


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director 

DATE: January 26, 1999

SUBJECT: Social and Economic Data

ESTIMATED TIME
0.5 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Status report from Committee.
- (b) Review Committee recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The Social and Economic Data Committee was appointed by the Council in April 1998. Since then the Committee has held several meetings to develop recommendations which would improve the quality of social and economic data that are collected on a routine basis. At this meeting the Committee will report back to the Council on their progress to date. The report will provide specific recommendations to improve data collection in the short term. These measures include requesting the Council to initiate a regulatory amendment to require at-sea processors to file the Alaska Commercial Operators Annual Report (ACOAR).

Other recommendations by the Committee do not require the initiation of amendment packages at this time. Instead they focus on continued public support of this effort by the Council, and support for continuing the development of the "Fishery Atlas" concept proposed by the Committee.

The complete Committee Report is attached at Item C-7(a).

Social and Economic Data Committee
Report to the Council
January 29, 1999

History of the Committee:

The Social and Economic Data Committee was established by the Council in June, 1997. Appointment to the Committee occurred in April, 1998. Appointed to the Committee were:

Dennis Austin (Chair and Council Member)	John Iani (Industry)
Chris Blackburn (Industry) ¹	Seth Macinko (SSC)
Darrell Brannan (Staff)	Richard Marasco (SSC)
Keith Criddle (SSC)	Ed Richardson (Industry) ¹
John Gauvin (Industry) ¹	

The Committee was formed to provide specific recommendations to the Council on improving the social and economic data collection and distribution process. Several workshops and meetings have been held to develop recommendations for the Council to consider. This document will describe the committee's recommendations and proposed follow-up work plan for the committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulatory Amendment:

●The first recommendation from the Committee is that the Council require processors operating in the EEZ off Alaska to complete and submit the Alaska Commercial Operators Annual Report (ACOAR). Currently processors operating under State jurisdiction are required to complete this form on an annual basis, while some offshore processors file the report voluntarily. As a result of comparisons between the COAR and NMFS Weekly Production Reports made during the analysis of Inshore/Offshore 3, it appears that only about 30% of the offshore pollock production was being reported in ACOAR during 1996. Basing analyses on response rates of that level may lead to inaccurate or misleading results. Requiring this information should improve the ex-vessel and first wholesale price data from the at-sea fleet and provide additional information on production levels. It will also provide data that are comparable to those provided by processors operating onshore or within State waters. Members of the Committee agreed this would be an appropriate and substantial first step in filling existing economic data gaps. **To implement this recommendation will require the concurrence of the State of Alaska.**

¹Member was absent during the January 19-21, 1999 meeting where these recommendations were developed.

Other Recommendations:

● **Recommend that the Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN) Steering Committee determine the feasibility of updating the ACOAR and modifying the information collected on fish tickets.** Members of the Committee felt that it was appropriate to explore the option of updating/improving the ACOAR, but realized that the AKFIN Steering Committee may be better suited to determine if alterations to the form are reasonable. This is due to the makeup of the two committees. The AKFIN Steering Committee is comprised of more individuals that deal with the ACOAR on a regular basis and therefore may be in a better position to recommend and facilitate changes.

Discussions were also held regarding the feasibility of modifying fish tickets to collect economic data. One suggestion was that the price field be made mandatory and that the reporting of post-season price adjustments be required. Again, it was the feeling of the Committee that determining whether those changes are practicable would require input from people not in attendance. AKFIN was again suggested as the group that may be in a better position to help the Committee answer those questions.

Based on these findings the Committee requests that the Council send a letter to the AKFIN Steering Committee Chair requesting that these items be placed on the agenda for the April 29-30, 1999 AKFIN Steering Committee meeting, and that the AKFIN Committee coordinate with the Council's Committee on their findings.

