

Agenda #10
January 1978

December 22, 1977

Mr. Harry Rietze, Regional Director
Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 1668
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Harry,

I have received your letter dated December 16, 1977 regarding the two research proposals from MIT. The study of the Regional Fishery Management Councils as outlined in I and II of your letter, appear not only to be interesting but of considerable value to the Council.

My purpose in writing is to acknowledge that we are sending this letter to all Council members, Advisory Panel members and Scientific and Statistical Committee members. I will also place the discussion of this on topic the agenda for the AP, the SSC and the Council in January.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

cc: Council
Advisory Panel
Scientific and Statistical Committee

*Rec'd
Jan 6, 1978*

COPY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
P.O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802

December 16, 1977

Mr. Jim Branson, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim:

The National Marine Fisheries Service has received two unsolicited research proposals from M.I.T. entitled "A Study of Regional Fishery Management Councils" and "The Georges Bank Fisheries: Development of Management Plans". Receipt of these proposals raises several questions that I had hoped to discuss with the Council, but could not because of the press of other business at the last meeting. A desirable procedure now would be to acquaint the Council members with the subject matter by copy of this letter (which I hope you can distribute) so they may be prepared to devote a few minutes to discussion of it at the January meeting.

First, the Regional Council Study would examine issues involving Council decision-making, how the Councils define priorities in the context of management plan preparation, Council problems, and the mode of Council operations. The study would involve a literature search of Council minutes and various other documents, examination of sources of Council data, attendance at selected Council meetings, detailed interviews with Council members, staffs, and others. It would bring together all of these observations with implications for future Council operations. The total project budget for 18 months involving all Councils (originally proposed for September 1, 1977 through February 28, 1979) is \$292,000.

In outline, the study contains the following elements:

- I. Issues in the development of Regional Management Councils.
 1. What are the decision making processes of each Council?
 2. What are the principal factors considered in each management plan?
 3. What are the principal problems encountered by each Council in its operations?
 4. What can be learned . . . ?



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II. Scope of analysis proposed for policy alternatives at M.I.T.

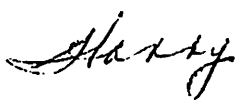
1. How the Councils function and how they construct conservation and management plans.
2. Problems encountered by the Councils, both in substance and procedure:
 - a. Sectoral problems
 - b. Jurisdictional conflicts
 - c. International conflicts
3. Implications of the operations of the Councils for (a) rational fishery conservation and (b) the future of regional management of resources.

The second research proposal would involve examining the Georges Bank fisheries using operations-research techniques to determine optimum levels of fishing effort and vessel configuration. The study would involve a static-optimization search for the best levels of fishing effort and vessel configuration, and a dynamic programming approach which optimizes the same variables but would also include a possible solution to a very important and difficult problem--the contribution of variability in year-class strength to the determination of an optimal fishing policy. The study would also involve an examination of multiple species interactions and particularly the effect of some of the so-called incidental species catches on the target fisheries of Georges Bank. The study would be particularly helpful in interpreting the National Standards of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act that relate to variability and multiple species analyses. The total project budget for one year (originally proposed for July 1, 1977 through June 30, 1978) is \$109,000.

I would appreciate knowing how the Council members feel about the proposal concepts; whether they see immediate need for such studies; and if so, how they would feel about priorities vis a vis other needs. It would also be helpful to know the Council members' opinions with respect to accepting unsolicited proposals and going with sole-source contracts as opposed to soliciting bids for projects determined to be needed.

Again, I express hope that we may, as a Council, find some time to discuss the above matters which could have important future implications to our own regional responsibilities.

Sincerely,


Harry L. Rietze
Director, Alaska Region

