

# 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

MINUTES  
 NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
 February 23-24, 1978  
 Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel  
 Anchorage, Alaska

The regular meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council was held in Anchorage, Alaska at the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel on 3rd & E Streets on February, 23 and 24, 1978. Those present are listed in Appendix A.

The Council meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Harold Lokken. The Council's Advisory Panel had met on February 22nd at the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel, Kenai Room, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. and at other announced times on Thursday and Friday. The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in the Council offices on February 22nd. The Advisory Panel and the Scientific and Statistical Committee otherwise met concurrent with the Council on Thursday and Friday, February 23rd and 24th.

The Provisional Agenda for the Council meeting was approved and is included in Appendix B. The minutes of the January 26th and 27th meeting were approved as corrected and are included in Appendix C.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director, Jim Branson, told the Council that his report dealt mainly with items that would be discussed either in the agenda or by the Finance Committee. The report, which covers Council finances and contracts, the status of fisheries management plans, staff travel and the statement of income and expenses, is contained in Appendix D.

## TANNER CRAB FMP

The Council discussed its Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Tanner Crab Fishery off Alaska, the provisions for the total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF) and optimum yield (OY) for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea. In its consideration of OY and TALFF, the Council listened to an Advisory Panel (AP) report, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) report, and public testimony. In addition, they reviewed a supporting document prepared by the Executive Director which documented in detail the Council's record on the Tanner Crab FMP.

### Advisory Panel Report - Tanner Crab

Mr. Nick Szabo, Vice-Chairman of the Council's Advisory Panel, told the Council that they wished to see the Council maintain its position of not allowing foreign fishing south of 58° North latitude and limiting the foreign catch to 15,000 mt of Tanner crabs north of 58°. Szabo said that the Panel, while they were very sympathetic to the needs of the Japanese Tanner crab industry, could not give up any area south of 58° North latitude because of the predicted U.S. effort in that area for 1978. The Panel also indicated they were concerned over a possible C. bairdi handling mortality problem from the Japanese, who had said they would return Tanner crab C. bairdi back to the sea.

### Scientific and Statistical Committee Report - Tanner Crab

Steve Pennoyer, Vice-Chairman of the SSC, told the Council that they had reviewed the document entitled "Development of OY and TALFF for Tanner Crab North of 58° North in the Bering Sea." The Committee felt, Pennoyer said, that the paper adequately described the public testimony and Council considerations which were used to arrive at a 15,000 mt TALFF and the 58° dividing line. Because the SSC had not been presented any new data with which to change their opinion or document any cause-effect relationship between Japanese harvest and the domestic marketing and harvesting of Tanner crab they, at this time, had no basis for any recommendations to the Council.

The Council also heard considerable public testimony which indicated that the U.S. fleet was planning to fish in an area that the Japanese had requested to fish and that they felt there was a detrimental C. bairdi handling mortality problem which would be incurred from any fishery which discarded C. bairdi.

Chairman Lokken requested Council action on the formal Japanese Fishery Agency Proposal which sought to fish south of 58°, down to 56° North latitude and west of either 171° or 172° West longitude if prevailing drift ice were to prohibit them from fishing north of 58°. Council members Clem Tillion, Harry Rietze and Bart Eaton each expressed their concern for the proposal by emphasizing great sympathy and understanding for the proposal and the Japanese Tanner crab industry. Several points were, however, brought out concerning the U.S. position on the proposal. These dealt with (1) the possibility of major gear conflicts between U.S. and foreign crab fishermen in that area, (2) the favorable ice condition forecast which has not predicted a major ice problem for 1978, (3) that the U.S. will likely fish that area later in the year and cannot economically do so if the larger Tanner crab C. opilio have been "creamed" by the Japanese, (4) that any fishery near major concentrations of Tanner crab C. bairdi, which return C. bairdi to the sea will have some handling mortality which was considered unacceptable, (5) that the rapid growth and dynamics of the U.S. Tanner crab fishery was reaching a point for which long term planning is necessary, (6) that the Japanese

could catch their 15,000 ton quota by adding more catcher boats to the mothership fleets, and (7) that this type of proposal might be considered for the 1979 fishery. Generally the Council, in its deliberations, was sympathetic towards the Japanese Fishery Agency proposal, but because of the problems associated with the rapidly expanding U.S. fleet felt they were unable to recommend approval of the proposal.