● **Statement of Council Support for Data Collection Initiatives and Industry Compliance.** No action would be required by the Council under this heading beyond their continued public support of these data collection, management, and distribution efforts. The committee felt that Council's support of these initiatives will be crucial to their success as well as the industry's understanding of the importance of these efforts. A more specific focus of support which the Committee discussed was to request/support line item funding for an expanded role of AKFIN, or development of an 'EFIN' (Economics Fisheries Information Network), as a central entity for collection and management of economic data on fisheries off Alaska. This could dovetail with current efforts relative to West Coast fisheries (see Attachment 1).

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Discussions:

Develop an Atlas of the Fisheries. To fulfill the direction of the Council, the goal of the Committee is to develop a current picture of the industry from a social and economic perspective, and then identify and routinely collect indexes of social and economic data that will allow the Council and others to detect change as a result of Council action and other variables and ultimately, develop the ability to predict and evaluate potential change as a result of proposed Council actions. During Committee discussions, this vision has evolved into the idea of an "Atlas of the Fisheries in the North Pacific". This Atlas would focus on the social and economic aspects of the fleet.

The Atlas could contain information broken into separate volumes. For example, one volume might contain information focused on communities as well as the traditional sectors such as catcher vessels, catcher/processor vessels, "motherships" and onshore processing plants. The community volume of the report could provide a detailed discussion of each community history in a particular fishery. In addition, aggregated data on the number of residents that own fishing vessels (commercial and/or charter), landings made in that community, fish tax revenues received by the community, etc. might be separate chapters in the Atlas or aggregated by each community. As envisioned, the Community Volume of the Atlas would not contain large amounts of tabular data. Instead, highly aggregated data would be provided to show relative position, but the document would rely heavily

on prose to convey the flavor of the community, fleet, or individuals. Other volumes which may be produced would focus on the fleet or the individual people in the fishery. The intent would be to try and capture the seasonal round of activities, and therefore discern a community's relative place in the fisheries. A critical decision point would be how many (and which) communities to include in such an Atlas, recalling that our 1994 Community Profiles (Faces of the Fisheries) covered 126 communities in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

As an initial conceptional outline, the Committee developed a set of data elements for various sectors of the industry. Each of the lists that were developed are presented in Attachment 2. Although lacking in detail at this moment, the lists are very broad in scope and thus, they should probably be characterized as "wish lists". Currently, the outline only represents the kinds of data the Committee thought would be of value. Discussions with industry and Committee members are anticipated to refine this outline.

Once the Atlas establishes the current status quo picture of the industry, indexes would be identified to measure change in this status. These indexes of social and economic data would annually be gathered as a routine management activity. It is very likely that some of these data elements are already being gathered while some are not. How the new data elements might be gathered, e.g. incorporated into current ongoing data gathering exercises or development of new data gathering formats, will be one of the subjects of discussion between the Committee and the AKFIN Steering Committee members.

Schedule of Further Committee Activities:

The draft outline of the "Atlas of the Fisheries in the North Pacific" would be refined through additional workshops with industry at both of the April and June Council meetings. Inter-action with AKFIN Steering Committee would begin at their April 29-30 meeting. Subsequent follow-up meetings would occur between the June and October Council meetings. A Social and Economic Committee Report would be made at the October Council meeting which would include any additional recommendations of the Committee.

Alaska Fisheries Science Center's 1999 Cost, Earnings and Employment Survey. The Committee spent considerable time discussing the collection of cost data. A report by the NMFS' Alaska Fisheries Science Center staff on their progress to develop survey instruments to collect cost data on the pollock and H&G fleets during 1999 was presented. It is expected that mailings of this survey will occur in early spring. Preliminary reports indicate that the AFSC's project seems to represent a great stride forward in the collection of cost data. However, that effort is not expected to collect all of the information that would be needed to answer questions often posed by the Council or SSC. Equally important is that this survey will not be conducted each year and thus the ability to routinely detect change will not be addressed. The experience gained from this survey, however, will be very helpful to the Committee in developing further social and economic data gathering recommendations for the Council's consideration.

