



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D. C. 20235

January 17, 1978

AGENDA ITEM #11
JANUARY 1978

Fx2/HW

To: Executive Directors, Regional Fishery Management Councils
Assistant, Regional and Center Directors, NMFS
Directors of Headquarters Staff Offices, NMFS

From: Hoyt Wheeland, Director
Office of Information Systems

Hoyt

Subject: Agenda and Background Material for January 25-26 Meeting

Attached are a proposed agenda and some background materials for the January 25-26 strategy meeting for developing economic data collection plans. The meeting is being held in the Penthouse of Page 1, which is at 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

The proposed agenda has been structured according to the objectives of the meeting:

- (1) to develop a set of data collection principles;
- (2) to define the process for developing economic data collection plans;
and
- (3) to develop recommendations for the Assistant Administrator which address how data collection and data collection planning should be coordinated.

I have developed some "straw man" principles for your consideration. This should help us get off to a productive start.

I look forward to seeing you on January 25. Please remember that if you are not able to send a representative you will have full opportunity to review whatever report is produced by the group.

If you would like assistance with hotel reservations, please call Charlotte Butler or me at (202) 254-7806.

Attachments

cc: F (Meibohm)

JAN 23 1978



Proposed Agenda for Strategy Meeting to Begin the Development of
Plans for Collecting Economic and Sociological Information

January 25-26, 1978

Washington, D. C.

Page Building #1

PENTHOUSE

January 25, 1978 -- 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

1. Opening and Introductions
2. Discussion of Meeting Objectives
3. Background
 - a. Summary of "Economic and Allied Data for Fisheries Management" by Gates and Caprio.
 - b. Economic and Social Data Needs as Presented in "Establishing a 200-Mile Fisheries Zone" by the Office of Technology Assessment.
 - c. Suggested Outline for Fisheries Profile by Orbach.
4. Statement by Representatives of Regional Councils and NMFS Regions, Centers and Headquarters Regarding the Collection of Economic and Sociological Information.

January 25, 1978 -- 1:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

5. Development of Data Collection Principles

6. Discussion on Developing Integrated Economic and Sociological Data Collection Plans.

a. Define what is presently being done.

(1) Document existing data collection efforts.

(2) Document existing plans for collecting economic and sociological information.

(3) Document existing data.

b. Create a mechanism for developing plans to fill information gaps.

c. Assess the feasibility of and necessity for integrating any or all data collection efforts and plans.

d. Who should do what and how?

(1) Roles of NMFS Regions, Centers and Headquarters, the Regional Councils, the States, the industries and universities.

(2) Establishing the mechanism(s) for coordinating the development of plans and the collection of data.

e. Time schedule.

f. Funding and personnel required for specific tasks.

g. Funding and personnel available for specific tasks.

January 26, 1978 -- 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

6. Discussion on Developing Integrated Economic and Sociological Data Collection Plans (Continued)

7. Development of Recommendations for the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries on How the Data Collection Planning Process Will Be Conducted.

Strategy Meeting for Developing Economic and Sociological Data
Collection Plans

Objective of the Strategy Meeting:

To bring together representatives of the Regional, Center, and Staff Offices of NMFS; representatives of the Regional Councils; and representatives of NOAA, and the Department of Commerce:

- (1) to elicit statements of Regional, Center, Regional Council, and Headquarters needs and problems regarding the collection of economic and sociological information;
- (2) to develop a set of principles which would be followed by NMFS, the Regional Councils and others in the collection of economic and sociological information; and
- (3) to develop a recommendation (or set of recommendations) for the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries on how economic and sociological data collection will be coordinated among NMFS, Regional Councils, the States, Universities, and the Fishing Industry.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Harold E. Lokken, Chairman
 Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
 Post Office Mall Building



Telephone: (907) 274-4563
 FTS 265-5435

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 19, 1978

TO: RECORD *JMB*

FROM: Jim H. Branson

SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan

The morning of January 19, 1978 Carl Rosier called Mark Hutton suggesting that the Council send Don Collinsworth back to a proposed strategy meeting on the National Marine Fisheries Service's economic data collection plan, scheduled for January 25 and 26 in Washington, D.C. Rosier's suggestion had apparently been prompted by a request from Council member Meacham who had learned of the approaching meeting at the Pacific Council meeting last week.

