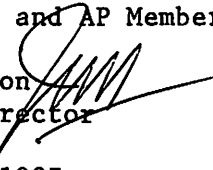


M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson   
Executive Director

DATE: December 1, 1987

SUBJECT: Pilot Domestic Observer Program

ACTION REQUIRED

1. Progress report by Alaska Sea Grant.
2. Domestic Observer Committee report and recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The Council's pilot observer program, administered by Alaska Sea Grant, started in mid-September with the deployment of two observers to Kodiak and two to Dutch Harbor. The general goal for the fall fisheries was to provide coverage on vessels with all gear types fishing Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska and pollock and turbot in the Bering Sea. The observers rode catcher/processors and vessels delivering shoreside. Various logistics problems were identified and the insurance problem is still not completely resolved. The observers went on leave in mid-November and will be back on the grounds after the New Year.

Alaska Sea Grant will report on the deployment of observers from September to November, days on the water, vessels and fisheries observed, and funds expended. A technical workgroup met on December 4 to review program details and problem areas and develop solutions. They will report to the Council's Domestic Observer Committee who will meet with industry Sunday evening, December 6.