

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC, and AP Members
FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
DATE: July 12, 1982
SUBJECT: Status of Contracts and Proposed Projects

ACTION REQUIRED

Approve funding for a Marine Mammal Workshop and review SSC recommendations on a proposed joint venture analysis.

BACKGROUND

Current Council contracts are listed below with contract information on the contractor, funding amount, percent expended to date, duration, objective, and status. Those contracts requiring Council action at this meeting are indicated with an asterisk.

Current Council Contracts

81-5: Incidental Salmon Catch Study
(FRI/UW, \$56,840, 52%, October 1, 1981 to September 30, 1982)

Objective: To determine the feasibility of using scale analysis to identify the stream or area of origin of chinook salmon caught incidentally in the foreign trawl fisheries off Alaska.

Status: The third quarterly report was received on July 12. An annual report is due on September 30 with the contractors recommendation to the Council on the feasibility of using scale analysis to separate stocks by area or stream of origin and whether the contract should be continued for a second year.

82-2: Crab Observer Program
(ADF&G, \$69,489, 0%, April 1, 1982 to March 15, 1983)

Objective: To gather in-season catch data on species and sex composition, size frequency, fecundity, and discards.

Status: Field work begins on September 1, 1982 and a status report is due on September 22.

82-3: An Economic Profile of the Southeast Alaska Salmon Industry
(UA, \$10,000, 0%, April 1 to September 30, 1982)

Objective: To provide current data on effort, costs and earnings in the Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries.

Status: The first progress report for work through June 30, 1982 was received on July 7 and has been distributed to the SSC for review.

82-4: Halibut Limited Entry Study
(NW Res. Analysis, \$73,000, 0%, June 1, 1982 to February 28, 1983)

Objective: To fully evaluate a share-type halibut limited entry system for Alaska, from design of the system to analysis of its impact on income, prices, geographic distribution and product quality in the harvesting, processing, and marketing sectors; and to generally evaluate other types of limited entry systems.

Status: A workgroup meeting was held on July 9 to review progress on tasking under Phase I. A contractor's report and workgroup recommendations will be presented at this meeting under agenda item C-1.

Marine Mammal Workshop - Funding Approval

The recently completed Marine Mammals Feeding Habits Study recommended a workshop to further explore the use and data requirements of models in understanding marine mammal needs and fisheries interactions. We have tentatively proposed to NMFS [see item E-1(b)] that Sea Grant host this workshop next spring.

We need Council approval to earmark up to \$10,000 for this workshop. These funds would be provided through an extension of the Council's current Cooperative Agreement #NA80-ABH-0008. NMFS has approved this extension.

Proposed Joint Venture Analysis

A proposed analysis of joint ventures submitted by Larry Cotter was reviewed by the AP and SSC in May. The AP unanimously recommended that this study be funded but the SSC recommended that the study be withheld until it could be modified and resubmitted for possible funding from rapid response monies. A further SSC recommendation should be available at this meeting concerning future directions of this project.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, 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 271-4064



MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. McVey
Regional Director

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

DATE: June 24, 1982

SUBJECT: Funding of Marine Mammal Workshop

In the past two years the North Pacific Council has funded two studies involving marine mammal-fisheries interactions with help from the Marine Mammal Commission on one. The first, Contract 80-3 on "Seasonal Use and Feeding Habits of Walruses in the Proposed Bristol Bay Clam Fishery," investigated food consumption by walruses and concluded that they consumed from 5 to 33 percent of the total biomass of harvestable surf clams in the study area or up to four times the estimated annual sustained yield.

The Council's second study (with MMC), Contract 81-4 on "Marine Mammal Feeding Habits," was completed this spring and compiled, summarized and evaluated available data on feeding habits, food requirements and status of Bering Sea marine mammals. Included were an annotated bibliography, a research plan designed to fill major data gaps, and a discussion of the utility of the data for assessing interactions among marine mammals and commercial fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands region.

A principal finding of this recent study was that although there is no question that some marine mammals compete with commercial fisheries, there is no conclusive evidence to show how marine mammals may affect and be affected by fisheries in the Bering Sea. One technique for evaluating the degree of marine mammal-fisheries interaction is the continued development and use of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center's models such as DYNUMES and PROBUB which simulate the Bering Sea ecosystem. However, reliable estimates of various input data such as quantities of fish consumed by marine mammals are required for the models to yield useful results.

The study concludes that a workshop should be held to investigate future directions for ecosystem modeling with special emphasis on integration of recently gathered information, identification of ecosystem sub units for which models may be more readily developed and verified, and the utility of various approaches for addressing management questions relating to fish and mammal stocks and their harvesting.

Therefore, I am proposing that such a marine mammal workshop be held in the spring of 1983 and be hosted by Alaska Sea Grant in coordination with Lloyd F. Lowry, the principal investigator for the feeding habits study and marine mammal biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Probably 30 to 50 participants would attend such a conference.

In partial support of this workshop, I am requesting that \$10,000 of the Council's Cooperative Agreement #NA80-ABH-0008 be extended through May 1983. Additional funding should be available from other interested agencies such as the Marine Mammal Commission. I am enclosing a letter from John Twiss supporting such a workshop.

Your expeditious approval of this request would be greatly appreciated. It will be a first step in the important process of evaluating the extent of marine mammal-fisheries interactions and the impacts of our fisheries management on marine mammals.