

Dec 93

## Finance Comm.

The Council met in Executive Session to discuss proposals received in response to an RFP for Social Impact Assessment on Comprehensive Planning.

The Council unanimously voted to award the contract to Impact Assessment, Inc.

Dec 13

Finnish Council

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## **Executive Director's Report**

### Meeting Reminders

In January, we'll be back in Anchorage at the Hilton, the week of January 10. I don't have full agenda details right now, but I think we can expect to start the AP and SSC on Monday afternoon, January 10, and the Council in the afternoon on Tuesday. By the end of this week I will have a better idea of how long the January meeting will need to be.

Concerning the June 1994 Council meeting, we originally had planned to go to Sitka. Because of conflicts with tours and other activities, we need to move the meeting elsewhere. Homer, Juneau, Dutch Harbor, and Seattle have been mentioned as alternatives. It turns out that the Anchorage Hilton also is available, so long as we are out by Friday afternoon, June 10. Please be aware that currently the meeting is set for the week of June 20th; however we're considering this change to avoid the salmon fisheries and accommodate a good central location. It may be possible to narrow the agenda down to little else than comprehensive planning. Depending on the scope of the program, we'll either be at the initial or final review stage of the program and accompanying analysis.

### Endangered Species Act Reauthorization

A draft position paper on this issue from the West Coast fishing industry is under item B-1(a). Dave Hanson has volunteered to provide a review of the position and status of the reauthorization.

### Steller Sea Lions

NMFS is reviewing the status of Steller sea lions to determine if they should be listed as endangered. The FR notice is under item B-1(b) along with a letter from industry on the same subject.

### Knowing What You're Voting On

NMFS has published an interim rule to require that a motion before the Council must be recorded in a written form visible to each Council member present (item B-1(c)). This requirement only pertains to actions that will be submitted to the Secretary. We have a printer and an overhead projector available for any such motions at this meeting.

### New Plan Team Member

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center has nominated Dave Colpo for Rebecca Baldwin's economist position on the Bering Sea and Aleutians groundfish team, and for Grant Thompson's place on the halibut team. His resume is under item B-1(d), and we need a motion for formal approval.

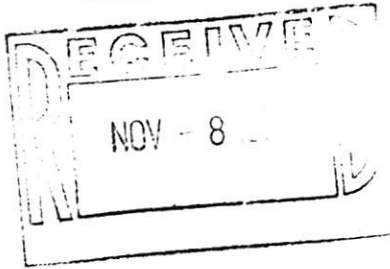
### All Things Considered

National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" will focus on Bering Sea fisheries and the environment Monday afternoon on KPLU or KUOW. A news release on the program is included here under item B-1(e). I do not know the exact time as of the writing of this report.



## PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

45 S.E. 82ND DRIVE, SUITE 100, GLADSTONE, OREGON 97027-2522  
PHONE (503) 650-5400 FAX (503) 650-5426



November 5, 1993

### **Draft West Coast Fishing Industry Position Paper on ESA Reauthorization**

On November 2 and 3, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission hosted a workshop on reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for members of the West Coast fishing industry. Participants reviewed the "environmentalist" reauthorization bill introduced by Congressman Studds (H.R. 2043) and the "extraction industry" reauthorization bill introduced by Congressman Tauzin (H.R. 1490). They then attempted to define the goals of the West Coast fishing industry regarding the ESA, and to list issues of concern. Several representatives of an environmental ESA coalition were invited to attend during the last afternoon to hear the fishing industry's concerns and to discuss their own legislative agenda.

A copy of the draft mission and issues statement produced during that workshop is enclosed. At this point, it represents the collective thoughts of those individuals who participated in the workshop. No group is being asked to endorse the position at this time, but PSMFC would appreciate comments from the standpoint of your organization. Can your organization identify with the mission statement, and are your issues addressed? For those of you who are also PSMFC Commissioners or Advisors, is this a position that PSMFC could officially endorse? Please send your comments to Al Didier at PSMFC by December 1, 1993. This draft is still in rough form, so if you have difficulty understanding some of the points or would like a clarification, please feel free to call one of the participants or Al Didier with your questions.