We called the Pacific Council and they telecopied copies of the November 23, 1977 memo from Miebohm to Regional and Center Directors and the December 29, 1977 memo from Miebohm to the same addressees, both on the economic data collection plan. Also telecopied was the Pacific Council's response to Mr. Frank's request for an evaluation of his 'Economic and Allied Data Needs for Fisheries Management' draft.

I talked to Collinsworth later on the same day and told him that we probably needed his presence at the Council and SSC meetings January 24 through 27 worse than we did his representation of the Council at the Washington, D.C. meeting for the following reasons:

1. The Council does not have a position on Frank's draft paper as yet.
2. The SSC and the Council are going to develop a position on that paper at the next meeting. Collinsworth as a knowledgeable SSC member and economist, would be needed for that evaluation.
3. It appeared that this first "strategy session" could arrive at only tentative policy outlines and the Council would have opportunity for further input.

John Harville called the afternoon of the 19th urging that we send Collinsworth and I explained my reasoning to him. He feels that it is quite important and if Crutchfield does not go for the Pacific Council, Harville may. I reiterated my reasons for not asking Collinsworth to go for the North Pacific Council.

Jim Brooks called early in January (after the draft agenda had been made up, January 6) asking that we include an item on the agenda for "NMFS Economic Data Collection Plans." He said that there was no written material required, that Mr. Rietze could report on it adequately at the meeting. He did not have a memo or paper to quote but I assume that one of Meibohm's memos must have triggered this request.

Late in the afternoon of the 19th we received copies of both Meibohm memos, the Pacific Council's response and a January 18 memo to all Council Chairman from McKean urging all of the Councils to send representation to the January 25-26 meeting.

Agenda #11
January 1978

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

526 S.W. Mill Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
Phone: 503-229-5769

CHAIRMAN
John W. McKean

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lorry M. Nakatsu

MEMORANDUM

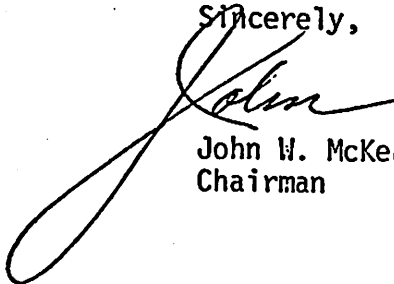
DATE: January 18, 1978
TO: Regional Council Chairmen
SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan
Proposed January 25-26 Meeting

As indicated in the enclosed memo, the Pacific Fishery Management Council is deeply concerned about the proposed National Marine Fisheries Service economic data collection plan. We welcome the opportunity to participate in the January 25-26 meeting and to "be a part of strategy development from the beginning" as suggested in Win Meibohm's memo of December 29, 1977 (also attached).

We urge you to attend this meeting to make the collective views of the councils effective. It is essential to design a data collection program that does meet our plan development needs and does not require assembly of a standardized mass of information, much of which is not applicable in specific cases.

Your comments on our memorandum also would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


John W. McKean
Chairman

Enclosures

pw

JAN 19 1978



4

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

December 29, 1977

Fx2/HW

TO: Assistant, Regional and Center Directors,
NMFS Directors, Headquarters Staff Offices

FROM: Winfred H. Meibohm, Associate Director
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan

I received two comments in response to my November 23, 1977 memorandum, above subject: (1) we should wait until all Regional Councils have commented on the draft report by Caprio and Gates before beginning work on laying out a strategy for developing an integrated economic data collection plan; and (2) the Councils should be part of strategy development from the very beginning. I agree that it would be well to include the Councils in the strategy development phase and feel that in doing so we need not await comments from all Regional Councils before we begin developing a strategy. (We have received substantive comments from four of the Regional Councils and comments from the other four are expected sometime in January.)

The first strategy meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 25-26, 1978. Each of the offices in NMFS headquarters who is interested in the collection of economic data should send one representative to the meeting. Any Regional or Center Director who wishes to have first-hand participation in the first strategy session should send a representative. However, you should understand that every NMFS office will have an opportunity to review and comment on the results of that first session.

