

Agenda #8 d
February 1978

February 10, 1978

Mr. David H. Wallace
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
3300 Whitehaven Street, Page 2
Washington, D.C. 20235

Dear Dave,

The North Pacific Council will not have time to comment on the "Proposed Interim Policy Governing the Purchase of Fish by Foreign Vessels From U.S. Fishing Vessels Within the Fishery Conservation Zone" within the 15 day period after its publication in the Federal Register February 8th. They will meet again February 23rd and 24th and will consider it at that time. I would appreciate your consideration of the Council's comments even though you can expect them several days after the formal closing date. I expect to have them in the mail to you by February 28th.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

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A PROPOSED INTERIM POLICY GOVERNING THE PURCHASE OF 1/
FISH BY FOREIGN VESSELS FROM U. S. FISHING VESSELS
WITHIN THE FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE*

In order to address pending or expected applications submitted under PMP's effective January 1, 1978, it is recommended that the following interim policy govern the Secretary's consideration of applications for permits to allow foreign vessels to purchase or transfer fish from U.S. vessels within the FCZ during the 1978 fishing season:

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 vessels 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 for the sale exceeds the capability and intent of the U. S. industry to process such fish; (3) the relevant foreign vessel has the capability and intent to process such fish. Actions with respect to 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.

* As revised following the MAFAC meeting.

1/ Annotated as published in the Federal Register February 8, 1978 - corrections by phone from Phil Chitwood.

- (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 exvessel, 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 United States' 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.

Published on February 8 for a 15 day review period.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Agenda Item 9

January 1978

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January, 23, 1978

TO: Council, Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical
Committee Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director *JHB*

SUBJECT: Possible Research Funding Proposals (RFP'S) for the Troll
Salmon Fisheries and Management Plan

A working group met in Juneau on January 10th and reviewed six Research Funding Proposals (RFP'S) for the Troll Salmon Plan. Present were members from the Management Plan Drafting Team, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Trollers Association, Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council staff. The following recommendations were made by the group:

1. That the Council fund an analysis of troll salmon fishery data as supplied by the Alaska Trollers Association Troll Logbook Program (Appendix 9A). This study was estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 for FY 1978.
2. That the Council fund a troll fishery onboard observer program to precisely document the troll salmon catch by species, CPUE, by gear type, age, length, weight, maturity, hooking scars, net scars and predator scars, by Council statistical area and sub-area (Appendix 9B).
3. That a high priority be given for a study dealing with socio-economic data for the troll salmon fishery. A higher funding priority would have been given except the working group was told that NMFS in Juneau and Seattle would probably be contributing upwards of \$230,000 to do this study. As it stands now, on January 30th and 31st all principals from the Council, NMFS and ADF&G will meet in Juneau to discuss the proposals for this money.
4. A high priority was also given a tagging study for inshore downstream migrant salmon smolts. The working group however, realized that the magnitude of this effort would far exceed available funds from the Council and therefore recommended the Council support this study in concept for funding from other sources.

5. The RFP developed for high seas tagging was considered important but secondary to inshore tagging. The importance of this proposal was in determining migration routes and homing patterns for those fish caught on the Fairweather offshore Grounds.

6. That the study to develop a comprehensive management strategy for the Alaska Troll Salmon Fishery be considered the lowest priority. The group felt that although this RFP dealt with the important philosophical, and developmental concepts the specific points contained within it were already considered as broad objectives by the Council and of each of the research items mentioned so far.

ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We have requested an additional supplemental programmatic grant for \$100,000 for the two studies identified in subparagraphs 1 and 2 as a means of alerting NOAA of possible Council action on these RFP's.

Action on priority number one (Appendix 9A) requires SSC and AP approval of the substantive objectives of an RFP or contract to assist the logbook analysis. Based on an SSC recommendation and on Finance Committee approval the Council must approve it for release either as an RFP or as a contract as may be required.

Regarding priority number two (Appendix 9B) the SSC and AP must comment on the substance contained in the salmon troll observer proposal and make their recommendations to the Council. The Council must, through the Finance Committee, adopt the proposal as a contract or recommend the information contained therein be released as an RFP.

The details of both of these proposals are found on the following pages (Appendix 9A and 9B).

Attachments

Appendix 9A

Title: Possible RFP - Data Needs of the Logbook Program

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Trollers Association has submitted a proposal to analyze the troll salmon fishery data supplied by the troll logbook program for consideration by the Council. This proposal was reviewed by the working group in Juneau which made the following recommendations and observations. The working group recognized that the voluntary collection of basic fishery data appears to have value in supplementing traditional sources of scientific data collected by various state and federal agencies. After reviewing the ATA proposal the subgroup recommended a slightly modified proposal. The proposal has been estimated to cost \$15,000 and has as its major objectives, the following two statements:

1. The 1977 logbook information has been entered on tape into a computer system. The study therefore, proposes to edit all of the 1977 data entries for visual correctness.
2. The 1977 logbook format is substantially different from the 1976 logbook format. The format for entering data into the computer system was originally based on the 1976 logbooks. The drastic changes in format of the 1977 and 1978 logbook necessitate major changes be made in the data entering format and program. The study therefore, proposed to develop a modified information and data entry program to accommodate these changes in the logbook data reporting style.