PSMFC would also like to find some volunteers willing to help incorporate any comments received into a final draft of this document. Please indicate whether you would be willing to serve on such a committee when you comment on these first drafts.

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT ESA REAUTHORIZATION  
MISSION STATEMENT**

As historic guardians of the fisheries resource and as individuals who interact closely with the marine environment on a regular basis, we feel that the west coast fishing industry should and can be effectively used to get ahead of the endangered species "train wreck" as it relates to anadromous, estuarine, and marine species. Successful conservation and rebuilding programs have been continuously achieved by west coast fishermen since the 1900's. The track record of numerous international treaties and commissions, the eventual success of Alaska's salmon management program, and the initiation of many habitat conservation programs and laws are just a few of the examples that point to the wealth of experience that the west coast fishing industry can bring into the ESA reauthorization process.

Rather than just being the easiest target to impose restrictive management actions upon, we would rather be used for knowledge, potential solutions, and our commitment to sound resource/habitat management. To this end, the goal of the west coast fishing industry is to have the ESA work toward the biological viability of threatened and endangered species. We believe that this is best done by:

- timely restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of critical habitat for multiple listed species and for indicator species;
- incorporation of an ecosystem approach<sup>1</sup> into recovery plans for multiple listed species and for indicator species; and
- using stake-holder teams in all data gathering and planning stages, pre- and post-listing.

We also recognize that habitats and the species dependent upon them are best protected for the long term if economic, social, and environmental benefits accrue to the American public. As such, the west coast fishing industry offers the best opportunity for these benefits to accrue in regard to the marine environment. We feel the ESA can be constructively amended to promote these benefits while maintaining the biological integrity of the Act.

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<sup>1</sup> An ecosystem approach recognizes human interaction with land, water, flora, and fauna.

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

**West Coast Fishermen's  
Endangered Species Working Group  
Draft Issues Paper  
November 3, 1993**

**DATA**

- Formalize industry involvement in data gathering.
- Establish timelines with incentives/punishment to compel data gathering by lead agency and avoid crisis management.
- Form stakeholder teams, accessible to the public, to participate in pro-active measures before, during, and after listing.

**PUBLIC PROCESS**

- Prior to management action, the lead agency must conduct public hearings in state(s) where management actions have been proposed. Where practicable, use existing management forums to solicit and incorporate public comment.
- ESA listings and recovery plan proceedings should not be exempted from NEPA.
- Provide corporate/private incentives for compliance.

**LISTINGS**

- Standardize ESA listing across species. (Note: The work group prefers NMFS' endangered species units (ESU) approach but will work on refinements.)
- Listing process should continue to be biologically driven and based on best available science.
- Prioritize listings of indicator species as a way to avoid future listings of other species dependant on the same ecosystem.
- Differentiate regulatory measures applied to species designated as "threatened" or "endangered." Ensure regulatory measures governing "threatened" species are pro-active and flexible, incorporating affected agencies and the public in the planning process.

**SECTION 7**

- Expand Section 7 consultation to include representatives from state agencies and Tribal governments.

**RECOVERY PLAN**

- Recovery plans must be developed for each listed species in accordance with stringent timelines.
- Recovery plans must protect and rebuild species and make the burden for rebuilding proportional to the responsibility for decline.
- Recovery priorities should be based on criteria and guidelines established by the lead agency and the affected public, which consider the ecological costs and the probability of recovery. Economic and social costs of recovery shall be included only if proportional responsibility is included in the recovery plan.