I would like each Regional Director to inform the Regional Council(s) in his area about this economic data collection planning effort, and to invite them to participate in the first strategy session if they so desire. Again, I would like you to make it clear to the Councils that if they are unable to invest the time in that first meeting, they will have an opportunity to review and comment on the results of the meeting. You can use my November 23 memorandum as a basis for explaining to the Councils what we are attempting to do. I would like you to extend the invitation to participate by January 11.

By copy of this memorandum, I also am inviting to the strategy meeting a representative of the NOAA Office of Policy and Planning, as well as representatives of the Department of Commerce's Office of the Chief Economist and Office of Budget and Program Evaluation.

COPY

Hoyt Wheeland will be sending under separate cover a proposed agenda for the meeting, as well as appropriate background materials. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Hoyt at (202) 254-7806.

COPY

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

526 S.W. Mill Street

Portland, Oregon 97201

Phone: Commercial (503) 221-6352

FTS 8-423-6352

CHAIRMAN
John W. McKean

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lorry M. Nakatsu

November 30, 1977

Richard A. Frank, Administrator
NOAA
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Frank:

This is in response to your request for an evaluation of your Economic and Allied Data Needs for Fisheries Management draft.

The overall reaction of the Pacific Council can be summarized in three conclusions:

1. This reads like a proposal for a long-run, full coverage economic study of the American fishing industry. While this is a legitimate objective for NMFS to pursue (and is badly needed for the long-run), it would take a minimum of three to four years to complete, and would provide very little immediate help to the Councils in preparing fishery management plans.
2. In an effort to provide truly national coverage, the draft ends up by calling for data accumulation far beyond any one Council's needs -- and, in many areas, for a degree of detail that would involve costs far in excess of the benefits received.
3. The proposed apparatus, with data accumulation and analysis centered in the Washington office of NMFS, is cumbersome and would be very costly in time as far as the regional Councils and their planning tasks are concerned.

Our experience in developing and using economic data for analysis of the impact of alternative fisheries management options suggests strongly that economic data needs are highly specific to particular fisheries and particular geographic areas. Under the FCMA, the analysts and planners concerned are the members of the Scientific and Statistical Committees; the Advisory Panels; the Management Plan Development Teams; and the Council itself. These are the people who bear the responsibility for the quality of management plans and who must, therefore, define their data requirements. While we recognize fully the need for reasonable consistency in the manner in which socio-economic data are gathered and utilized in developing management plans, we have not had sufficient experience with the management plans to define neatly just what information should be gathered and in what detail. To attempt to set down a framework at this early stage will almost certainly result in the gathering of far more information than is required for a specific management plan, and the attendant danger that critically important information, highly specific to the fishery involved, will be left out.

DEC 2 1977

Richard A. Frank, Administrator
Page -2-
November 30, 1977

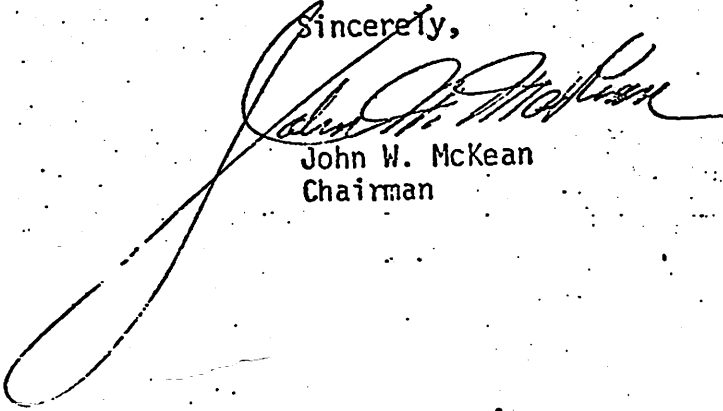
Again, we reiterate our recognition of the need for reasonable uniformity among the Councils in their approach to socio-economic data. Nevertheless, we feel that the areas in which national standards and guidelines should be applied are not yet clearly defined, and would best emerge from careful analysis and collation of the experience of the various Councils with the early management plans as they are developed.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that socio-economic data are costly to obtain, and that the industry should not be burdened with unnecessary or duplicative requests for information. What is needed now, in terms of national MMFS support for Council efforts in the socio-economic area, is assistance in determining the absolute minimum of such information needed to meet legal, management, and common sense requirements for properly justified management plans and regulations.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the need for coordination, within the region and nationally, of efforts to obtain socio-economic data, particularly where direct survey of user groups is undertaken. The amount of overlap, confusion, and resulting industry resentment is already much too high. Some clearinghouse mechanism is urgently required if we are to meet our requirements with minimum imposition upon those who must provide the basic data.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed effort and your willingness to accept them at a later date so that the Council's input could be substantive.

