

Agenda Item D
December, 1979

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Limited Entry Workgroup Report

I would like to move this report to Agenda Item F-2, Old Business, since it should be considered in some detail by the Council and therefore is not appropriate for the Director's Report.

FMP Status Report

The usual status report on all of the Council's FMP's is included as Agenda Item D-2. I extended the comment period on the Herring FMP from December 31st to January 31st because we were forced to postpone some of the hearings on the west coast. It should still enable us to have the Plan implemented prior to the beginning of the winter fishery in 1980, probably in October. The Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish Plan was approved by the Secretary and has been published in the Federal Register. The final comment period on that Plan and the supporting regulations ends January 18th. It should be implemented as soon after that as the necessary administrative work can be accomplished in Washington. In the meantime we have sent the Plan, as printed in the Federal Register, to the printer and some copies are available for Council members at this time.

Economist Position

We have sent out circulars to universities, federal and state administrative and laboratory centers for the economist position, but so far have received no responses that would in any way qualify. Our next step, I suspect, will be to advertise in trade and general circulation papers, although that will probably bring a flood of applicants that will make the sorting process lengthy and arduous.

Travel and Meetings

There has been a great deal of travel by Council members and staff since the last Council meeting on October 3rd. Chairman Tillion and I went to Washington to testify before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation. I came back by way of Seattle to attend the Fish EXPO and two meetings with the Commerce Steering Group on Fisheries Development and a Board meeting of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation. Council members Tillion, Lokken, Meacham and Jensen all attended the INPFC meetings in Japan. Harold Lokken has been involved in the U.S. Canadian salmon negotiations and Council members and staff have participated in six public hearings on the Herring FMP and five on the Salmon FMP. In addition, there have been Plan Development Team Meetings, Workgroup Meetings, etc., that have been attended by staff members, members of the SSC, AP and the Council.

The SSC held its regular monthly meeting on November 27th and 28th in Anchorage.

Council Staff Personnel Changes

Jan Murray has resigned since the last Council meeting to seek employment in the South 48. Cindy Clinton is replacing her as receptionist/bookkeeper/secretary.

Member Needed for Permit Review Group

There is a vacancy on the Permit Review Committee since Keith Specking's resignation from the Advisory Panel. We need to appoint a new member and ask that Committee to meet prior to Friday to make recommendations to the Council on several joint venture permit applications and a number of permit applications from ships that committed serious violations in 1979.

Finances

The Council will have before it at this meeting one contract to approve for \$87,000 and one research proposal to approve for circulation. The latter does not have a dollar amount set as yet although it is expected to be between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Administrative and contract expenditures are proceeding at or slightly under budgeted expectations. We have no particular problems. I do not believe that a Finance Committee meeting is necessary unless the group wishes to review the one contract now before the Council for funding. The monthly report on contract and administrative expenditures is Agenda Item J in your book.

MD/12/7/1979

STATUS REPORT ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP -

Since its implementation on December 1, 1978, the plan has been amended seven times. The PDT will be conducting the annual review of the plan in spring of 1980. The Council will be reviewing their proposals and any other amendments in March or April of 1980 so that amendments can be implemented before the start of the new fishing year in September. Three proposed amendments are before the Council which would be effective May 1980 if the Council took action on them at this meeting.

2. Bering Sea Groundfish FMP -

The Secretary of Commerce approved this plan on October 27, 1979. We expect it to be implemented in mid-January, 1980. Review of amendments is expected to take place in March or April, 1980. Two amendments are before the Council at this meeting which also could be implemented by mid-1980.

3. Tanner Crab FMP -

Since its implementation on December 1, 1978, the plan has been amended four times. The Council, at the last meeting, approved changes to the OY, DAH and TALFF. This amendment is currently being reviewed by National Marine Fisheries Service, Plan Review Office, and GCF in Washington. A further amendment is proposed for this meeting.

4. Troll Salmon FMP -

This plan was implemented on May 15, 1979. Since then two sets of amendments have been proposed. Public hearings have been held in five Southeast locations on these amendments. Council action is necessary at this meeting to implement these amendments by April 15, 1980 which is the beginning of the new fishing year.

5. Herring FMP -

After Council approval for public review at the August 1979 meeting, six public hearings have been held out of a scheduled ten. Four have been postponed until January. We expect the Council review of the revised plan in March of 1980 and, all going well, the plan implemented by November of 1980.

6. Clam Draft FMP -

A draft of the Surf Clam Fishery Management Plan was reviewed by the SSC Surf Clam Review Group on October 10th, 1979. The draft was originally scheduled to come before the SSC for their review at the December meeting. However, the revised draft is scheduled to go before the SSC Review Group sometime in January with the possibility of being reviewed by the SSC at the January - February meeting, 1980. This would mean an implementation date of mid-1981.

7. King Crab FMP -

The PDT are in the process of revising the draft FMP with the guidance of the SSC. The draft is expected to come before the Council at the March, 1980 meeting and plan implementation is still scheduled for September, 1981.

8. Halibut Fishery Management Plan -

The Plan Drafting Team has been reactivated to participate in the revision of the plan if and when necessary.