

Agenda #18  
May 1978

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Harold E. Lokken, 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 265-5435

April 11, 1978

The Honorable John B. Breaux  
The Honorable Robert L. Leggett  
The Honorable Joel Pritchard  
The Honorable Edwin B. Forsythe

ATTENTION: Mr. Wayne Smith

Dear Messrs. Breaux, Leggett, Pritchard and Forsythe:

Your letter of March 14th and the copy of H.R. 9708 arrived too late for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in March. I will bring this to the attention of the Council for consideration at their next meeting and will forward their comments to you as soon as possible.

I regret our inability to respond immediately to your letter. This is an extremely complex Bill and the formulation of U.S. policy on the oceans, particularly with regard to living marine resources, requires careful consideration and thorough deliberation.

I note that H.R. 9708 does not specify an Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, a recommendation that has been made by the Eastland Study and other recent studies of NOAA organization. The need for a high level post for fisheries administration with the passage of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 and the subsequent upsurge in interest by U.S. industry is even more apparent now than when the Eastland Study was conducted.

Thank you for your letter, we will respond as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

COPY

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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on**  
**Merchant Marine and Fisheries**  
 Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building  
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March 14, 1978

Mr. Jim Branson  
 Executive Director  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 Post Office Box 3136 DT  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. Branson:

In early April the Subcommittee on Oceanography and the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment will be conducting joint hearings on H. R. 9708, a copy of which is attached.

These hearings will be the first in a series designed to focus attention on the functional relationship between the objectives of our national oceans policy and the organization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. To effectively evaluate this relationship requires a careful articulation of what the United States policy should be as it relates to the living marine resources and the non-living resources of the oceans. It also requires an analysis of the manner in which NOAA and its component agencies are currently operating and how their method of operation and organization should be altered, if at all, to reflect the requirements of U. S. policy.

The purpose of the hearings is to address the entire question of reorganization of the federal ocean's structure.

MAR 27 1978

In this respect, please feel free to include any comments on the President's Reorganization Project which is currently dealing with Natural Resources questions.

In anticipation of the upcoming hearings, we would appreciate having your views on these issues. If you would also like to testify at the hearings, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



JOHN B. BREAU  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oceanography



JOEL PRITCHARD  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Oceanography



ROBERT L. LEGGETT  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Fisheries  
and Wildlife Conservation  
and the Environment



EDWIN B. FORSYTHE  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Fisheries  
and Wildlife Conservation  
and the Environment