Sincerely,



John W. McKean
Chairman

JWM/sa

cc: Donald Bevan
Harvey Hutchings
Bruce Rettig

COPY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

November 23, 1977

Fx2/HW

TO: Assistant, Regional and Center Directors,
NMFS Directors, Headquarters Staff Offices

FROM: Winfred H. Meibohm, Associate Director
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan

On June 29, 1977 Brian Rothschild sent you a copy of a draft report entitled, "Economic and Allied Data for Fisheries Management," by John Gates and Jim Caprio on behalf of the Department of Commerce's Intradepartmental Committee on Fisheries Management Data. The report presents the findings of the Intradepartmental Committee regarding the kinds of economic data required for meeting our responsibilities under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act and makes several recommendations concerning the collection of economic data.

Dr. Rothschild has discussed this report with Mr. Schoning, who feels that even though the report has not yet been finalized, i.e., all comments have not yet been incorporated into the report, we should begin now to develop a plan for the collection of economic data. He has instructed the Office of Information Systems (Fx2) to coordinate the development of such a plan.

This presents an excellent opportunity for the Service to develop an overall plan for meeting its needs for economic data. In the past we have not had an overall plan. We recognize that the Regions, Centers, Regional Councils, and Headquarters have ongoing plans and activities related to collecting economic data, and that the needs of these organizations differ. It would be very useful if a system could be devised to enable the various components to the NMFS which work with economic information to share the benefits of their respective methodologies and data collection, storage, and analysis capabilities and at the same time allow users such as the Regional Councils to access and properly utilize this information. Such a system, besides providing a clear and efficient base of economic information, would also afford any potential users of this information an understanding of the regional or local considerations which they must recognize in order to properly use economic data for a particular fishery.

Recognizing the above, Fx2 proposes that the Regions, Centers, Regional Councils, and Headquarters work together in preparing an economic data collection plan which would incorporate subplans for each of the individual organizational elements, and which would meet all of our needs for economic data. The plan would include definitions of data elements and survey methodologies for collecting the different kinds of data. The process of developing a plan will mean an investment on the part of several offices in NMFS, and it is well to recognize this investment requirement from the

outset. In order to minimize the burden on the field, I propose that those NMFS Headquarters elements which have needs for economic data develop a planning strategy for review by the Regions, Centers, and Regional Councils. The strategy would include a set of principles which we would follow in developing a plan, a description of the plan development process itself, and a time schedule for developing the overall plan. Once we have all agreed on a strategy, we can use that strategy as a common base for developing an economic data collection plan which will meet all of our needs.

We would appreciate your reaction to this proposal. Please direct any comments you may have to Hoyt Wheeland of the Office of Information Systems (Fx2), telephone (2) 254-7806. We would like to hear from you by December 5, 1977.

cc Jim Caprio

Fx2:HWheeland:cvb:11/16/77

COPY

December 9, 1977

Mr. Richard A. Frank, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Frank:

The North Pacific Fishery Council did not have sufficient time to consider the draft report dealing with economic and allied data needs at its December 1-2, 1977, meeting. Both the Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee have requested more time to complete an indepth review before sending their comments to you.

The Council recognizes the value of the draft report and want to do a review worthy of the subject. As they get further into the development of management plans the need for economic and social data, particularly as it relates directly to the management units on which the plans are based, becomes more and more apparent. The draft DEIS/DFMP for the Troll Salmon Fisheries Off Alaska reviewed, amended, and passed by the Council at its recent meeting has been very controversial and one of its weaknesses has been the lack of economic and social data relating to that fishery and the communities it impacts in Alaska.

I regret the delay in formulating Council comments but this is an extremely important area and the Council and its advisory bodies wants to give it as thorough a review as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

cc: SSC
AP
FAK (Rietze)
All Councils.