- Recovery plans must also:
  - contain clearly defined goals and objectives;
  - contain measurable criteria to assess recovery;
  - require agency accountability and justification on the record for decisions and actions;
  - be scientifically defensible;
  - be tailored to species listing status;
  - consider lost opportunities on healthy stocks;
  - consider potential allocation implications;
  - provide credit for past species conservation actions;
  - include options to modify activities instead of cutting quotas;
  - be submitted in a timely manner with periodic review scheduled by the research plan team but occurring no less frequently than every 5 years;
  - consider the hatchery stocks used in species listing when evaluating achievement of recovery plan goals;
  - not allow captive populations to be considered in lieu of habitat protection.
- Recovery plan teams (RPT) shall include state, federal, and tribal representatives.
- RPTs shall work with stake-holders as informal advisors.
- RPTs shall present a range of management options to the lead agency.
- During the rule-making stage, the lead agency shall present a full range of management options for review.

## PEER REVIEW

- Conflict of interest on peer review teams must be disclosed and reviewed.
- Peer review shall occur upon request throughout the process -- includes listing, recovery planning, and de-listing process.
- Require scientific minority report at listing and in recovery plan.

## HABITAT

- In order to achieve rebuilding goals, the recovery plan must:
  - be ecosystem based and recognize the interaction of humans with other species in the ecosystem;
  - avoid repeating situations in which disruptive conservation actions were of little value to recovery of the species because corresponding or commensurate actions to restore habitat were not taken;
  - mandate use of best habitat management practices;
  - more clearly focus and better define "critical habitat" (not whole range).

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

- Emphasize and adequately fund state/federal cooperative agreements.
- Emphasize, fund, and encourage development of habitat conservation plans (HCP). Stake-holders should be involved in HCPs in a pro-active manner.

# DRAFT

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## DELISTINGS

- Create a formal de-listing procedure.
- Include delisting criteria in recovery plans.

## FUNDING

- Adequately fund the process.
- Establish a habitat recovery trust fund outside the appropriations process.
- Establish and publish a project-specific budget for all species listed under ESA.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Retain current 60-day notice provision but add exception for emergencies posing immediate and significant risk to the continued existence of a species.
- Distinguish between lethal takes and non-lethal encounters;
- Impose substantial penalties for violations.

NOTE: Workshop participants are engaged in an ongoing discussion of means to resolve impacts on species and ecosystems that are the result of significant past human actions.



**Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
West Coast Fishing Industry Workshop  
on ESA Reauthorization  
November 2-3, 1993 - Seattle, WA**

**Fishing Industry Participants:**

Linda Behnken  
Alaska Longline  
Fishermen's Association  
403 Lincoln, Suite 237  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-3400

Brian Bigler  
Wards Cove Packing  
Box C-5030  
Seattle, WA 98105  
(206) 323-3200

Chris Blackburn  
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank  
PO Box 2298  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
(907) 486-3033

Chuck Broches  
Paragon Public Affairs  
1100 Olive Way #700  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 621-1300

Jeremy Brown  
WA Trollers Association  
Box 241  
Silvana, WA 98287  
(206) 652-3713

Pete Esquiro  
Northern Southeast Regional  
Aquaculture Association  
1308 Sawmill Creek Rd.  
Sitka, AK  
(907) 747-6850

Dan Falvey  
Box 6083  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-6207

Judie Graham  
WA Trollers Association  
PO Box 7431  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(206) 747-9287

Kate Graham  
American High Seas  
Fisheries Association  
3040 Commodore Way  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 282-2731

Shari Gross  
Halibut Association of North America  
Box 20717  
Seattle, WA 98102  
(206) 325-3413

Rocky Gutierrez  
City & Borough of Sitka  
Box 422  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-8112

Dale Kelly  
AK Trollers Association  
130 Seward #505  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-9400  
(907) 586-4473 FAX

Deborah Lyons  
Seafood Producers Co-op  
PO Box 296  
Petersburg, AK  
(907) 772-3572

Chuck Meacham  
Alaska Dept. Fish & Game  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-4100

Steve Rebuck  
California Abalone Association  
PO Box 571  
San Luis Obispo, CA 97406  
(805) 543-2248  
(805) 544-5415 FAX

