

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 18, 1979

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

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Council Regional Workshop on FMP Process

On May 3rd and 4th, several representatives from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington office met with the Council to discuss the FMP process. Participants in the workshop included Council member Chuck Meacham, Council staff, as well as National Marine Fisheries Service Center representatives and State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game representatives.

The workshop contributed significantly to the improvement in communications between the Council and Region and the Central Office.

The significant points for the Council in the FMP process are:

1. Guidelines will be published on the development and review of the FMP and amendments by the end of the year. Discussion of these guidelines will be on the agenda of the Chairmen's meeting in June.

2. The proposed process contains more steps and more papers requiring review and approval by the Secretary.
3. The framework FMP seems to be the only solution at present to making the system respond to the time requirements of fishery management. Generic environmental impact statements were also discussed.
4. There was considerable emphasis on the early development and review of regulations, and the necessity to clarify Council intent in regulations.
5. Within the FMP process the proposed changes include:
 - a workplan which requires the administrative review and approval of proposed Council action before that action takes place;
 - regulation analysis is required for amendments if the Council determines the amendment significant. This Council determination of significance will have to be discussed and reviewed;
 - Secretarial review has been split up into two parts: preliminary approval of the FMP takes place after the 60-day review period, and the Secretary finally approves the plan with the approval of final regulations.

The preparation of amendments require considerable planning and discussion. In the proposed amendment development process, there are several types of amendments which would trigger different requirements of NEPA and of Executive Order 12044. In order to avoid an impossible tracking system, the amendment process should be consolidated for each plan or for a group of plans, to a certain

period in the year when appropriate changes to the plan will be considered. Secretarial review of the proposed development of Council amendments also applies.

Other topics of discussion were the upcoming Orientation Meeting proposed by Leitzell for all new Council members in October, and the Administrative Record Keeping System, which is deemed mandatory by NOAA, effective 1980.

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Agenda Item #18
May 21, 1979
J. Willoughby

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD INDEXING SYSTEM (ARIS)

During the recent Workshop on management plan development, a task force from NMFS, D.C. introduced the new ARIS (Administrative Record Indexing System) Program, a sub-system of the Fishery Information Network (FISHNET).

The team requested the North Pacific Fishery Management Council be their "guinea pigs" for the system, using the GOA/FMP for the trial. We were chosen because of our distance from the main terminal and the status of the GOA/FMP (implemented and amended). If we can input and retrieve data, all Councils should be able to.

The purpose of this new program is to record the location of all hard copy for FMP's, regulations and amendments.

Some progress has been made. We have a portable data terminal on loan from the Northwest Center and some training has been given to use this instrument. Some transmitting problems have been discovered, the FTS is too noisy so we have to transmit and retrieve on a commercial line located in Seattle. Since the cost for the telephone line alone would be about \$1.50 per document to input, we will probably send the information to D.C. for their Data Processing people to punch. Other minor problems have also been discovered but are being worked on. The initial cost (logging in documents, computer purchase, etc.) is estimated to be \$15,000 to \$20,000 which NMFS agrees to fund.

NMFS hopes to have a report ready on the feasibility and reliability of the program at the Chairmen's meeting in June.