JHBranson:fmm 12/9/77

Institute for Marine Studies HA-35
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

M E M O

To: SSC Members
From: Ed Miles
Subject: NMFS Report on Economic and Allied Data Needs for Fisheries Management
Date: January 23, 1978

At our last meeting Lee Alverson asked me to lead a discussion on this item at our next meeting and prepare a draft response for the Council's consideration. I enclose the latter.

Also at our last meeting, I tried to shame you into a response on our own Fifth Revision of Socioeconomic Procedures and Data Needs for Determining Optimum Yield but I find that once again I was unsuccessful. I shall therefore assume that you have no changes to suggest and incorporate only those changes suggested by other people (not on the SSC) who have taken the time to respond. I would also request that this item be put on the agenda at our next meeting (after January 24/25) and hope at this time that we can officially forward the Report to the Council.

EM:ivn
attach

The Hon. Richard A. Frank, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Rockville, Md. 20852

Dear Mr. Frank:

We are pleased to respond to your invitation to comment on the report Economic and Allied Data Needs for Fisheries Management. We apologise for the delay in responding but the press of business at our meetings in the fall was such that we were unable to evaluate this report with the care it deserves.

From the Council's perspective, this report raises two kinds of questions. First, it raises questions of conceptualization and whether the approach adopted is fully responsive to the optimum yield requirements of the Act. Secondly, it raises questions of procedure, strategies and the opportunity costs incurred by proceeding down this route rather than others which could be identified.

With respect to questions of conceptualization, we find the quality of analysis in Part II (Sectoral Analysis), which is the heart of the report, to be of a very high order but, in marked contrast, we find Appendix B (A Descriptive Model of the Fisheries System) to be extremely simplistic and not useful. The Sectoral Analysis deals with problems of consumption, international trade, recreational fishing, processing and marketing, and production or harvesting. We think that the first two items are susceptible of being treated in the centralized fashion implied by the report but we do not agree that this is true of the last three items. In particular, we find the section on recreational fishing to be as unsatisfactory as anything else written on this subject but we sympathize since we are familiar with the difficulties and they are indeed great.

The Hon. Richard A. Frank

We agree that the Consumption Sector is very important since this is the source of crucial information about market fluctuations but we foresee some organizational difficulties between NMFS and the U. S. Department of Agriculture where much relevant data may already be collected. We also think that the International Trade Sector should be expanded to include foreign catches and market prices as determinants of foreign fee schedules. So far, the establishment of the foreign fee schedule has been determined by an almost completely arbitrary ex-vessel price. We suspect that this price may in fact be quite low compared to the actual market conditions in the foreign fishing countries. Data on the foreign cost structure, especially when joint ventures are not involved, are also required on a priority basis.

As a whole, however, we find that the approach adopted in this report is not fully responsive to the optimum yield requirements of the Act. The approach is narrowly economic. No sociocultural problems of the fisheries are even identified, much less treated. If this system were institutionalized nationally and research monies allocated to collect the data identified in the report, we still could not be in compliance with both the FCMA and NEPA since we would not have the capability of identifying and evaluating the probable sociocultural effects of different management decisions. This consideration raises in turn questions of procedure, strategies and opportunity costs.

The approach adopted in the report suggests a procedure for centralizing within NMFS a national data collection, storage and retrieval system applicable to the U. S. as a whole. The priorities identified quite clearly reflect this intent. We infer that the major uses to which such a

system are likely to be put are twofold: a) to facilitate evaluation and review of the FMP's by the Secretary; and b) to facilitate forecasts and recommendations by the Secretary relative to the development of U. S. harvesting and processing capabilities.

We appreciate that from your point of view there needs to be developed a more effective system for reviewing the FMP's submitted by a diverse collection of Regional Councils. On the other hand, from our point of view, we must ask how is the approach recommended in the report going to help the North Pacific Council make specific decisions? More particularly, given our experience to date with the drafting of specific management plans, how is this approach going to help us solve some very serious problems of missing data?