Special Note to the Council:

● Information is not currently collected on people (crew members) that work in the federally managed fisheries off Alaska. The State of Alaska has a crew license, but the information collected does not allow people to be grouped into the fisheries in which they participate. While the Committee was unable to determine the best mechanism for collecting this information, it did agree the information will need to be collected if a basic social and economic data is to be gathered. Obtaining this information will be a major new initiative by the EEZ managers. The Committee discussed at least three potential methods for gathering this information. It was felt that these ideas needed more thought before they could be recommended to the Council for implementation. Included in this discussion was how important the Council felt this information would be in future management actions. The Committee felt that identifying crew members should serve as a starting place, since once the crew are identified they could be contacted later to obtain additional information. **Unless directed otherwise by the**

Council, it is expected that the October report of the Committee will recommend Council action to implement this initiative.

The methods currently being discussed by the Committee are:

1) Create a short survey that must be completed at the time a crew license is issued. This may require the Council to implement a crew license for persons working in federal fisheries, or it may be possible to use the State crew license. Information that could be required when they apply for their license might include SSN, fisheries participated in the previous year, the number of days they spent in each fishery, and the vessels they fished on as crew.

2) Create a crew log book that identifies information like SSN, vessel fished, dates fished, fishticket numbers the vessel filed while on board, position(s) held, etc.

3) Capturing crew information on harvest records (to be discussed with AKFIN Steering Committee).

ATTACHMENT 1

THIS WILL BE THE BUDGET REQUEST FROM PSMFC. THEY HOPE TO HAVE A FINAL VERSION BY EARLY THIS WEEK.

ATTACHMENT 2

ONSHORE SECTOR (PLANT CHARACTERIZATION)

physical location

summary description of physical characterization of plant

known plant IDs

round tons/day processing capacity

species and product forms:

product quantity and value

sales by product form

product markets

Ownership:

company name

parent firm/associated firms

Associated fleet

vessel ID

plant ownership interest

CDQ relationships

Co-op relationships

Employment (by plant):

numbers of employees and hours by species/fishery by broad job category

employee ID

payroll by species/fishery

Ex-vessel price

Post-season price adjustment

Tax payments by type/collecting entity

Processing Costs (see page 16 of NMFS document)

environmental compliance

Expenditures by port

MOTHERSHIP CHARACTERIZATION

Homeport

Main Moorage
Off-load Locations (ports/at-sea)

summary description of physical characteristics:

LOA, beam, draft
registered tonnage
H.P.
Storage capacity and type
Daily processing capacity by product type
Fuel capacity and consumption: Processing, running, idle
at-sea scales

Survey value: fair market, replacement values (incl. processing equipment)
survey date

Known Vessel IDs

Fisheries participated in by mgmt. Area
Year of first participation in N. Pacific

Permits held

Species and product forms
product quantity and value
sales by product form

Product markets

Over-the-side purchases:
quantity and value by species
Vessels purchased from

Revenues from other activities:
e.g., tendering, research contracts

Ownership:

Owner ID#
Owner and/or company name
partners/shareholders
managing entity
parent firm/associated firms

Membership in bargaining associations

CDQ relationships

Co-op relationships

Employment:

- numbers of employees
- employee IDs by fishery by employment type
- skipper ID

Post-season price adjustment if any

Tax payments by type/collecting entity

Operating Costs:

- CDQ royalties
- Wages and payroll taxes - separate for hourly and/or crew shared and salaried employees
- Fuel, lube and oil
- Fish taxes
- Observer fees
- Employee recruitment and transportation
- Processing chemicals and product additives
- Packaging materials
- Insurance - P & I
- Insurance - Hull, War, Breach, and Loss
- Repairs and maintenance
- Northbound freight
- Communications
- Galley Expenses
- Sales commissions
- General and administrative
- All other expenses, not including interest, depreciation or income tax

Debt service:

If owned, total principal and interest payments and depreciation expenses associated with vessel. If chartered, total annual charter payments for vessel and total principle and interest expenses associated with equipment on the vessel.

