

Executive Director's Report

SSC Nominations

In December we discussed the need for some additional expertise on our SSC, not only to replace the economic expertise of Dr. Larsen, but to expand in the areas of seabirds, marine mammals, and general ecosystems. We solicited nominations, and Dr. Marasco and I pursued some nominations ourselves. What we have received we will review tomorrow in Executive Session, while Dr. Marasco is still here.

Economist Vacancy

We have a formal vacancy announcement out now to fill staff positions for a Senior Economist and/or Staff Economist/Analyst. This closes the end of this month and I intend to fill these as soon as possible. If anyone knows of potential candidates for these positions, please steer them my way.

April Meeting

Our April meeting begins on April 11 (with the AP and SSC beginning on the 9th) here at the Anchorage Hilton, and is scheduled through Monday the 16th. Unfortunately this goes over Easter Sunday on the 15th. My apologies for this scheduling, but it is unlikely at this time that we can change that meeting schedule. It will be a big meeting, with final action on the halibut charter IFQ proposal and action for the latter half of 2001 for the open/closed areas regarding SSL critical habitat, so I don't see us finishing before Sunday. Later this month I will distribute a draft agenda for your review.

Bering Sea Summit

In December I briefly reported to you about the 2001 Bering Sea Summit being coordinated by the EPA, and the fact that it has been scheduled for Anchorage during the same week as our October Council meeting in Seattle. Helen and I looked into the possibilities of changing our October meeting dates in order to mitigate the conflict, because that Summit is likely to be of interest to many in our Council family, and they certainly are interested in attendance by members of our Council family. Unfortunately we are unable to change our meeting, due to timing relative to other meetings, as well as contractual obligations to the hotel. The Summit organizers are still looking into the possibility of changing their meeting dates to address the conflict.

Photo Sessions

Don't forget that we have our annual Council photos today - we'll do that at the lunch break in the Iliamna Room down the hall.

Security Clearances

Attached is a letter (Item B-1(a)) I just received regarding the need for appointed Council members to complete security clearance forms, including fingerprinting. Gail is looking into having someone come to us, perhaps with help from the Coast Guard, to get the fingerprinting done here to make this as easy as possible for you. You will need to meet individually with her to get the other paperwork completed.

Draft SEIS

Steve Davis, Regional NEPA Coordinator, will hold an informational meeting on the Draft SEIS recently released for public review. We have scheduled this for 7:00 pm Wednesday evening in the Council meeting room, immediately following the presentation on Gulf Ecosystem Research from the Prince William Sound Science Center (described under C-2). The Council will need to schedule the SEIS issue on their April agenda for formal comment.

Safe Zone

I will take this opportunity to remind the public of the Council's new policy regarding the meeting area, which is that the Council table area is off limits to the public (industry, press, or otherwise) during breaks and lunchtime. This is to provide an area for Council members, or agency staff, to engage in necessary discussion among themselves, or simply to be left alone for a few minutes.

Council Chairmen and Executive Director's Meeting

On January 25 Chairman Benton and I attended the mid-term Council Chairmen and Executive Directors Meeting hosted by NMFS in Washington, D.C. Several NMFS and Commerce folks attended including Dr. Hogarth and Dr. Pautzke who chaired the meeting. We covered several areas of general Council interest as a prelude to the main Chairmen's meeting this May, but the major issues of immediate importance were the status of the EFH lawsuit (which we will hear more about under B-3), and NEPA compliance in general. These are going to be major issues for us over the next two years, and NMFS has earmarked funding to address all the Councils' needs in this area, including some funds to be given to the Councils directly. We don't need to go into the details at this time, and the gameplan is still unfolding, but I wanted to give you a head's up on this because it is going to be another major issue for us in the near future.

Pew Oceans Commissions Invitation

Item B-1(b) is a letter we received last week regarding an initiative by the Pew Oceans Commission to provide input to a report they are developing this spring. Specifically, they are asking for examples of fisheries management success stories from our region. I see this as a welcome opportunity to put forward some positive information regarding fisheries management in general, and particularly our fisheries in the North Pacific. Some obvious examples include our pollock fisheries and halibut fisheries, as well as groundfish in general. I would like your input before the end of this meeting on how you would like me to respond.

Pollock Conservation Foundation

Attached is a memo (Item B-1(c)) from Dr. Al Tyler summarizing the eight research grants recently awarded by the Foundation. Recall that the purpose of this foundation is to gain scientific information on the fisheries relative to ecosystem changes and Steller sea lions.