In separate motions, the Council rejected the JFA Tanner Crab Proposal (one dissenter) and reaffirmed the Council's position with respect to its own FMP (one dissenter).

The Council also approved, with minor changes to be made by the Executive Director, supporting information for the Tanner crab plan dealing with OY and TALFF for Tanner crab in the Bering Sea. The material which will be submitted to Dave Wallace consists of errata pages 241, 242, 243 and 244 of the FMP and the new Appendix 11.6 which has traced the decision making process of the Council that led to the recommended total level of foreign fishing. The Council also directed a letter be written to the Japanese Tanner Crab Association indicating the Council's sympathy with their proposal and thanking them for submitting it.

#### GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP

The Council learned that the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP had been approved although a formal letter had not been signed. The draft regulations, they were told, would soon be published in the Federal Register and would be circulated for their review.

#### TROLL SALMON FISHERIES - FMP

The Council learned that their Troll Salmon FMP had not been received or reviewed favorably by Washington. (At the January Council meeting, NOAA General Counsel, Kim White, told the Council that the plan lacked a statement of MSY, needed a more definitive title and description of the management unit involved, and had problems in the limited entry provisions.) The Council therefore discussed the advisability of withdrawing the plan from its Secretarial review, and after redrafting, submitting the plan to cover the 1979 fishery.

The Council discussion focused around the impossibility of regulating a fishery outside three miles for which there is no FMP. Delaying the plan would make it difficult to enforce a closure west of Cape Suckling. That closure would have to be regulated through the State landing law and random patrol sightings. The question of Federal enforcement of State regulations outside three miles in the absence of an FMP was addressed by Nick Szabo, Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Vice Chairman of the Council's Advisory Panel, Ron Naab, Chief of Enforce-

ment for NMFS Alaska, and Kim White, NOAA General Counsel. The discussion led to the request for the Executive Director to correspond with the Departments of Fish and Wildlife in Alaska, Oregon and Washington, and the Department of Public Safety in Alaska asking them for their cooperation through landing laws, enforcement of minimum size limits, and fish ticket reporting to assist us in this problem for the 1978 fishery.

The Council unanimously approved a motion to formally withdraw the troll salmon fishery management plan from its formal Secretarial review. The plan was ordered redrafted and is tentatively scheduled for public hearing during the latter part of September.

Acting SSC Chairman Steve Pennoyer told the Council that there were major problems with the original concept of a troll salmon observer program. Pennoyer said the problems of logistics and objectives could not be resolved at this time. The SSC recommended the program be scaled down to a pilot observer program for the 1978 fishery. The pilot program, Pennoyer said, would (a) establish needed methodology and (b) provide experience to deal with a full scale program for the 1979 fishery and should (a) interface with the troll salmon logbook program, (b) the coded wire tag recovery program, (c) newly defined statistical reporting areas and (d) other high seas salmon work.

The Council adopted the SSC recommendation and asked the Director to proceed immediately with the pilot program, to be implemented by the start of the fishery in April.

#### BERING SEA CLAM PLAN

The Management Plan Development Team working on the Bering Sea clam FMP gave an excellent presentation to the Council. It covered the 1977 joint industry/government clam research project in the eastern Bering Sea, an analysis of the status of the resource, paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) testing results, age-growth studies, and environmental and ecological concerns.

The planning team leader, Steve Hughes, from the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle, pointed out that the research in 1977 was not designed to analyze the impact on the environment. Research in 1978, which has to be formulated in Juneau (March 2nd), would include environmental monitoring. Hughes asked the Council to give the clam plan and its development a very high priority for research funding and management plan development. Hughes stated that this fishery represented one of the only opportunities we have to monitor a full scale production fishery from the earliest days of resource discovery. He also said that this fishery should be very carefully managed so as not to allow a repeat of the decimation of the clam stocks as witnessed in other clam dredge fisheries.

