

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
June 28-29, 1979

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JHB', is written over the printed name and date of the report.

Gulf of Alaska FMP

APPENDIX B

Amendment number four was approved by the Secretary on June 11th. She received Amendment number five (rattails) on June 4th to begin review. If no emergency regulations are implemented for the fourth amendment package it would be effective toward the end of July.

Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish FMP

The Secretary received the reserve section on the Aleutian closures passed by the Council at the May meeting on June 4th. At that time the review of the main body of the plan was well advanced. We can hope for approval of the entire plan in the near future.

Herring FMP

I hope to have a draft of the herring plan in early July so that it can begin review that month by the Advisory Panel, SSC and Council with first Council consideration in July and second consideration in August. If the Council approves it in August, we would forward it to the Secretary to begin her preliminary review in early September and schedule public hearings for October and November.

Memorial Fund for Don McKernan

In the letter under tab 3 from Jim Crutchfield on the establishment of a memorial fund for Don, he asks that I make this information available to as many people as possible. The letter gives details on the purpose of the fund and where donations can be made.

Budget Cut for Department of State Bureau of Oceans

Congress proposes to halve the budget for the Bureau of Oceans in the Department of State. John Donaldson, in a letter under tab 3, outlines the effects this might have on their fisheries operations. The Council may also wish to comment.

St. Paul Small Boat Harbor

The Corps of Engineers published an 'intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement' for a small boat harbor in St. Paul in the Federal Register on June 1st (page 31693). The draft is expected to be available for review in January, 1980. This is the first formal action we've seen on a small boat harbor in the Pribilofs since the Council started pushing for action two years ago.

Joint Research with the Marine Mammal Commission

John Twiss, Director of the Marine Mammal Commission, contacted me a week ago proposing that the Council and the Marine Mammal Commission develop a joint strategy for management in the Bering Sea. He said that the Commission had \$10 - \$15,000 dollars that they could use for such a study and would like to work with the Council to jointly fund and direct something along the following lines. John envisions two phases; first a conceptual model of the effects of marine mammals on the total ecosystem and, secondly, a study of a single fishery under the existing system until we can develop a better approach. Bob Weeden of the University of Alaska will be working with the Marine Mammal Commission and I expect to talk to him next week to get a better understanding of the concepts proposed by the Commission. We should have a concrete proposal for the Council to consider in July.

Working Group Assignments

Some new assignments to working groups are necessary because of Don McKernan's death and the resignation of James Crutchfield from the SSC and the departure of Henry Wendler, Ralph Giffin and Jim Ellis.

Don was on the committee to establish priorities for the development of fishery management plans, he was Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of the Foreign Permit Review Committee, a member of the Incidental Species Group and a member of the King Crab FMP review group. James Crutchfield was a member of the Socioeconomic and Data Needs Group and the DAH working group.

Henry Wendler was a member of the Clam review group for the Council and Ralph Giffin and Jim Ellis were both members of the Foreign Permit Review Committee.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission would like to have a member on the Limited Entry Working Group and Rick Lauber has suggested that members from the Advisory Panel would be valuable on the same group. I agree.

Surf Clam Leasing Study

Sometime ago I contacted Professor Burke at the University of Washington and Professor Jacobson at the University of Oregon to find out if they had anybody in their graduate groups or associates that would be interested in submitting an RFP to study the legal ramifications of leasing as a management tool in the clam fishery. We have received one proposal from the University of Washington that has been reviewed by NOAA attorney Kim White, who made several suggestions for narrowing the scope of the study. I would like to have that proposal reviewed by the Finance Committee to develop a recommendation for further action for the Council.

Finance Committee

We will need a meeting of the Finance Committee at this Council meeting. We have a draft of the fiscal 1980 administrative and programmatic budgets for their consideration. We should complete that budget at this meeting for early submission to Washington. We expect to have drafts of the FY'81 and 82 budgets for consideration at the next Council meeting. All of the budgeting material should be in Washington by August 1.

Travel

Council travel was relatively light in June. Maggie Duff went to Seattle for a two day meeting of the Socioeconomic Working Group and the Herring Plan Development Team. I was in Juneau for one day for the Limited Entry Working Group meeting and Chairman Tillion, Vice Chairman Lokken and I attended the Council Chairmen's meeting at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania last week.