

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

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AGENDA ITEM 19

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 1978

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

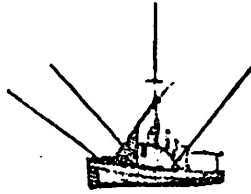
FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Salmon Troll Fishery Observer Program

The attached letter from Ed Linkous, President of the Alaska Trollers Association, and memo from Gary Gundstrom to Al Davis of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game give some indication of the problems that must be resolved in order for the Council to consider funding an observer program for the salmon troll fishery for 1978.

We have asked the SSC to review the proposed program and recommend the basic minimum points for the study consistent with good scientific research. We have also asked the AP to study the proposals.

Without a scientifically acceptable proposal and/or without full industry cooperation the program would not warrant Council funding. The action required at this meeting will depend upon the recommendations of the SSC, the AP and the Finance Committee.



ALASKA TROLLERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 5825
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
907-225-9638

February 7, 1978

Gary Gunstrom, Research Supervisor
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
210 Ferry Way
Juneau, Alaska, 99801

Dear Gary;

I have just read your memo to Alan Davis dated February 1, 1978 concerning the RFP for the observer program. Quite frankly, this proposal as written is contrary to the intent of the offer that we made to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is totally unworkable. Further, it shows a total disregard for the sacrifices that will be required of our participating members.

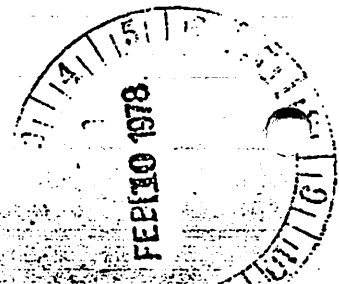
It was our offer to assist in locating and coordinating vessel owners who would be willing to take an observer for a trip during the 1978 season provided

1. the observer did not interfere with fishing operations
2. there would be no cost to the participant.

As the proposal is now written A.T.A. is expected to secure at its own cost no less than 50 members who will take an extra person (a stranger) on their boats for ten day intervals, provide food and lodging, allow thorough examination inside and out of every fish caught, give up salmon eggs from the catch worth \$1.50 a pound, accept the risk of losing fishing time in case of unforeseen events, and risk a loss in mobility. Participating fishermen are being requested to do all this without reimbursement of any sort and at their own risk in case of accident.

The Alaska Trollers Association is not capable of providing 50 such trips and would not do so even if we could. I further doubt that any of you at the A.D.F. & G. would accept one of us as your shadow day and night for ten days at your own expense, especially if there was the risk of you losing part of your salary.

Concerning the Statement of Objectives, it was our firm condition that any observations be done on a coastwide basis.



This wording infers that this proposal is an attempt to substantiate preconceived management objectives and not a research proposal. Further, we feel that even if the A.T.A. could secure 50 participants that the logistics of such an undertaking would be impossible and the budget submitted would be totally inadequate, resulting in failure of the program.

Committee members of the A.T.A. will be meeting on February 13 or 17 to discuss this RFP as well as the logbook layout for 1978. Yours and Alan's attendance at this meeting would be helpful in resolving these differences. Please let us know if you can attend either of these dates.

Sincerely,

Ed Linkous

Ed Linkous, President

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

February 10, 1978

To: RECORD

From: Mark I. Hutton
Assistant Executive Director

Subject: Troll Salmon Onboard Observer Program

On Wednesday, February 8, 1978, Jim Branson and I met with Mr. Ed Linkous, President of the Alaska Troller's Association, in the Council office. Mr. Linkous had stopped by to discuss the status of the Troll Salmon Plan and to present us with his objections to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's proposal for the Troll Salmon Observer Program. Attached to this memorandum is the ADF&G referenced proposal. Following, then, are the numbered comments Mr. Linkous made regarding the proposal:

1. Mr. Linkous wondered if the \$10,000 identified the line 300 for the analysis of data included 1977 data as well as 1978 data.

Major concern expressed regarding this item was whether or not the money was adequate to do both and whether, in fact, 1977 analysis would be accomplished through a separate contract.

2. The question was raised concerning line item 200 which identified \$5,000 travel for the Project Leader, Assistant, and the Alaska Troller's Association Coordinator.

Both the intent to spend this money and the role of the ATA was questioned.

3. It was pointed out that no monies had been set aside or budgeted for unexpected lodging expenses likely to be incurred during the season.
4. A major point by Mr. Linkous was that no per diem monies had been identified or budgeted. This oversight or misunderstanding as to the role of ATA could diminish or possibly cancel the entire Observer Program. In other words, Mr. Linkous said that without per diem expenses for the observers on the vessels to cover a minimum of food, then Trollers would probably not ever take an observer on

their vessel. Linkous went on to say that the Alaska Trollers Association had discussed possible ranges of per diem charges and these ranged from a minimum of \$25.00 per day to \$200.00 per day.