There also appear to be other benefits to the Council from this logbook analysis. These forthcoming objectives could be viewed in addition to or in lieu of the above stated objectives. These objectives would directly provide answers which the Council will need in order to utilize 1977 logbook data in management decisions forthcoming in the high seas salmon troll fishery management plan.

1. Given that the 1977 data is already on computer tapes the following information should be summarized from the logbook data.
 - a. Fishing effort by time and area
 - b. The numbers and sizes of king salmon, coho salmon and shaker (sublegal) salmon caught by area and by season.

The Council has commended the voluntary troll logbook program by the Alaska Trollers Association. No mention was made, however about assisting the development or funding of this logbook program or any others. In addressing the value of this RFP, the Council should consider whether or not it intends to fund future logbook programs for the troll fisheries and other fisheries and whether or not a precedence is set with this funding proposal.

Appendix 9B

Title: For a Troll Fishery Onboard Observer Program to Precisely Document the Troll Salmon Catch by Species, CPUE by Gear Type, Age, Length, Weight, Maturity, Hooking Scars, Net Scars and Predator Scars, by Council Statistical Area and Subarea.

INTRODUCTION

This proposal was recommended for immediate funding by the subgroup. It has been costed at approximately \$70-85,000 and has been recommended as a sole-source contract to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (for first line administration and for subcontracting to the Alaska Trollers Association for infield and logistical supports and services).

The observer program was recommended because insufficient data was felt to exist in regard to the subject matter on which to:

1. Define troll salmon catch by species, age, length and weight for areas and sub-areas in Council waters.
2. Delineate areas of concentration (by time) for coho and chinook salmon.
3. Define those Council waters having the most potential for economic return to the troll salmon fisherman.
4. Delineate areas frequented by mature and/or immature chinook salmon.
5. Obtain an index of the severity of hooking injury and predation on the stocks under consideration.

OBJECTIVES

1. Determine the troll salmon catch by species, age, length, weight and time in Council waters by statistical area.
2. Determine if there are areas within Council waters that are species dominant by time.
3. Determine if there are areas frequented by mature or immature chinook salmon by time.
4. Determine incidence of hook scars, net scars and predator scars on troll caught salmon.
5. Determine catch by gear type and amount of gear fished.
6. Independently verify information reported by fishermen in the Alaska Salmon Troll logbooks.

A. Phase I

- Task 1.1 Record total length and round weight by species of retained troll caught salmon.
- Task 1.2 Collect scale samples from "the preferred area" for all troll caught chinook and coho.
- Task 1.3 Record date, time and statistical area and sub-area for all biological sampling.
- Task 1.4 Recover intact gonad samples from all retained chinook caught on participating observer vessels.
- Task 1.5 Record hook type, bait type and number of hours fished per day per observer vessel.
- Task 1.6 Record incidence and severity of hook scars, net scars and predator scars by date by statistical area.

B. Phase II

Data Analysis

- Task 2.1 Tabulate and analyze length and weight data by species, by statistical area and sub-area.
- Task 2.2 Analyze scale samples, tabulate age data.
- Task 2.3 Tabulate and analyze all supportive biological sample data--dates, times, water temperatures, air temperatures, statistical areas, etc.
- Task 2.4 Analyze reproductive tracts of chinook retained by measuring egg diameters of females and ratio of gonad weight to body weight (maturity index) of males and classify spring or fall, spawner or immature.
- Task 2.5 Analyze catch by hook type and boat type and determine CPUE.
- Task 2.6 Tabulate, analyze and summarize data on hooking scars, net scars and predator scars.
- Task 2.7 Summary report of information and conclusions relating to objectives.

The program would schedule 36 man months of observing time using six observers six months each. It is expected that one supervisor would be funded also. By the nature of the fishery, not all observers will be in Council waters all the time. It is expected that those boats which fish in Council waters 100 percent of the time will be sufficiently monitored. It is however, expected that those boats which fish partially in Council

waters and partially in State waters will be randomly sampled to determine the appropriate data base from which to judge effort and catch in Council waters.

ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This RFP and/or contract should be reviewed in substance by the SSC and the AP. The recommendations forthcoming to the Council should go through the Finance Committee with approval needed at this Council meeting for either a contract negotiation or an RFP announcement.