



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number: REP 15-158

Agenda Date 12/7/2015

Agenda Number: B1

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Executive Director's Report

USFWS representative

Doug McBride has moved to a new position within the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Mr. Aaron Martin has been named as the alternate for Director Geoffrey Haskett. Mr. Martin is the Regional Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program Officer for the Service. As noted in the letter from Director Haskett (**attached**), Mr. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management will occasionally represent the Service for specific agenda items related to subsistence. Welcome aboard Aaron!

Legislative update

All has been pretty quiet on the eastern front, with regard to fisheries related legislation. There was rumor of possible hearings in early December on both the North Pacific Fisheries Convention implementing legislation (which we have commented on previously) and the MSA reauthorization. However, hearings on both of those issues have been postponed until sometime in early 2016.

On a related note, the eight Councils have been discussing, for several years, the idea of hiring a 'legislative liaison' to help us track national fisheries related legislation. With the recent retirement of Mr. Dave Whaley from the House Resources Committee staff, a great opportunity to follow through on that idea has come to fruition. Mr. Whaley has served for decades on 'the Hill', with various Congressional offices and Committees, with fisheries issues always foremost in his portfolio. After discussions this fall with my counterparts at the other Councils, and in consultation with our Chair and Vice-Chair, I have agreed to participate with the other seven Councils in retaining his services in 2016 to track and advise us on current or pending fisheries legislation, attend and report on Congressional and Committee activities/hearings relating to fisheries, and track and report to us on other national initiatives for which we may be otherwise unaware (or need an interpreter). Monthly reports related to these issues will be provided to all Councils. The total cost to our Council will be \$7,500 for 2016. Please note that the MOU(s) for Mr. Whaley's services explicitly preclude any lobbying activities.

Catch share guidance and potential comments

You will recall that at our October meeting, we received a draft document from NMFS HQ "Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs". My initial read of this 'guidance' raised a number of significant concerns. Based on these concerns, and concerns raised by other Councils as well, NMFS agreed to postpone the comment deadline until after our February 2016 interim Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting. I will be working with the Chairman to draft initial, informal comments in preparation for the CCC discussion of this issue. Following that CCC discussion we may decide that more formal comments are necessary, and we will work to include the full Council in preparation of such comments (and/or get review from our Legislative Committee, given the link between this guidance document and statutory (MSA) requirements for LAPP program reviews).

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Events this week

NMFS staff (Chris Rilling and Alicia Miller) will hold an Observer Program Outreach meeting Wednesday evening, December 9, here in the Denali Room. This meeting is focused on year to year changes in the program associated with the Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), and answering any questions from stakeholders. The meeting is open to all interested persons.

On Thursday evening, starting at 5:00 pm in the Dillingham/Katmai Room, there will be a presentation by Mr. Frank Cuccio on the Quintillion Subsea Fiberoptic Cable Project (**attached**). This cable system will provide high-speed bandwidth to a large area of western Alaska and is proposed to run from Nome all the way to Barrow and beyond. Actual installation will occur in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas during the months of July through October 2016. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. I understand that, as part of the permitting process, they have been in contact with both the Corps of Engineers and NMFS Habitat Conservation Division, and that there are no habitat impact concerns, given the small overall footprint associated with the project.

Also on Thursday evening, following the Quintillion fiber optic session in the Dillingham/Katmai Room, IPHC staff will hold an open meeting to present their 2016 stock status information, which was recently reviewed at the IPHC interim meeting (December 1-2 in Seattle).

Meet the staff webpage

In an effort to make ourselves more recognizable to the public, and to identify our areas of expertise, we recently added a page to our website with photos and brief bios of each of our Council staff (we vetoed the idea of uniforms and nametags). <http://www.npfmc.org/meet-the-staff>

Dr. Lew Queirolo retiring after 40+ years

After over **40** years of Federal service, our long-time friend and colleague Lew Queirolo is going to RETIRE!!! Lew began his Federal service with the U.S. Coast Guard, which by chance included a North Pacific "fisheries patrol" on the Cutter WINONA (circa 1966), **then three years running search and rescue boats on the lower Columbia River and infamous Columbia Bar.** Lew came to Alaska in late 1976, hired by Don Collingsworth to be the "junior economist" with the CFEC....but before he even arrived, he was promoted to "senior economist", when Don moved to ADF&G's new Extended Jurisdiction Division! If you come across the 1977 CFEC publication "Alaska Shellfish Bio-Economic Database", you will see that the authors include, Ben Muse, Beth Stewart, and Lew Queirolo. This project evolved when Lee Alverson and Rich Marasco funded a survey of the 'new' domestic crab fisheries off Alaska, and these three characters began walking the docks talking to whomever they could (including the Ness brothers, Sid Jaeger, Harold Lokken, Jim Brooks, Walt Jones, Jim Beaton, and Oscar Dyson, among others). **Tom Casey threatened to throw them off the dock in Kodiak, and Rudy Peterson PROMISED to do so if they showed up at Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle.**

Lew helped prepare many of our Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMPs), which preceded our FMPs. He joined NMFS-AK Region in 1980, where the Sustainable Fisheries Division numbered FIVE employees, under the direction of Phil Chitwood. From 1980 to 1989 Lew personally wrote, **LONGHAND ON YELLOW LEGAL TABLETS**, **every** Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), beginning with Amendment 1A, that the Council and Region prepared, up until the Exxon Valdez disaster!!!! In the hours after the grounding of the Exxon Valdez, Lew was tasked with LEADING the joint Federal/State Economic Damage Assessment Team, and subsequently assigned to the analytical team developing the "Oil Pollution Act of 1990". Once back in FISHERIES full-time, Lew was tasked with overseeing, reviewing, contributing to, and "approving" every document that dealt with economics, socio-economics, resource distribution, conservation, allocation, and management that passed through the Alaska Region, which by now has included **several hundred** Plan and Regulatory amendments developed by the Council.

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In his "free time" Lew worked directly on a number of marine mammal related analyses, including: the ESA economic impact analyses; designation of critical habitat for Steller sea lions and North Pacific Right whales; directed the project for the Cook Inlet Beluga critical habitat designation; and the same for ICE Seals CHD. For the past NINE YEARS Dr. Queirolo has served with distinction as a member of our Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and I wish to thank him sincerely for his service on behalf of this Council. While his SSC service is his most visible contribution to most folks, his most important role (from a NMFS and Council staff perspective) has been as the "GATEKEEPER" of all of our analyses. Some of you may not realize the critical role Dr. Queirolo has played over the years, as the **SIGN-OFFER** on all of our economic analyses...no amendments get processed for Secretarial review/approval without Lew's STAMP OF APPROVAL. We have had some fun "back and forths" over the years between Lew and staff analysts, in order to get our documents "up to snuff" for his approval...

So, we will miss you very, very much Lew, but *on the bright side*...we can now set aside our differences of opinion on the semantical differences associated with certain terminologies related to PSC....**NOW we can call it BYCATCH!!!!**