Joe Rohleder  
Oregon Guides & Packers  
PO Box 211  
Waldport, OR  
(503) 563-3973

Glen Spain  
Pacific Coast Federation  
of Fishermen's Associations  
PO Box 11170  
Eugene, OR 97440-3370  
(503) 689-2000

**Environmental Community Guest Participants:**

Minette Johnson  
Endangered Species Coalition  
666 Pennsylvania Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 547-9009

Cristina Mormorunni  
Greenpeace  
4649 Sunnyside Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98103  
(206) 632-4326

Penny Pagels  
Greenpeace  
4649 Sunnyside Avenue N  
Seattle, WA 98103  
(206) 632-4326

John Rosapepe  
Endangered Species Coalition  
W 315 Mission #13  
Spokane, WA 99203  
(509) 324-0244

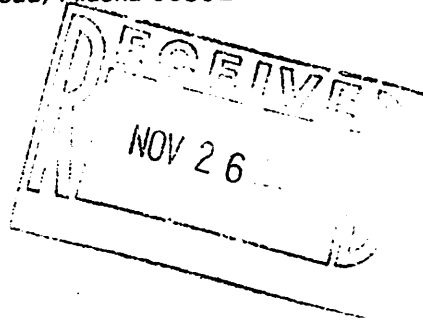
Beth Stewart  
Aleutians East Borough  
Box 33796  
Juneau, AK 99803  
(907) 789-7153

Kate Troll  
SE Alaska Seiners  
9226 Long Run  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 789-5118



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA B-1(b)  
DECEMBER 1993



Dear Interested Person

The attached Federal Register notice announces National Marine Fisheries Service's decision to conduct a review of the status of the Steller sea lion population, currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As outlined in the notice, we believe that substantial information exists to indicate that a change in ESA listing status to endangered may be warranted for this species.

To ensure that our review is comprehensive and is based on the best available scientific data, we are requesting that all interested parties submit any relevant biological information or comments regarding the status of the Steller sea lion. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steven Pennoyer  
Director, Alaska Region

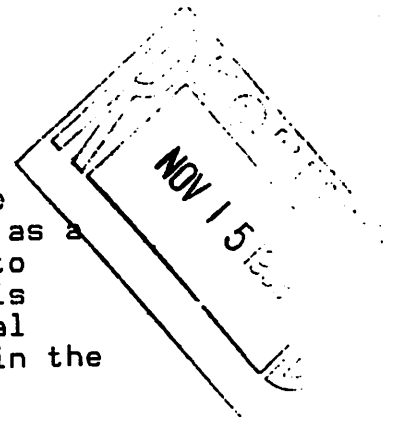
Attachment



The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will review the status of the Steller sea lion population, currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), to determine whether a change in classification to endangered is warranted, according to Steven Pennoyer, NMFS Alaska Regional Director. A notice announcing this decision was published in the Federal Register on November 1, 1993.

The status review will incorporate results from the range-wide Steller sea lion survey planned for the 1994 sea lion breeding season. Thus, a preliminary status determination will not be announced prior to the end of 1994. To ensure that the review is comprehensive, NMFS is requesting interested parties to submit pertinent biological information and comments regarding the status of Steller sea lions.

For more information regarding this status review or a copy of the Federal Register announcement, please contact Susan Mello at the NMFS Protected Resources Management Division in Juneau at (907)586-7235. Written comments may be sent to NMFS, Protected Resources Management Division, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.



(58 FR 49960). The original date for receipt of comments was October 25, 1993. This document extends the comment period.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before November 26, 1993, to be considered in the formulation of the final rule. Please cite DAR Case 92-D040 in all correspondence related to this issue.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties should submit written comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, ATTN: Mrs. Linda W. Neilson, OUSD(A), room 3062, Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mrs. Linda W. Neilson, DAR Council, (703) 697-7266.