AGENDA B-1(a)
FEBRUARY 2001
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JAN 10 2001

RECEIVED
JAN 13 2001
N.P.F.M.C

Mr. Chris W. Oliver
Acting Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver:

On April 20, 2000, a letter was sent to the Executive Directors regarding a change in security assurance procedures applicable to the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) (copy enclosed). The Department of Commerce required that in accordance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970, that an authorization form be submitted so that the RFMC nominees/seated members to undergo a single credit check (no security assurance checks (SAC) included). They also indicated that the new procedure would continue to cover our processing needs and also be much more expedient. This new requirement was transmitted to constituent State Governors and their nominees for the 2000 Council appointment process. It was later determined after the 2000 appointments had been made that the credit checks were, in fact, insufficient for our needs. Therefore, effective immediately this Division will resume SAC requests. Seated members who need to renew their security assurances should submit two original fingerprint cards (FD258s) and the Special Agreement Checks (OFI 86C) per the enclosed instructions. If more cards or forms are needed, please contact Lin Moon of my staff at 301-713-2337.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Surdi
Chief, Regulatory Services
Division

Enclosures





UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Ira C. Darling Center for Research, Teaching and Service

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Walpole, Maine 04573 USA
207/563-3146
FAX 207/563-3119

Clarence Pautzke
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West Fourth Avenue
Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RECEIVED
JAN 22 2001
N.P.F.M.C

Mr. Pautzke:

The Pew Oceans Commission was formed last year to encourage the adoption of policies and practices to restore and protect living marine resources in U.S. waters and the coastal habitats on which they depend. The Commission is composed of people with diverse backgrounds from all regions of the country. The goal of this independent and balanced group of people is to: 1) investigate the current status of marine life in American waters; 2) publish a report with specific recommendations regarding future policies and practices; and 3) increase public knowledge of the conditions of living marine resources.

Mr. Patten White (a Pew Commissioner) and I are compiling a report to be presented to the Commission this spring. We are looking for specific examples of fisheries management success stories. Too many people assume all fisheries are doomed to failure. Understanding how successful fisheries have been managed may help create better guidelines for all the fisheries on our coasts. We were hoping you might have some examples of such cases from your area. We would like details such as a history of the fishery, management implementations, and the ultimate outcome. Any help you could extend would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via email (john.vavrinec@umit.maine.edu) or at the above address and phone number (ext. 304). The same contact information can be used to send any information you think appropriate. We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John Vavrinec



B-1(c)

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
SCHOOL OF FISHERIES AND OCEAN SCIENCES
Fairbanks, Alaska
99775 - 7220

MEMO

DATE: 23 January 2001
TO: Chris Oliver, Acting Executive Director
FROM: Al Tyler, Associate Dean and SSC Member
SUBJECT: Marine research funding by UAF/PCCRC

On January 15 the University of Alaska Fairbanks Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center awarded eight marine research grants to university and government agencies. The purpose of the research is to gain scientific information on the fisheries in the North Pacific, in particular the Bering Sea, and their relation to ecosystem changes and Steller sea lions. The list of projects is attached. This round of awards follows the first cycle in September, 2000, in which nine research projects were funded.

Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center
University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Research Projects Funded: January, 2001

A.J. Gharrett, University of Alaska Fairbanks
DNA Analysis of the Origins of Chinook Salmon Bycatch in Alaskan Trawl Fisheries

Susan Henrichs, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Sinking Particles and Pelagic Food Webs in the SE Bering Sea

Markus Horing, Texas A&M
An Investigation Into the Possible Relationship Between Killer Whale Predation and the Continuing Decline of the Steller Sea Lion

Stephen Jewett, Paul Rusanowski; University of Alaska Anchorage, Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute
Factors Affecting Nearshore Survival and Production of Juvenile Sockeye Salmon from Kvichak Bay: Important Habitat, Migration Routes and Food Resources

Gunner Knapp, University of Alaska Anchorage
Pollock Market Data Acquisition; Future Russian Pollock Supply

Terry Quinn, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Deployment of an Acoustic Data Logger on Commercial Fishing Vessels to Evaluate the Potential of Fishing-induced Declines in Local Pollock Abundance

Alan Springer, Keven Bailey, Taina Honkalehto, Janet Duffy-Anderson; UAF, National Marine Fisheries Service, University of Washington
Distribution of Age-1 and Age-2 Walleye Pollock in the Bering Sea: Sources of Variation, Implications for Higher Trophic Levels, and Climate Change

Alan Springer, Andrew Trites; UAF, University of British Columbia
Assessing the Extent of Competition Between Steller Sea Lions and Commercial Fisheries