The planning team recommended that the Council solicit research proposals for major ecological studies in the following categories and that original cost proposals not be limited to a specified ceiling budget.

- a. Suspended solids; particle size, effects and patterns of distribution
- b. Survival rates in the dredge track
- c. A species index of diversification and recolonization
- d. Predator/prey feeding changes and interrelationships
- e. Distribution of walrus and feeding studies

PROPOSED INTERIM POLICY GOVERNING THE PURCHASE OF FISH BY FOREIGN VESSELS FROM U.S. FISHING VESSELS WITHIN THE FCZ

The Council discussed the published Interim Guidelines dealing with joint ventures and generally agreed on their usefulness. The discussion identified some changes which the Council generally favored in addition to recommendations made by the Pacific Council at their meeting earlier in February. It was understood that the guidelines did not apply to ventures in State waters.

The Council unanimously approved a motion which endorsed the Federal Register Proposed Interim Policy Guidelines governing the purchase of fish by foreign vessels from U.S. fishing vessels within the FCZ. These changes, which are a result of a blending of comments from both the Pacific Council's letter and the Council discussion are contained in the Executive Director's letter to Mr. Terry Leitzell dated March 2, 1978. (Appendix E)

Foreign Permit Application Review

The foreign permit ad hoc review committee met following the first day of the Council meeting to discuss several applications which had been submitted. The Committee made the following recommendations which were unanimously accepted by the Council. The recommendations are contained in their entirety in a letter dated February 27th (Appendix F) from the Executive Director to Mr. David Wallace.

- o Recommended approval for application JA-78-0821 for the MATSUEI MARU # 72.
- o Recommended approval of application JA-78-0822 for the EIKYU MARU # 26 with conditional provisions.
- o Deferred recommendation on application JA-78-0851 the TAISAN MARU #1 until further information on its proposed activities could be received from the Japanese Fishery Agency.
- o The Council voted to postpone consideration until July of applications KS-78-0042 the SOO GONG #51 and KS-78-0079 the BOOK

NEUNG, which applied for permits for processing and support activity in the Gulf of Alaska to conduct a joint venture, purchasing raw fish from American boats. In taking this course of action, the Council listened to public testimony both for and against joint ventures off Alaska. Their action was in line with established Council policy postponing consideration of all joint venture applications until July 1, 1978 in order to better evaluate the activities of U.S. processors and fishermen in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska.

The Council discussed several alternative ways of handling joint venture allocations of fish. Vice Chairman Clem Tillion suggested that fish caught by American fishermen for delivery to foreign processors in the FCZ should be from that country's allocations. He felt that countries participating in joint ventures with American fishermen should receive special consideration in their allocations and that a portion of that country's allocation should be identified for use only in joint ventures. Councilman Harville added that he felt a three level allocation system should consist of 1) regular allocations of resource surplus to foreign countries, 2) allocations to foreign nations for use only in joint ventures, and 3) that portion of the OY that has been identified as the domestic annual harvest.

After again postponing consideration of the joint ventures applications until July the Council requested the Executive Director to correspond with the Secretary of Commerce exploring the above mentioned methods of allocations. A letter has subsequently been written and is included as Appendix G, a letter to Mr. Terry Leitzell dated March 2, 1978 from the Executive Director.

#### COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Council's Finance Committee, chaired by Jim Campbell, met early Friday morning in the Council offices and discussed five major items dealing with contracts, proposals, budgets and staff pay.

Present at the meeting were Council members Chuck Meacham, Harry Rietze, John Harville, Jim Campbell, Ron Skoog and Gordon Jensen, SSC members Pennoyer and Collinsworth, and Council staff. Campbell's report contained the following recommendations:

- o That the Council approve a sole-source contract to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to analyze and summarize troll salmon logbook data for \$10,668.
- o That the Council authorize the Finance Committee to award a contract for a study of the impacts of the commercial herring fishery on the village economics of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim (AYK) area based on a review committee rating of the six proposals submitted. The review committee to meet March 3rd in Juneau. Campbell told the

Council that the Finance Committee recommended this procedure in the interest of time and that the Finance Committee should be limited to approving the contract for \$85,000 or less.