Claudia L. Naugle,  
Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition  
Regulations Directorate.  
[FR Doc. 93-26603 Filed 10-29-93; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3810-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 227

#### Threatened Fish and Wildlife, Steller Sea Lion

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to conduct status review and request for information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is initiating a status review of the Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), a species currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), to determine whether a change in classification to endangered is warranted. The status review will incorporate results from the range-wide Steller sea lion survey planned for the 1994 breeding season. To ensure that the review is comprehensive, NMFS is requesting interested parties to submit pertinent information and comments regarding the status of Steller sea lions.

**DATES:** Comments and information must be received by January 31, 1994.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and information should be addressed to Dr. William W. Fox, Jr., Director, Office of Protected Resources, F/PR, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Susan Mello, Protected Resources Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS (907) 586-7235 or Michael Payne, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713-2322. Copies of the Population Viability Analysis are also available.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 4 of the ESA and 50 CFR part 424 contain provisions that allow the Secretary to change the listed status of a species when necessary. If the Secretary determines that there is substantial scientific or commercial information that indicates that a change in status may be warranted, a status review is conducted.

In late 1990, NMFS listed the Steller sea lion as a threatened species under the ESA because of a drastic population decline of unknown origin (55 FR 49204, Nov. 26, 1990). At the time of listing, the number of adult and juvenile Steller sea lions counted on trend sites in Alaska had declined by 63 percent since 1985, with an estimated decline of 82 percent since the 1960s.

Coincident with the listing, NMFS implemented regulations at 50 CFR 227.12 that were intended to reduce sea lion mortality, minimize unintentional and intentional harassment of sea lions, and restrict disturbance of sea lion behavior, especially at rookeries. Subsequent to the species' listing, NMFS implemented additional regulations, under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, to reduce the possible adverse effects of the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Federally-managed groundfish fisheries on Steller sea lions, their habitats, and food resources (50 CFR 672.24 and 675.24). NMFS published and is implementing the Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan (58 FR 3008; Jan. 7, 1993), and has designated critical habitat for the species (58 FR 45269; Aug. 27, 1993). Additionally, NMFS's ongoing Steller sea lion research and monitoring program, conducted in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is an integral part of recovery efforts for the species.

Since the 1990 listing, NMFS has received additional data on the status of the Steller sea lion population, and prepared a population viability analysis (PVA). This information, summarized below, indicates that a change in listing status to endangered may be warranted.

The Steller sea lion population monitoring focuses primarily on aerial surveys of adult and juvenile animals on rookeries and haulouts, and on-land

counts of pups at selected rookeries during the breeding season. NMFS has conducted yearly Steller sea lion population censuses in Alaska since 1989 (annual adult/juvenile aerial surveys throughout Alaska 1989-1992, and on-land pup counts at 17 Alaska trend rookeries twice at 2-year intervals since 1990).

From 1989-1992, counts of adult and juvenile Steller sea lions at Kenai-Kiska index sites declined by 11 percent. From 1990-1993, pup counts declined at 10.7 percent per year from southeastern Alaska to the eastern Aleutian Islands, and by 12.7 percent per year from Kenai Peninsula to the eastern Aleutian Islands. These data indicate that the Steller sea lion population decline has not abated, despite NMFS's recovery efforts to date.

Furthermore, the PVA models, based on the observed 1985-1992 population trend, predict a high probability of extinction within 100 years for the Alaska Steller sea lion population. The next 20 years appear to be particularly critical to the fate of the Steller sea lion. If these trends were to reverse themselves or abate, then the time to extinction may be longer than predicted. However, results of recent population surveys, both adult/juvenile and pup counts, indicate that the declining trend predicted by the models is continuing. Further, given the combination of declines in the number of breeding adults and pups produced, it is unlikely that population trends will reverse in the immediate future.

In light of these factors, NMFS is initiating a formal status review of the Steller sea lion to determine whether reclassification as an endangered species is warranted. Results from the 1994 range-wide Steller sea lion survey will be included in the status review.