Expenditures by port

CATCHER-PROCESSOR CHARACTERIZATION

Homeport

- Main Moorage
- Off-load Locations (ports/at-sea)

summary description of physical characteristics:

- LOA, beam, draft
- registered tonnage
- H.P.
- Storage capacity and type
- Daily processing capacity by product type
- Fuel capacity and consumption: fishing, running, processing, idle
- gear(s) used
- at-sea scales

Survey value: fair market, replacement values (incl. processing equipment)
survey date

Known Vessel IDs

Fisheries participated in by gear type and mgmt. Area
Year of first participation in N. Pacific

Permits held

Species and product forms
product quantity and value
sales by product form

Product markets

Over-the-side purchases:
quantity and value by species
Vessels purchased from

Deliveries as a catcher-vessel:
quantity and price by species
ports and plants delivered to

Revenues from other activities:
e.g., tendering, research contracts

Ownership:

- Owner ID#
- Owner and/or company name
- partners/shareholders
- managing entity
- parent firm/associated firms

Membership in bargaining associations

CDQ relationships

Co-op relationships

Employment:

numbers of employees

employee IDs by fishery by employment type

skipper ID

Post-season price adjustment if any

Tax payments by type/collecting entity

Operating Costs (same as noted for Mothership Characterization)

Debt service (same as noted for Mothership Characterization)

Expenditures by port

CATCHER-VESSEL CHARACTERIZATION

Homeport

Main Moorage

Delivery Locations (ports/at-sea)

summary description of physical characteristics:

LOA, beam, draft

registered tonnage

H.P.

Hold capacity and type

Fuel capacity and consumption: fishing, running, idle
gear(s) used

Survey value: fair market, replacement values

survey date

Known Vessel IDs

Fisheries participated in by gear type and mgmt. Area

Year of first participation in N. Pacific

Permits held

Price and quantity by species and landed form

Revenues from other activities:

e.g., tendering, research contracts

Ownership:

Owner ID#

Owner and/or company name

partners/shareholders

managing entity

parent firm/associated firms

Plants delivered to

Membership in bargaining association

CDQ relationships

Co-op relationships

Employment:

numbers of employees

employee IDs by fishery

skipper ID

Post-season price adjustment

Tax payments by type/collecting entity

Operating Costs:

- Crew wages and payroll taxes
- Fuel, lube and oil
- Galley expenses
- Bait
- Water and waste disposal
- Fish Taxes
- Observer fees
- Insurance - P & I
- Insurance - Hull, War, Breach, and Loss
- Employee recruitment and transportation
- Vessel repair and maintenance
- Gear loss and maintenance
- Wheelhouse expenses
- Northbound freight
- License or permit fees
- Communications
- Crew medical & Deductibles
- Loading/unloading
- General and administration
- All other expenses, not including interest, depreciation or income tax

Debt service:

- If owned, total principal and interest payments and total depreciation expenses associated with vessel
- If chartered/leased, total annual payment associated with this vessel

Expenditures by port

COMMUNITIES CHARACTERIZATION

Historical/General Profile:

Location, history, culture/language, economy, transportation, climate

Population Data:

Total Population
Non-Native Population
Percent Native
Ethnic Composition
Male/female pop.
Median Age
Housing Units
Owner occupied
Vacant Housing
Ave. Persons per House
Median Income
Cost of living index
Cost of labor index
Median Home Value
Median Rent Paid
Single Family Units
Below Poverty Level
Education Profiles
Single women raising families
[transient measure??]

Facilities and Utilities

Employment:

Breakdown by Class, Industry, and Occupation

Well-Being Indices:

Drug and Alcohol Dependence and Abuse

Fisheries-Related Data (commercial and charter as relevant):

Vessels homeported (name and ID)
Resident moorage vessels
Frequent transient vessels (name and ID)
Participation Patterns of Associated Vessels
Local employment on-board vessels
Number of residents who own vessels

Locally owned vessels and processors
permits held by residents
Local Processors (name and ID)
total pounds landed by species
Employment at processors (total and local)
Number and range of fisheries service businesses
Employment in service businesses
subsistence activity
CDQ membership

Municipal Finances:

Total All Revenues
Local Fish Tax Revenues by fishery
State shared fish tax revenues by fishery