- o That the proposed full scale observer program for the Alaska troll salmon fishery be scaled down to only a pilot program for 1978 and an expanded contract considered for 1979. A pilot proposal would be submitted to the Council in March.
- o Consideration of staff salaries, Campbell said, would require more time for study. However, he said, the adjustment if any, should be retroactive to January 1, 1978 to not unduly penalize the Council staff for the length of time it takes to review the salary study.
- o That the Council request administrative funds be allowed to be carried over from one fiscal year to the next. Programmatic funds are now carried over from year to year and that the same practice for operational funds would eliminate the possibility of wasteful year end spending and make the Council's use of administrative funds more efficient.

Handling each item separately, the Council unanimously approved motions (a) authorizing the ADF&G sole-source contract for \$10,668, the (b) Finance Committee authorization to award the socio-economic herring contract, (c) the staff salary study and (d) the request for carry-over of administrative funds.

#### ADVISORY PANEL VACANCIES

The Council acted on three Advisory Panel vacancies. Two vacancies had occurred since the first of the year and a third was created when the Council accepted the de facto resignation of an Advisory Panel member who had not been active in over a year. In another supporting action, the Council also directed letters be sent to all Advisory Panel members advising them that unexcused absences for more than six months would automatically drop them from the Advisory Panel.

In considering the three Advisory Panel vacancies, Councilman Chuck Meacham, Chairman of the Council's Ad Hoc Nominations Committee, followed the recommendations of the Advisory Panel and recommended to the Council the names of Joe DeMantle, Jr. of Tuluksak, Emil Berikoff of Unalaska, and John Hanson of Alukanuk. Each nominee received unanimous consent by the Council and have subsequently been sent letters confirming their appointment to the Council's Advisory Panel.

#### LIMITED ENTRY

A letter regarding the National Limited Entry Conference from Don McKernan to Harold Lokken (February 2, 1978) was received by the Council.

Seeking clarification of the intent of the letter, the Council asked SSC member Dr. Bevan to explain the letter. Bevan told the Council that it requested Council help in disseminating information concerning the meeting and identifying the number of people from the Council area that expect to attend. In consideration of the sensitivity of the topic of limited entry and its origin outside the Council, most members wished the record to show that the North Pacific Council was not sponsoring the Conference, but would assist in disseminating information, and attempt to identify those that would attend.

In response to that request, a memo has subsequently been sent alerting those who may be interested in the Conference, its schedule and meeting place. The memo is included as Appendix H.

#### OPTIMUM YIELD

Procedural guidelines for determining and reevaluating the optimum yield, as submitted by Dave Wallace, were briefly considered by the Council. The guidelines, which consisted of a 12 step procedure for developing and documenting optimum yield derivations, were questioned by the Advisory Panel which wished to know whether or not the procedures were outlines or rigid criteria. The Panel also inquired as to the ability to annually review and change these guidelines. Some Council discussion pointed out that it was premature to establish rigid guidelines since OY determinations are still very much in a development stage.

*copy of Appendix  
referenced -*

The Council unanimously passed a motion which accepted the Pacific Council's recommendations, which also question the rigidity of the procedures for the Procedural Guidelines. It was the consensus of the Council that the procedures could provide a rather helpful outline of checks and balances in determining OY.

#### ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES PRESENTATION

Nick Szabo, Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and Vice-Chairman of the Council's Advisory Panel, in a presentation to the Council, outlined the historic role of the Board of Fisheries in fish and shellfish management off Alaska. Szabo went on to identify major problem areas in the coordinating role of the Board of Fisheries with the North Pacific Council. He said they expected problems to occur in the implementation of the Council's Tanner crab problem in mid season. Related to this was the problem of how to handle industry proposals to the Board of Fisheries and industry input into the Council for the development of management plans which has historically been handled by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Szabo told the Council that the Board wished to approach this problem by inviting Council members to attend the Board of Fisheries hearings. In addition, he said, Council members would in the future receive all proposals which were being submitted to the Board of Fisheries for consideration.