#### Biological Information Solicited

To ensure that the review is comprehensive and is based on the best available data, NMFS is soliciting information and comments concerning the status of the Steller sea lion, or any distinct population stock or segment, from any interested person. It is requested that data, information, and comments be accompanied by (1) supporting documentation, such as maps, bibliographic reference, or reprints of pertinent publications and (2) the person's name, address, and any association, institution, or business that the person represents.

Dated: October 26, 1993.

**William W. Fox, Jr.,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources.*

[FR Doc. 93-26718 Filed 10-29-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M



PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION  
4019 - 21st Ave. West, Suite 201  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 281-1667  
FAX (206) 283-2387

# AMERICAN FACTORY TRAWLER ASSOCIATION

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November 30, 1993

William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Protected Resources  
F/PR, National Marine Fisheries Service  
1335 East-West Highway  
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Fox:

On November 1, 1993, your office issued a notice of intent to conduct a status review and request for information on Stellar sea lion. We will be submitting more extensive comments on this proposed action at a later date.

At this time, however, we wish to call to your attention one particular sentence contained in the Proposed Rules. You state, "If these trends were to reverse themselves or abate, then the time to extinction may be longer than predicted". You clearly imply that under any scenario, extinction is inevitable--it's only a matter of time. There is no scientific evidence available that we are aware of to justify that conclusion. Logically, if the trend of the past twenty years were to reverse itself there would be no population problem! In effect, the statement as issued does not make sense.

We are deeply concerned that there appears to be a concerted effort/bias on the part of NMFS to move Stellar sea lions to an endangered listing. Members of the fishing industry and a number of associated Ph.D. scientists were very disturbed with the recent population viability report by R. Merrick and A. York and meetings were held with them.

Industry does not dispute the low standing of the sea lion populations. What we see is a gross over-emphasis by NMFS on the possibility of extinction without a thorough discussion of factors that might reverse the downward trend in sea lion numbers. The present approach of NMFS appears to lack completeness, objectivity, common sense, and scientific credibility based on historical comparisons with other species.

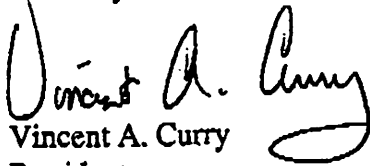
It appears to us that NMFS is presently placing extensive emphasis upon the previously referenced NMFS report. We feel very strongly that the report's conclusions need to be tempered very explicitly by the fact that it is essentially a mathematical projection in time based on the unfounded assumption that conditions existing in recent years will be extended for the next 50-100 years. The past history of the North Pacific Ocean does not indicate that there are extended periods of equilibrium and the likelihood of that happening seems to be very remote.

Dr. William Fox  
Page 2

This industry has been supportive of NMFS efforts to assist in restoration of sea lions and will continue to do so in the future providing that the basis for regulatory decisions is based on the most complete scientific data and analyses available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Vincent A. Curry  
President  
PSPA



Joseph R. Blum  
Executive Director  
AFTA

cc: Alaska Congressional Delegation  
Washington Congressional Delegation  
AFTA Members  
PSPA Members

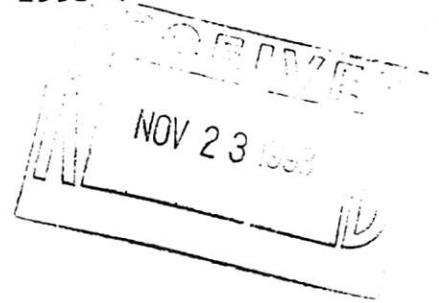
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AGENDA B-1(c)  
DECEMBER 1993 CE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

November 17, 1993



Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P.O. Box 103136  
605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. <sup>Clarence</sup> Pautzke:

I am reminding you that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published an interim final rule to revise guidelines governing voting procedures by the Regional Fishery Management Councils. The revised guidelines require that a motion before the Council must be recorded in a written form visible to each Council member present. This requirement only pertains to Council votes on its actions that will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce.

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that NMFS understands the precise measures on which the Council's vote is based.

