

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP members

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

DATE: February 17, 1981

SUBJECT: Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan

*ACTION REQUIRED*

*No action required; for informational purposes only.*

BACKGROUND

Due to President Reagan's freeze on all final regulations, amendment #6 has not been published as scheduled. The amendment, which provides for various minor technical changes in the FMP, is in its final form and is ready for publication in the Federal Register following termination of the freeze. The freeze, which was implemented on January 29, 1981, is in effect for 60 days (until March 30, 1981) unless there is an extension.

Amendment #7, which established new C. bairdi OY's and the C. opilio OY to equal the DAH (i.e. TALEFF=0), is currently under Secretary of Commerce review. This review period will be completed by February 20, 1981, and a decision should be available by early March. Final implementation of this amendment is being estimated for late June, 1981.

It has been suggested by a crab processor that the Tanner crab C. opilio fishery remain open for as long as fishing continues. Currently under the Tanner Crab FMP, the season closure dates are determined by Field Order. The State of Alaska is using August 15 as the closing date for Tanner crab fishing.