In answering these two questions we find that while it makes sense to centralize a data collection effort on questions of consumption and international trade, it does not make sense to attempt this with respect to recreational fishing, processing and marketing and production or harvesting. In order to do this in a way that would be fully responsive to the specific conditions faced by each Regional Council, the scale of effort required would be so vast as to consume more than your entire budget. Furthermore, as indicated previously, we disagree with the data collection priorities established in the report since they take no account whatever of the socio-cultural dimensions required by the FCMA and NEPA. These data have to be based on the units of socioeconomic life observable in particular regions and subregions. Patterns that can be observed in Alaska will not necessarily hold for Massachusetts and vice-versa. The scale of effort required to centralize the system, described on a national basis would also be so great as virtually to preclude a major data collection effort on the relevant

The Hon. Richard A. Frank

sociocultural dimensions. Given our needs, the opportunity cost of doing so is simply too high.

On the other hand, we realize that there is a need for a more effective system of review of FMP's at the national level and for a better capability in devising strategies for fisheries development in the U. S. We think that it is possible to design a system which optimizes across your needs as well as ours. This system would allow centralized data collection on questions of consumption and international trade but, for the other items, would resort to guidelines which Regional Councils must follow in preparing FMP's. These guidelines would specify the kinds of analyses which should be done and the types of data on which they should be based but no more than that. However, the scope of those guidelines would be expanded to include the sociocultural dimensions of the fisheries.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues and look forward to continuing these exchanges as we all move forward in trying to implement the FCMA.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Lokken
Chairman, North Pacific
Fishery Management Council

Agenda #11
January 1978

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

526 S.W. Mill Street
Portland, Oregon 97201
Phone: 503-229-5769

CHAIRMAN
John W. McKean

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lorry M. Nakatsu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 18, 1978
TO: Regional Council Chairmen
SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan
Proposed January 25-26 Meeting

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We urge you to attend this meeting to make the collective views of the councils effective. It is essential to design a data collection program that does meet our plan development needs and does not require assembly of a standardized mass of information, much of which is not applicable in specific cases.

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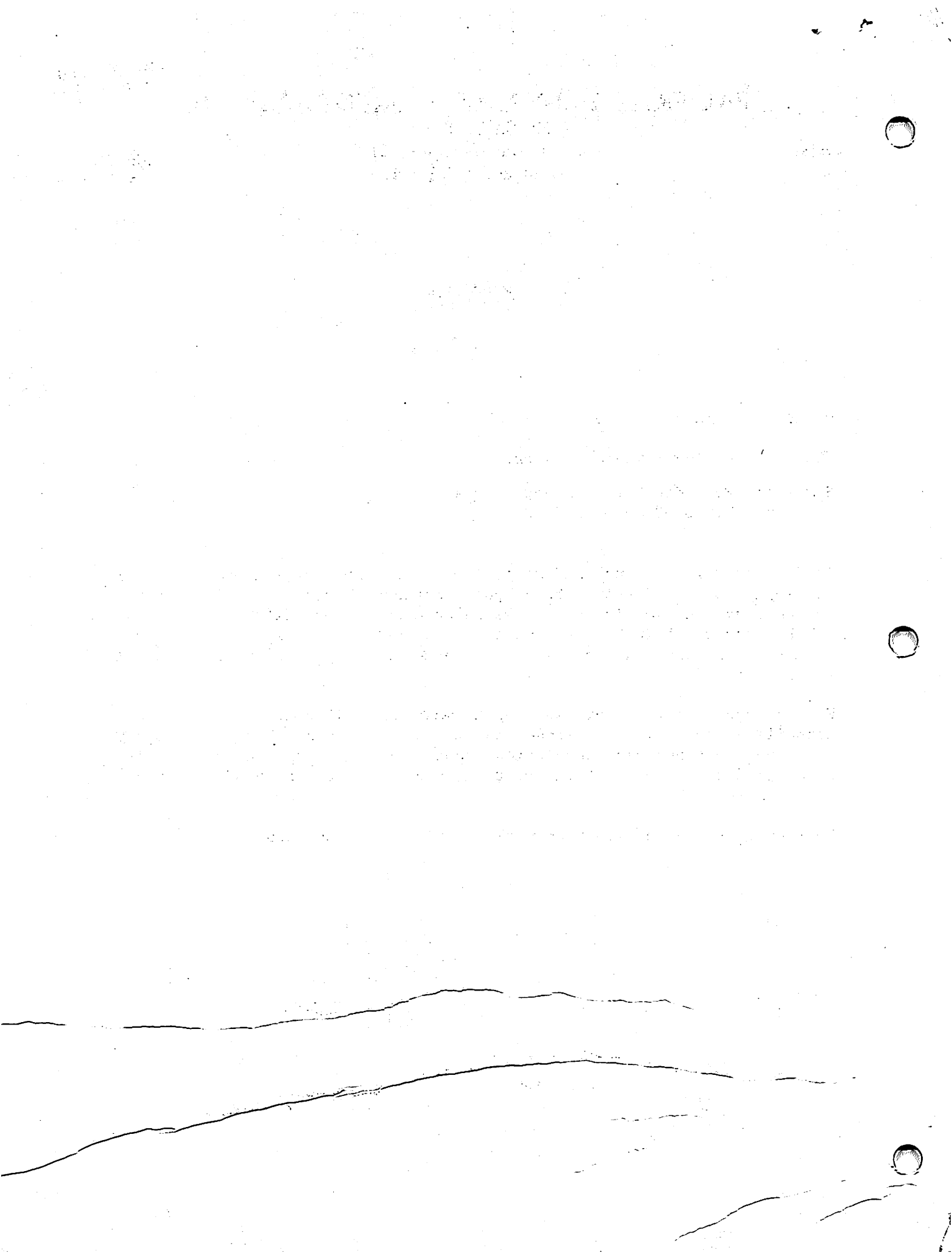
Sincerely,