Sincerely,

Steven Pennoyer  
Director, Alaska Region





AGENDA B-1(d)  
DECEMBER 1993

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
BIN C15700; Building 4  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

October 8, 1993

Clarence Pautzke  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, AK 99510

RECEIVED  
OCT 13

Dear Clarence,

Please consider Dave Colpo as a replacement for Rebecca Baldwin on the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan Team and for Grant Thompson on the Halibut Plan Team. Rebecca is now with the Forest Service in Juneau, and Grant has taken on additional assignments and may not be able to participate fully on the Halibut Plan Team.

Dave Colpo received a M.A. degree in Economics from the University of Washington and has been a member of the Socioeconomic Assessment Task at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center for three years. During this time, he has assisted in the preparation of several amendment analysis packages. I believe that he would be a valuable addition to the two plan teams. A current resume is enclosed.

Sincerely,

William Aron  
Science and Research Director  
Alaska Region

Enclosure



David A. Colpo  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Bldg 4, Room 1140  
Seattle, WA 98155-0070  
(206) 526-4251

**Education:**

University of Washington, Seattle, Wa.

- M.A. Economics December, 1989.  
Natural Resource Economics and Public Finance were major fields of study.
- B.A. Economics June, 1987.

**Work:**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Wa.

- Fishing Industry Economist 1/91 to present, 7/86 to 12/87.

Mundy and Associates, Seattle, Wa.

- Analyst, 1/90 to 11/90.

University of Washington, Economics Dept., Seattle Wa.

- Research Assistant, 3/89 to 7/89
- Teaching Assistant, 3/88 to 12/88.

**Professional Affiliations:**

- Member of American Economics Association
- Member of Seattle Economists Club

**Honors:**

- Member U.W. Economics Department Honor Society
- Member Omicron Delta Epsilon

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

**NEWS RELEASE**Contact: Quincey Johnson  
(202) 822-2312**NPR'S "ALL THINGS CONSIDERED" PRESENTS DOCUMENTARY ON ENVIRONMENT AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY OF THE BERING SEA**

Washington, DC, November 30, 1993 -- National Public Radio's (NPR) afternoon newsmagazine ALL THINGS CONSIDERED will examine how one of the world's largest fishing fleets interacts with marine life in the Bering Sea. The 30-minute report, "Pollock Fishing in the Bering Sea: What Comes After the Boom?" will air Monday, December 6. (Call your local public radio station for broadcast information.)

NPR reporter John Nielsen looks for links between reports of unusual wildlife declines and heavy pollock fishing in the Bering Sea, near Alaska. Some scientists say taking large quantities of pollock fish from the Bering Sea threatens the region's seabirds and mammals.

"There's no hard proof that pollock fishing is damaging the Bering Sea ecosystem," said Nielsen. "And pollock fishermen say they can't afford to reduce the catch. But environmentalists and people living on the Pribiloff Islands in the Bering Sea say the pollock fishery and the Bering Sea ecosystem may already be crashing."

Recording in digital-stereo, Nielsen captures the sounds of

-more-

## BERING SEA/POLLOCK FISHERY

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life on board one of the "factory trawlers" that catches and processes of tons of pollock each day, and the bustle of the Alaskan port of Dutch Harbor, which relies on the pollock fishing industry. Nielsen also visits government scientists struggling to understand marine and land-based ecosystems and to save the dwindling Bering Sea populations of stellar sea lions, fur seals, and seabirds.

Some scientists suspect that the long-term weather cycle is responsible for the disappearance of many birds and marine mammals, while others blame the overfishing of the pollock, a main source of food for marine animals.

The report, funded by the National Science Foundation and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, is part of an ongoing NPR News series on the delicate balance between environmentalism and economic development.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED is heard on most of NPR's nearly 490 member stations nationwide. The executive producer is Ellen Weiss, the senior producer is Melissa Block, and the senior editor is Linda Killian. Michael Schweppe was the engineer and producer of the Nielsen report.

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