

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
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MEMORANDUM:

To : Council, SSC, and AP

From : Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

Subject : Errata for October 1979 Council Minutes

Enclosed are pages 3 and 3a which correct the October 1979 Council minutes. Please remove the present page 3 in your copy of the minutes. Page 2 now has the correct date for the St. Paul Island meeting.
Enclosures

Pages 2, 3, 3a.

FMM

Branson next reported that he and Chairman Clement V. Tillion had attended a bottomfish meeting on St. Paul Island on September 5-7, 1979, sponsored by the Alaska Native Foundation and the State of Alaska Bottomfish Coordinator Jim Edenso. The chairman remarked it was an excellent opportunity to confer with people who would be impacted by this fishery and to consider questions regarding future problems.

Mr. Branson next asked for Council advice regarding joint venture applications for transport vessels in support of joint venture fishing ships. Pat Travers, NOAA General Counsel, told the Council they could consider the transport vessels as part of the joint venture operation and, approve the application or consider the transport as a separate operation. Mr. Bud Boddy, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Panel, told the Council the panel had considered the matter and believed the Executive Director should continue approving routine permits and, where a joint venture had already been approved by the Council, all associated permits such as this one. The Council adopted the Advisory Panel's recommendation and approved the procedure whereby the Executive Director continue approving routine permit applications including those associated with joint ventures already approved by the Council.

Highlighting other parts of the Executive Director's Report, Branson told the Council that the clam leasing study being conducted jointly by the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game and NOAA General Counsel was proceeding on schedule. He also said Advisory Panel vacancies had been advertised and that nominations would close at this meeting with selection to occur at the next meeting. He introduced the 1980 Council schedule and noted April and July might be cancelled.

Branson also told the Council he had been asked to serve on a monitoring committee for the study entitled, "A System Level Plan for Alaska Fisheries Development." The Council authorized Branson to attend on behalf of the Council noting the next meeting for the group was scheduled October 26 in Seattle. Branson also told the Council that the Herring Workshop sponsored jointly by the State of Alaska and the Council had been tentatively scheduled for February with more details to follow. He lastly referred the Council to the status report on the Fishery Management Plans contained in the agenda folder and also to the Marine Mammal Commission letter of agreement transferring \$12,500 to the Council for initiation of studies designed to cooperatively look at Marine Mammal ecosystem questions.

E-1. Alaska Department of Fish & Game Report of Domestic Fishing Activities

Fred Gaffney, ADF&G, told the Council that landings of sablefish thru September 28th were 5.8 million pounds indicating that the domestic harvest off Southeast Alaska might achieve 3,000 m.t. He also told the Council the Department had 428 proposals for the Alaska Board of Fisheries to consider at its next meeting in December and that these proposals would be sent to the Council. His report is attached as APPENDIX B.

Jack Lechner, ADF&G, then reviewed the on-going Bering Sea king crab fishery. He told the Council fishing started September 17, in the Bering Sea and that 226 ships (up from 162 last year) had taken 14 million pounds by October 1 and probably had an additional 23 million pounds in the tanks. He said the CPUE of 60 to 80 had been holding steady and that the total catch would likely be 110 to 125 million pounds with a probable closure around October 14. Lechner also told the Council they may go to a 7-1/2 inch season if the CPUE and general state of the fishery warranted it. Lechner's full report is attached as APPENDIX C.

E-2. National Marine Fisheries Service Report of Foreign Fishing Activities

Mr. Ron Naab, NMFS, reviewed the composition of the foreign fishing fleets off Alaska and reported 350 vessels operated in August and 257 in September. The Japanese fleet had 19 stern trawlers, 17 longliners, and 3 support vessels in the Gulf of Alaska; 40 stern trawlers and one support vessel along the Aleutian Chain; 139 vessels in the central and western Bering Sea; and one factoryship operating east of the Pribilof Islands. The mothership crab fleet, Naab said, left the Bering Sea in late August, leaving one independent crabber fishing northwest of the Pribilof Islands.

The Soviet fleet had 13 stern trawlers east of the Pribilofs and like the Koreans were fishing primarily for pollock. There were 4 Korean stern trawlers off Yakutat and 4 in the western Gulf of Alaska; one factoryship in the Kodiak area and one support vessel, BOK NEUNG, which is also involved in joint ventures. In the Bering Sea, 6 Korean stern trawlers and one support vessel are fishing.

Naab reported there are three Polish vessels operating now, one stern trawler in the Kodiak area, and one stern trawler and one refrigerator transport south of the eastern Aleutians--all fishing pollock.

The Soviet joint venture, Marine Resources, Inc., and the BMRT KAMYSHAN, which began fishing in the western Gulf of Alaska completed operations off Sitka in late August. The vessel moved to the hake fishery off Washington and Oregon and is presently headed for her home port. In the South Korean joint venture, the KORMEX vessels are delivering catches to the BOK NEUNG in the Kodiak area as are two U.S. vessels.

Mr. Naab told the Council the Preliminary Fishery Management Plan currently in effect for Groundfish in the Bering Sea has been updated by NMFS as a contingency for the planned January 1 implementation date for the Council's FMP.

Mr. Ron Berg, NMFS, reported on foreign fleet catch statistics. The Japanese Tanner crab fleet has taken 99.6% of its 15,000 mt quota, of which 13,300 is opilio, 12,000 bairdi, and 430 hybrid. Comparing catch effort, 2 factoryships took 11,731 tons in 175 days in 1978 and in 1979 took 11,774 in 186 days. The independent vessels took 3,234 tons in 120 days in 1978 and this year took 3,162 tons in 150 days.

The KMIDC joint venture has taken approximately 750 tons of cod, 570 tons of pollock, and the rest flounders, Pacific ocean perch and rockfish for a total of about 1500 tons. Included was a bycatch of 18 tons of sablefish.

Amendment #5 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP which established the rockfish OY of 13,200 tons, became effective September 12.

Amendment #6 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP, which decreased the DAH by about 25,000 tons and thereby increased TALFF by that amount, became effective September 24. Current DAH is 18,000 tons with about 1300 tons of that being rattail.

On September 12, an errata to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP concerning other rockfish category was sent to the Federal Register by NMFS. This will allow a reduction in this year's foreign catch of other rockfish and a like amount added to Pacific ocean perch.

NMFS has updated the PMP for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery and used the FMP figures including the MSY, EY's, and TALFF with a zero DAH, but added that difference to the Reserves in the FMP, thereby creating a large Reserves of all species. This action was a contingency on the FMP not being on line January 1, 1980.

F-3. U.S. Coast Guard Report of Enforcement and Surveillance
Activities

Commander Pete Busick reported seven violations occurred since the last Council meeting: two were civil penalty violations and three were