

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP members

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

DATE: May 18, 1984

SUBJECT: Draft Recommendations for Future Fishery Management Policy

*ACTION REQUIRED*

*Make recommendations on the Future Fishery Management Policy to the Gulf Council as a follow up on the Chairman's Meeting of last November.*

BACKGROUND

The attached draft recommendations were developed by Roland Finch at the Chairman's Meeting in Biloxi last November. The Council looked at them at the April meeting and asked me to find out what comments the other Councils have sent prior to our reconsideration of the subject at this meeting.

The Gulf Council has received very little comment from any of the other Councils. The Pacific Council has suggested some format changes and the Atlantic Council discussed it and sent a copy of that discussion to the Gulf for consideration. There has been nothing from the other Councils. None of them have formally adopted the draft recommendations.

Since so many of the recommendations in this draft are similar to those policy and procedure objectives the Council is now developing for itself, it might be best to tell the Gulf Council that "though we are in general agreement with the recommendations and are actively working on the development of regional goals and procedures, we believe more time and discussion is needed before we consider national policy for all Councils."

*Draft Recommendations for the  
Future of Fishery Management*

*Policy*

1. Each Council and NMFS region, working together, should set specific, and to the extent possible, quantified objectives to be reached by 1990 or an earlier specified date for each fishery to provide a basis to:
  - a) Reshape FMPs progressively to meet the objectives, and
  - b) Enable NMFS to redirect its policies, programs and budgets to help meet these objectives.

*Such plans should provide for a regime that permits a maximum continued use of stocks, equitable allocation to users, and provides fair opportunities for recreational fishermen and the full and efficient use of the commercial quota by domestic fishermen and processors.*

2. Fisheries should be promoted as a national objective.
3. Councils should be involved, where appropriate, in the preparation and modification of fishery management policy.
4. Examine and make recommendations on efficiency in fishery management measures as it relates to overfishing, overcapitalization, and financial assistance programs.
5. Councils should reconsider their internal processes to increase their efficiency and coordination with adjacent Councils, and provide better communication with the public.
6. Review the fishery management plan process to streamline and reduce complexity and simplify documentation needs.
7. Council management decisions should be based on a full consideration of alternative measures for reaching the objectives and their impacts on the resource, the habitat and the users.
8. Examine and redefine federal government, Council and state roles in the fishery management process.

*Information*

9. Review and evaluate improved systems to provide adequate biological, economic and social data needed for fishery management, to acquire, analyse and report monitoring data on a real time basis, and to consider the impacts of displacing foreign by domestic fishermen on the reliability and precision of data.

*Funding*

10. *Find ways to provide additional funding to Councils or to reorganize the present use of funding to ensure long range stability and to increase and improve Councils public communication.*
11. *Increase the role of Councils in budget preparation and allocation.*