


MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 1980

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee
and Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: An Amendment to the Domestic Groundfish Contract (77-5)

ACTION REQUIRED

Informational.

BACKGROUND

As directed at the last Council meeting, an amendment was prepared for our contract with ADF&G -- A Domestic Groundfish Observer Contract -- to provide observers for the Bering Sea for the designated "experimental" fisheries; i.e., the two domestic operations (Icicle and Steuart) and the catcher processor operating with the US/USSR joint venture.

The amendment authorizes the remaining unused part of the budget (approximately \$20,000) to be directed to the Bering Sea domestic fishery. The contract termination date was extended six months but no new monies were committed. It is attached for your information.

We are expecting a proposal in March for an expanded 2 year ADF&G observer contract for the Bering Sea domestic fishery. It raises the issue of the long term need for a domestic observer support which, in light of the management measures recommended by the MDPT's, is becoming increasingly important.

Attachment

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North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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January 16, 1980
Amendment #3 to Contract 77-5

AN OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR THE DOMESTIC GROUND FISH FISHERY GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLAND AREA

The contract entered into between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (hereinafter called the "Council") represented by the Executive Director executing this Contract and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Support Building, Juneau, 99801 (hereinafter called the "Contractor") witness that the parties hereto do agree as follows:

To amend the contract as follows at the request of the Council on January 10, 1980;

ARTICAL I. STATEMENT OF WORK

B. Problem

Delete paragraph four and add:

Recent developments have necessitated a change in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. A substantial domestic trawl fishery has been planned for the Bering Sea in the Winter Halibut Saving Area and in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary. In an effort not to hinder the development of the U.S. groundfish fishery, regulations have been relaxed on an interim basis for 1980 to allow these fisheries on an experimental basis. An observer program is necessary to gather data on the fishery; to monitor and gather information on the incidental catch rates of prohibited species and other general biological data.

The funding and execution of this observer program for the winter and spring of 1980 for the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Island Area is the subject of this contract amendment. Any longer commitment will be through another agreement.

C. Objective

The objective of this amendment is to implement an observer program for the developing domestic groundfish trawl fishery in the Bering Sea for the winter and spring of 1980.

For this amendment the following six tasks are required:

TASK 1

The Contractor will use biologically acceptable standards for collecting and recording data. The Contractor will assess total effort by species group.

TASK 2

The Contractor will assess the incidental catch of halibut and king and Tanner crab in the developing domestic groundfish fishery.

TASK 3

The contractor will determine catch per unit effort data for vessels observed for primary designated target species.

TASK 4

The Contractor will provide an estimate of poundage discarded in direct support of information needed and requested by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The estimate of poundage discarded must be by species group, especially but not limited to halibut, Tanner crab and king crab.

TASK 5

The Contractor will provide catch composition information, length and weight data and other biological information.

TASK 6

The contractor will report on the general state of the art of the domestic groundfish fishing industry in the Bering Sea in terms of gear efficiencies, gear types and mechanics of the fishery including the impact of high sea delivery of 'codends' on the survivability of prohibited species.

NOTE

This contract amendment is designed to initiate an observer program for the domestic groundfish fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutian area. This contract amendment will employ techniques which were utilized and refined in the original Contract # 77-5. This contract does not presume continued funding, and in fact, is specific in its intent and restrictions to amend this project only through September 1980. It is expected that a two year observer program for the domestic groundfish fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island area will be forthcoming and considered at some later date. Also this contract amendment does not abrogate a responsibility of the contractor to finish the contractual obligations for the Gulf of Alaska.

ARTICLE II. PROJECT SCHEDULES AND DELIVERABLES

August 1, 1980

Final report. This report will include the results of all tasks assigned for contract amendment #3.

ARTICLE IV. PERIOD OF CONTRACT

Work shall commence September 30, 1977 and shall be completed by September 30, 1980, unless extended by mutual agreement.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

BY: _____

BY _____

TITLE _____

TITLE _____
Executive Director

DATE _____

DATE _____