John W. McKean
Chairman

Enclosures

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JAN 19 1978





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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

December 29, 1977

Fx2/HW

TO: Assistant, Regional and Center Directors,
NMFS Directors, Headquarters Staff Offices

FROM: Winfred H. Meibohm, Associate Director
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan

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The first strategy meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 25-26, 1978. Each of the offices in NMFS headquarters who is interested in the collection of economic data should send one representative to the meeting. Any Regional or Center Director who wishes to have first-hand participation in the first strategy session should send a representative. However, you should understand that every NMFS office will have an opportunity to review and comment on the results of that first session.

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PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

526 S.W. Mill Street

Portland, Oregon 97201

Phone: Commercial (503) 221-6352

FTS 8-423-6352

CHAIRMAN
John W. McKean

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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November 30, 1977

Richard A. Frank, Administrator
NOAA
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Frank:

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DEC 2 1977

Richard A. Frank, Administrator
Page -2-
November 30, 1977

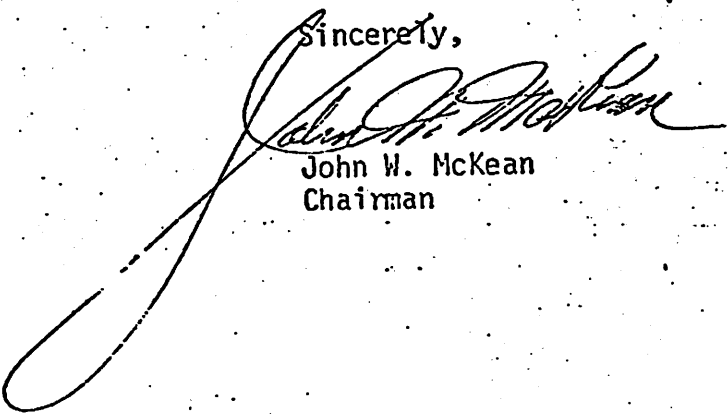
Again, we reiterate our recognition of the need for reasonable uniformity among the Councils in their approach to socio-economic data. Nevertheless, we feel that the areas in which national standards and guidelines should be applied are not yet clearly defined, and would best emerge from careful analysis and collation of the experience of the various Councils with the early management plans as they are developed.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that socio-economic data are costly to obtain, and that the industry should not be burdened with unnecessary or duplicative requests for information. What is needed now, in terms of national MMFS support for Council efforts in the socio-economic area, is assistance in determining the absolute minimum of such information needed to meet legal, management, and common sense requirements for properly justified management plans and regulations.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the need for coordination, within the region and nationally, of efforts to obtain socio-economic data, particularly where direct survey of user groups is undertaken. The amount of overlap, confusion, and resulting industry resentment is already much too high. Some clearinghouse mechanism is urgently required if we are to meet our requirements with minimum imposition upon those who must provide the basic data.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed effort and your willingness to accept them at a later date so that the Council's input could be substantive.

