

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council Members, SSC, and AP

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

DATE: November 21, 1980

SUBJECT: Winter fishery, salmon amendment and other information

*ACTION REQUIRED*

*None. Information only.*

BACKGROUND

Winter Fishery

On October 15 the inside winter fishery was opened even though the chinook salmon OY of 320,000 had already been reached. The opening is expected to result in a harvest of 3,000 to 4,000 chinook by the end of the year, which will be in excess of the OY range. These fish can be considered as part of the 1981 optimum yield.

Future of Troll Fishery

The Council has never made a formal statement regarding the future of the salmon troll fishery, and it might be appropriate to include this as an objective of the FMP. Many trollers have interpreted the Council's consideration of limited entry, harvest restrictions, and closures to imply that the troll fishery is being phased out completely. A formal statement by the Council would help ease these fears. An objective such as the following might be included as a high priority for the FMP:

"The Council recognizes that there is a troll fishery and there will continue to be a troll fishery. The Council wishes to stabilize the fishery to protect its future existence. The other objectives of this FMP are directed to this goal."

Stikine Dams

The Canadian government is reviewing plans by B.C. Hydro to build 5 hydroelectric dams on the Stikine River and its tributaries. The Stikine is the fourth largest salmon-producing river in Alaska. Although these dams would be above all salmon spawning areas, the flow fluctuations resulting from power production may be harmful to downstream spawning and rearing habitats. The Council office has received inquiries about the effect of this project on native Alaskan salmon stocks, and requests that the Council apply whatever pressure possible to ensure protection of these Alaska stocks.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC, AP  
FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director  
DATE: December 1, 1980  
SUBJECT: Intercouncil Salmon Coordinating Committee Meeting

*ACTION REQUIRED*

*Approval of Statement of Purpose and Objectives.*

BACKGROUND

The Intercouncil Salmon Coordinating Committee met in Portland on November 24 to discuss coastwide status of stocks, data problems, and coordination of NPFMC and PFMC salmon plans. The committee heard reports on the history and status of Alaskan stocks, the status of common salmon stocks and their contribution to Southeastern Alaska harvest, and coastwide data programs. The salmon plan coordinators from both councils made suggestions on how better coordination between the salmon plans could be achieved. The Committee requested that the Councils consider and approve the objectives that were finalized at their September 4, 1980, meeting and sent out in the Council mailing. The statement of purpose and objectives are as follows:

Purpose

To insure and facilitate the coordinated planning, development and implementation of salmon management plans and activities of concern to both Councils, and to insure full and complete communication between the two Councils.

Objectives (not necessarily in priority)

1. Develop and maintain on a timely basis a compatible data base, including essential biological and socioeconomic information.
2. Attain optimum spawning escapement goals for all salmon stocks of common concern as defined by the Councils.
3. Achieve the socially optimal distribution of harvestable surpluses of salmon amongst the beneficial users as these distributions are prescribed by legal obligations.

4. Identify common research needs and seek funding and execution of specific research projects.
5. Evaluate periodically the effectiveness of management plans and regulations.
6. Develop positions on fisheries issues of common concern with the intent to influence other entities whose activities affect salmon.
7. Identify and seek solutions to management and socioeconomic problems that may affect salmon fisheries.
8. Insure effective communications on a continuing basis to create a better public understanding of council actions.

Recommended Action

Above statement of purpose and objectives will be sent to each Council for review and approval.