Chairman Lokken was told in answer to his question, that the Council could submit its own proposals to the Board for their consideration and for approval. The Executive Director indicated this had already been done in a couple of instances. In addition to the logistics problem, Szabo asked for clarification of the ability of the Council to regulate inseason changes in dynamic fisheries such as the Tanner crab fishery off Alaska. Szabo was told by Council members Rietze and Skoog that inseason and emergency adjustments would be handled on a timely basis with only minor modifications of the system that had been used in the past. The current structure would permit the Regional Director, NMFS, to act with delegated authority from the Secretary of Commerce to regulate the fishery inseason. It would be necessary for the Secretary to delegate authority to the Regional Director, which has not yet been done.

Returning to the Tanner crab discussion, Szabo asked for clarification of the OY of 89 million pounds for Tanner crab in the eastern Bering Sea. He said the Board generally expressed harvest levels in terms of a range and that earliest indications indicated the range would be substantially less than that. To address this and other administrative problems, the Council requested that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop the procedures to be followed in the regulation and of management of joint resources.

#### RESOLUTIONS

##### Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Resolution on Marine Estuaries

The Council reviewed a resolution from the Gulf of Mexico Management Council on estuarine protection and management. The Council unanimously endorsed the resolution.

##### North Pacific Fishery Management Council Resolution on Import Restrictions

The Council passed a Resolution (Appendix I) endorsing Governor Hammond's request to the U.S. State Department that allocations of surpluses to foreign nations be based on the import restrictions those nations may have for the same species when caught by U.S. fishermen.

##### COUNCIL/NMFS WORKSHOP ON FOREIGN FEE SCHEDULE

The Council considered a memo from Dave Wallace dated January 31, 1978 which requested the Council respond to proposed dates for June workshop, proposed location, proposed contact person from the Council, suggested items and format for the meeting and consultants.

## U.S. COAST GUARD REPORT

Rear Admiral J.B. Hayes, Commander of the 17th Coast Guard District of Alaska and a member of the Council, has been nominated by President Carter to serve as the next Commandant of the Coast Guard. The nomination received much acclaim by the Council, though with regret at losing Admiral Hayes as an active Council member.

The Coast Guard report was given by Lt. Commander Ralph Giffin, reporting 13 infractions in the FCZ off Alaska with the most noteworthy event the seizure of the SEIKO MARU #22 only a few days before the Council meeting. The vessel had been fishing in a halibut sanctuary in the Bering Sea.

## NMFS SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Phil Chitwood, NMFS, highlighted the NMFS surveillance report by showing the Council the new format for data reporting from foreign fisheries. The new reporting schedule, which requires foreign vessels to report their catch within nine days, was demonstrated in weekly computerized catch reports from NMFS and distributed to the Council.

## SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Pennoyer, Acting Chairman of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, reported that all members were present except Chairman Lee Alverson and Dr. Ed Miles and had met on February 22nd, 1978 in the Council offices. The report in its entirety is included as Appendix J. In addition to those items already covered in the minutes, the SSC also considered the following areas:

Pennoyer said the SSC had reviewed additional explanatory documentation from ADF&G regarding the Bering Sea Herring and Capelin Research Proposal prepared in response to questions asked at its January meeting. The proposal was discussed with the Project Leader and the Research Team was requested to submit a detailed operational plan to the SSC prior to the field season. Pennoyer said the explanation and some of the already incorporated proposal modifications did answer most of the questions posed but there was still concern that the investigators would not be physically able to carry out all of the tasks outlined without diluting the research results.

Pennoyer reported that in response to a second Council RFP for Socio-economic herring studies in Western Alaska, six new proposals have been received. Due to the volume of these proposals and because they were not available until the start of the meeting, the SSC would like to adopt the procedure used on the original set of proposals, which was to delegate to a review group the final review and authority to make recommendations. A working group was nominated consisting of Don Collinsworth, Ed Miles, George Rogers, Don Bevan and Don Rosenberg. Other SSC members would submit any comments to the group they wished and the subcommittee recommendation to

the Council would represent the SSC's view. The group planned to meet in Juneau on March 3rd.