Sincerely,



John W. McKean
Chairman

JWM/sa

cc: Donald Bevan
Harvey Hutchings
Bruce Rettig

COPY



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

November 23, 1977

Fx2/HW

TO: Assistant, Regional and Center Directors,
NMFS Directors, Headquarters Staff Offices

FROM: Winfred H. Meibohm, Associate Director
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Economic Data Collection Plan

On June 29, 1977 Brian Rothschild sent you a copy of a draft report entitled, "Economic and Allied Data for Fisheries Management," by John Gates and Jim Caprio on behalf of the Department of Commerce's Intradepartmental Committee on Fisheries Management Data. The report presents the findings of the Intradepartmental Committee regarding the kinds of economic data required for meeting our responsibilities under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act and makes several recommendations concerning the collection of economic data.

Dr. Rothschild has discussed this report with Mr. Schoning, who feels that even though the report has not yet been finalized, i.e., all comments have not yet been incorporated into the report, we should begin now to develop a plan for the collection of economic data. He has instructed the Office of Information Systems (Fx2) to coordinate the development of such a plan.

This presents an excellent opportunity for the Service to develop an overall plan for meeting its needs for economic data. In the past we have not had an overall plan. We recognize that the Regions, Centers, Regional Councils, and Headquarters have ongoing plans and activities related to collecting economic data, and that the needs of these organizations differ. It would be very useful if a system could be devised to enable the various components to the NMFS which work with economic information to share the benefits of their respective methodologies and data collection, storage, and analysis capabilities and at the same time allow users such as the Regional Councils to access and properly utilize this information. Such a system, besides providing a clear and efficient base of economic information, would also afford any potential users of this information an understanding of the regional or local considerations which they must recognize in order to properly use economic data for a particular fishery.

Recognizing the above, Fx2 proposes that the Regions, Centers, Regional Councils, and Headquarters work together in preparing an economic data collection plan which would incorporate subplans for each of the individual organizational elements, and which would meet all of our needs for economic data. The plan would include definitions of data elements and survey methodologies for collecting the different kinds of data. The process of developing a plan will mean an investment on the part of several offices in NMFS, and it is well to recognize this investment requirement from the

outset. In order to minimize the burden on the field, I propose that those NMFS Headquarters elements which have needs for economic data develop a planning strategy for review by the Regions, Centers, and Regional Councils. The strategy would include a set of principles which we would follow in developing a plan, a description of the plan development process itself, and a time schedule for developing the over-all plan. Once we have all agreed on a strategy, we can use that strategy as a common base for developing an economic data collection plan which will meet all of our needs.

We would appreciate your reaction to this proposal. Please direct any comments you may have to Hoyt Wheeland of the Office of Information Systems (Fx2), telephone (2) 254-7806. We would like to hear from you by December 5, 1977.

cc Jim Caprio

Fx2:HWheeland:cvb:11/16/77

COPY

*Agenda 11
Jan 1978*

December 9, 1977

Mr. Richard A. Frank, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Frank:

The North Pacific Fishery Council did not have sufficient time to consider the draft report dealing with economic and allied data needs at its December 1-2, 1977, meeting. Both the Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee have requested more time to complete an indepth review before sending their comments to you.

The Council recognizes the value of the draft report and want to do a review worthy of the subject. As they get further into the development of management plans the need for economic and social data, particularly as it relates directly to the management units on which the plans are based, becomes more and more apparent. The draft DEIS/DFMP for the Troll Salmon Fisheries Off Alaska reviewed, amended, and passed by the Council at its recent meeting has been very controversial and one of its weaknesses has been the lack of economic and social data relating to that fishery and the communities it impacts in Alaska.

I regret the delay in formulating Council comments but this is an extremely important area and the Council and its advisory bodies wants to give it as thorough a review as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

cc: SSC
AP
FAK (Rietze)
All Councils.

JHBranson:fmm 12/9/77