5. We were told that a very small number of salmon troll captains carried liability insurance sufficient to offset the possibility of a major lawsuit. Because of this, Mr. Linkous said, the ATA members felt that captains would be hesitant to take observers on their boat because of the possible lawsuit implications.
6. Another major fault of the proposal was the lack of definition of responsibilities between services performed by Alaska Troller's Association and services performed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The major reason for this problem appeared to be the ADF&G proposal which requested that ATA set up, coordinate, and guarantee 50 ten-day observer trips. This was deemed impossible by Mr. Linkous, under any circumstances and the ATA's subsequent preliminary recommendations would be in the neighborhood of 30 ten-day trips utilizing three observers as opposed to the ADF&G proposal which uses five observers.
7. Regarding the observers, Mr. Linkous said that the ATA recommendation would be to utilize one observer from the Fairweather area, one observer out of Sitka, and an observer for the Noyes Island fishery. He also said it was likely to expect 75 to 100 observing days per area (one observer) as opposed to the ADF&G proposal for 200 observer days per area (2 observers).
8. Also regarding per diem expenses, Linkous said that the observer cost per diem in the contract would range from \$7,500 and \$60,000 depending upon the dollar-per-day amount used. (\$25.00 or \$200.00).
9. Mr. Linkous stated that any attempt to take eggs from chinook samples would be met with resistance because the fishermen received \$1.50 per pound for this roe.
10. It was also the opinion of the ATA that the objective for the controlled study for shaker problems was of subjective value only and the data might provide information leading to an extrapolation of the total number of shakers. Special emphasis was added here to indicate the ATA members felt there would be no validity in observed subjective mortality data generated from the observers.

In summary, we agreed to present the ideas put forth by Mr. Linkous as an alternative proposal to the ADF&G proposal. It is hoped that the relative merits of each proposal and the points of view expressed by each will be evaluated and that the ensuing compromise will be acceptable to all concerned.

TO: Alan Davis
Troll Fishery Biologist

DATE: February 1, 1978

FILE NO

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: G. K. Gunstrom
Region I Research Supervisor

SUBJECT 1. Observer Program Contract Proposal
2. 1977 Logbook Data

During its January meeting the NPFMC approved, "in principal", the observer program and the analysis of the 1977 Troll Logbook Program data. It now needs the following information in order to prepare contracts for the release of the necessary funds for these two projects:

1. An observer program proposal -- to include all the details; who is going to do what, when, vessel scheduling, coordination, data to be collected, data analysis, costs, transportation, communications, how report will be developed, contents and due date of report, etc. Suggest that you get together a.s.a.p. with Dr. Fried to prepare a draft. Some of the material can be pulled out of the attached RFP and budget proposal. Don't worry about the legal language -- the Council will put the whole thing in the proper format. It should be clear that the funds will be awarded to ADF&G for the program. ADF&G will then subcontract some of the operational funds to ATA.
2. A listing of the subject material 1977 Logbook that will be of relevance to the Council in developing regulations for the troll salmon fishery. Obviously it wouldn't care about whales or water color, but it would care about C.P.U.E., catch by area, etc. Please look at the 1977 Log Book (there aren't any around here) and come up with a list (maybe discuss this with Dr. Fried also). The Council will use this list in preparing a contract for the 1977 data analysis summary.

Please move on these items quickly.

Enclosures (2)

cc: Don Collinsworth
✓ Steven Fried, ATA

HIGH SEAS OBSERVER PROGRAM

OCEAN TROLL FISHERY

Line 100

<u>Number of Positions</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Man Months</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5	Biologist I	25 + 12%	\$40,852.00
1	Biologist II	7 + 12%	<u>13,931.00</u>
		TOTAL	54,783.00

Line 200

Travel for Project Leader, assistant, and Alaska Troller's Association coordinator and transportation for observers..... \$ 5,000.00

Line 300

Air Charter - 75 hours Cessna 180 @ \$105.00/hour	\$11,250.00
Preparation of sample gear, etc.	2,000.00
Analysis of data	<u>10,000.00</u>
TOTAL	23,250.00

Line 400

Purchasing raingear, sample supplies, assorted gear, etc.	\$ 5,000.00
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TOTAL \$88,033.00

Narrative - High Seas Observer Program - Ocean Troll Fishery

This program was recommended for funding by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council at the November 1977 meeting in Anchorage. Purpose of the program was intended to record data concerning CPUE and species in the troll fishery.

The first year of the program is seen as developmental. At a meeting of the NPFMC representative with members of the Alaska Troller's Association and Alaska Department of Fish and Game the basic outline of the program was developed. Details concerning administrative procedures, sampling, actual observations recorded, etc. have yet to be resolved. Close cooperation between the ADF&G and ATA will be required to develop a meaningful program.

Line 100

Temporary biologists will be hired for this program because of the level of expertise required to accurately observe the functions of the fishing vessel. It is expected that there will also be a considerable amount of time spent during the fishing trip making observations of the severity of hooking injury to salmon, effect of sea conditions on fishing activity, effectiveness of various types of terminal gear, accumulation and preservation of biological samples and other observations which will require a level of expertise normally expected of biologists.