The SSC also recommended the Council appoint the ADF&G as lead agency for the Bering Sea Herring Management Plan. They suggested the membership of the Plan Development Team include Louis Barton, Ron Regnart, Irving Warner, Richard Randall, Pete Jackson of ADF&G and Vidar Wespestad from NMFS, Seattle. The Council accepted the recommendations and adopted the MPDT with the ADF&G as the lead agency.

Pennoyer said the SSC had discussed shrimp management and generally concluded that with the exception of the Bering Sea, 99% of all shrimp caught off Alaska were caught within State waters. Based on this, they recommended the Council initially develop a management plan for shrimp only in the Bering Sea. Pennoyer reported that the ADF&G would submit a paper to the Council documenting this fact and recommending a low priority on the development of a shrimp plan for areas other than the Bering Sea. That when it was drafted, it should be a rather brief plan that reflects State of Alaska management policy and regulations.

Acting on this recommendation, the Council unanimously approved a motion which approved the Bering Sea shrimp resource as a separate management unit. Development of a shrimp management plan for other areas should have a relatively low priority.

Pennoyer reported that the SSC had reviewed a proposal for Council support of the Alaska Fisheries Atlas and that their opinion was that the Atlas would be of great value to resource planners but not of great value to the Council in the preparation of management plans. The SSC therefore recommended that the Council endorse the preparation and publication of this material but not consider it for funding.

The SSC reviewed the latest draft of the Council contract with ADF&G to fund the development of a computerized fisheries information system. They reaffirmed their approval of the contract content and cautioned that software developers be encouraged to develop machine independent language for file storage to facilitate data usage by many potential interested users. The SSC recommended a steering committee be developed to monitor the system development and consist of Mark Hutton from the Council as Chairman, Don Bevan, University of Washington, Jack Robinson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Chuck Woelke, Washington Department of Fisheries and Ivan Frohne and Don Collinsworth of ADF&G and Murray Hayes of NMFS, Seattle.

The SSC considered a proposal to study age growth and size/weight relationships of the Bering Sea surf clams for \$28,000 from the University of Alaska. The SSC recommended that the work be scaled down by deemphasizing predator food habits, that the project leader confer further with the plan development team and that an updated proposal be presented at the next SSC meeting to include further information on methodology.

The SSC recommended that Don Collinsworth represent the Council at a March meeting in Sacramento, California, of West Coast economists. The meeting had been organized by the Pacific Council and hoped to develop a standardized list of economic and social data to be collected for the development of management plans in general.

#### ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

Mr. Nick Szabo, Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Panel, reported that the Panel had met on February 22nd with 8 members present for half the meeting and a 9th member present for the last half of the day. Portions of the Advisory Panel Report have already been included under the appropriate topics. The remainder of the report, in its entirety, can be found in Appendix K and is summarized below.

- o The Panel reviewed the proposals for studies on the social and economic impacts for a commercial herring fishery on the AYK area in Western Alaska and appointed Bob Alverson, Harry Wilde and Don Rawlinson to review these proposals at the meeting in Juneau.
- o Szabo told the Council that the Panel wished to have balanced representation at the Limited Entry Conference which is to be held in Denver, Colorado in June.
- o Regarding foreign fee schedule structures, the Panel appointed members Bob Alverson, Ken Olson and Joe Kurtz to work as a subcommittee to make their recommendations to the Council on fish prices.
- o The Panel, Szabo said, reviewed the schedule of management plan development and approved it.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council heard public testimony from 10 individuals who addressed the pro and con issues of joint ventures and Tanner crab fishing in the Bering Sea. Among those who testified were Mr. Scott Stafne, Mr. Takagi and Mr. Ono, Mr. Sig Jaeger, Mr. Tom Casey, Mr. Chuck Jensen, Mr. Robert Ely, Mr. Richard Duran, Mr. Bob Davenny, Mr. Ed Furia and Mr. Larry Brodie. Transcripts of their testimony are available in the Council offices.

#### MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

The uncertainty of the meeting dates of the INPFC renegotiation for March left the Council in doubt as to the timing of the March meeting. It was left to the discretion of the Executive Director to determine the timing of the meeting, who set the date for Friday, March 24th, one day only.