to continue discussing fishery matters of mutual concern.

The Council met Wednesday and moved rapidly through a lengthy agenda of special reports and old business. Staff briefings on management plan considerations and decisions were presented on the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish, Tanner Crab, Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish and Troll Salmon Fishery Management Plans. The Thursday meeting was an all day affair with the Board of Fisheries devoted to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding and the discussion of joint management proposals for Troll Salmon, Tanner Crab and Bering Sea Herring.

Prior to recess Friday afternoon, the Council considered at length public testimony and staff reports concerning the Salmon Troll Plan, Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish Plan and Tanner Crab Plan. Decisions concerning the adoption of Board of Fisheries' proposals and all other amendments to those plans are pending adjournment of the meeting January 11.

### JOINT VENTURES APPROVED CONDITIONALLY

Applications from Korea and USSR vessels to engage in joint venture fishing were conditionally approved by the Council. Final permit restrictions and conditions will be considered January 10th and 11th when the Council reconvenes.

### HERRING PUBLIC HEARINGS IN FEBRUARY

Three public hearings on the Council's Herring Fishery Management Plan, postponed during the November hearing schedule will be held in mid-February. Hearings have tentatively been set for February 9th, 10th and 11th in Tooksook Bay, Hooper Bay, Togiak and Bethel. Specific times for those places will be announced later.

### AP VACANCIES FILLED-TWO MORE OPEN

Four vacancies have been filled for the Advisory Panel. Selected were Al Burch, Kodiak; Sharon Macklin, Juneau; Bill Scott, Anchorage; and Tony Vaska, Bethel. The nomination list is now open for two more positions. Nominations may be sent to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, until February 8. Attention: Nominations Committee. Previous applicants will be polled to see if they wish to remain on the list.

### JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULE

The January meeting schedule has been set as follows: January 9th - Advisory Panel in the Resolution Room of the Captain Cook Hotel; January 9th - SSC in the NPFMC Conference Room; January 10th and 11th - Council meeting in the Endeavor Room, Captain Cook Hotel. [For those who wish to stay in the Hotel, the Captain Cook has announced new rates for Council members with single rooms now starting at \$40.00. A \$34.00 rate will apply at the Travelers Inn.]

### JANUARY MEETING AGENDA

The December meeting recess was the first time the Council had carried over the same meeting agenda from one meeting to the next. Technically, all Council business that was before the Council in the agenda is still before the Council even though they took action on most of the agenda items. Council decisions still to be made include Agenda Item G-6 (Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish Plan) dealing with winter catch limitations in the halibut savings area, Advisory Panel recommendations for catch limits in the pot sanctuary areas, the inclusion of in-season field authority and consideration of salmon savings areas in the central Bering Sea.

Agenda Item H-5 (permit applications for joint ventures) will also receive Council attention. Still to be decided are the conditions and restrictions for joint venture operations: i.e. a determination of whether or not to allow the harvest of herring, the question of restricted operating areas around shore based processors, and the quantity of sablefish to be allowed in U.S. trawl catches.

In addition to those specific items, all other business of the Council which was on the agenda for the December meeting is considered to still be before the Council and may be opened for public comment or Council action as the Council deems necessary.