One Biologist II will be hired to coordinate collection of data from field personnel, changes in vessel assignments, and day to day functions of the program.

Line 200

Self-explanatory

Line 300

Analysis of data collected has been included as a budget item because it is expected that some contract work will be needed to write data analysis programs and key punch data collected throughout the season.

Line 400

Self-explanatory

NOTE: At present no purchase of equipment is anticipated.

Troll Salmon Fishery

Request For Proposal

For a troll fishery on-board 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.

I. Introduction

Insufficient data exists in regard to the subject matter ^{with} ~~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.

II. Statement of 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 the amount of gear fished.

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.

A. Phase I, Cont.

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 bait 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.

III. Project Schedule

Project duration: Annually renewable

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File 208.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 13, 1978
TO: FILES (Trip Report)
FROM: Mark Hutton
SUBJECT: Meeting In Juneau Discussing Salmon Troll RFP's

On Tuesday, January 10th I met with the following people in the Federal Building to discuss possible research needs in the salmon troll fishery:

Don Collinsworth
Guy Thornburg
Gary Gunstrom
Allen Davis
Bill Heard
Steven Fried
Tony Googenbeckler
Leonard Leach
Ivan Fronieg

Six research proposals were introduced at the meeting, three from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and three from the Alaska Trollers Association. The three in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are entitled:

1. 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 predictor scars by Council statistical area and subarea.
2. For a high seas tagging program in Council waters to determine migration and timing of troll caught chinook and coho salmon.
3. For an inriver smolt tagging program (chinook and coho salmon) to determine the contribution of major river systems in southeast Alaska to the troll salmon fishery in Council waters.

The Alaska Trollers Associations (ATA) presented the following three proposals:

1. For a study of the economic and social values of the southeast Alaska troll salmon fishery on local, state, and national levels.
2. For a study to develop a comprehensive management strategy for the Alaskan troll salmon fishery.
3. For analysis of troll salmon fishery data supplied by the Alaska Trollers Association troll logbook program.

This austere committee reviewed the six proposals with instructions to prioritize individual projects for recommendation for Council funding. The group was aware that approximately \$100,000 had been made available and that this money should be spent with the following criteria in mind:

- a. The project should be directly related to a management plan
- b. The project should be specifically shortterm in duration, and
- c. The project could not be major longterm financial committment.

It became apparent at the start of the meeting that the six proposals could very easily cost \$1,000,000. In light of the realism that only \$100,000 were available the committee unanimously agreed on the following recommendations. The recommendations prioritized below.

1. That the logbook program and the reworking, reediting, retyping and refileing of the 1977 data be given the highest priority. This was estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 by Ivan Fronieg who had been working with the logbook program for the past two years. The specific funding recommendation was that if Sea Grant could not fund the amount the NPFMC should for approximately \$15,000.
2. The committee unanimously recommended funding of a domestic observer program for the high seas Alaska troll fishery. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the philosophy and the mechanics of this particular research contract. In summary, it appears that this piece of work should go as a sole source contract to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game who will subcontract with the Alaska Trollers Association. ADF&G could then provide first line administration and technical overview for the contract while the ATA could provide the mechanics of operating an observer program in the 1978 fishery. The program would entail 36 man-months of observing using 6 observers 6 months each. By nature of the fishery, not all observers will be in Council waters all the time. It is expected that the value of the program would be to differentiate among other things the amount of fish caught in Council waters and in State waters in one reported trip. Aside from that, and aside from the very traditional observer information programs and formats, the observers will be expected to independently verify logbook type information by actual observation.

3. The RFP dealing with economic data for the troll fishery was considered as the third priority with the realization that the Council could not fund this extensive a program. It was mentioned by Don Collingsworth that:
 - a. NMFS in Seattle (Richard ^{Marasco} Morowski) had indicated \$35,000 federal money could be allocated toward the study, and
 - b. From NMFS in Juneau Harry Rietze indicated as much as \$200,000 could be identified for this study.

In light of this fact, and that this information will not become known until January 31st when all parties meet to discuss it, no recommendation for Council funding was made.

4. Of the two tagging studies, the inshore stream tagging program was given the high priority, realizing that if following traditional FRI research programs for high seas tagging, the program could well cost in conjunction with high seas tagging, one half million dollars. The inshore stream tagging studies were considered extremely important by the group and it was their recommendation that they be funded by someone on an immediate basis.
5. The RFP for high seas tagging was also considered important, however secondary to inshore tagging. It was thought this research would lead to identification of not only migration rounds but homing patterns for those fish caught on the Fairweather Grounds.
6. The RFP dealing with coordination of Council, State management plan objectives was considered important, but also was considered redundant with the Council's own philosophy and development of management plans. The specific points contained in this RFP were considered the broad objectives which each of the research items should be a major part of.

RECOMMENDATION

In the interim between now and the Council meeting a contract shall be developed for the observer program and possibly the logbook program. Also in the interim, a supplemental programmatic grants request must be prepared not only for this \$100,000 but for the extra \$35,000 required for the social economic herring study RFP.