

Agenda Item #17
June 28-29, 1979

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 1979

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

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Extend provisions of the Tanner Crab FMP through 1980

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An amendment to the Tanner crab FMP and regulations is required to modify and extend OY, TALFF and DAH through 1980.

Domestic regulations (FR, 12/1/78) specify OY figures from January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1979. Foreign regulations make the effective dates for TALFF from January 1, 1979 to October 31, 1979. After October 31, 1979, the annual TALFF period is from November 1 to November 1 of the following year.

Optimum Yield for C. bairdi and C. opilio in the Bering Sea is being re-estimated by the PDT, using recent catch and effort data and survey results. These figures are expected to be substantially less than now in the plan or the preceding season. TALFF will probably have to be lower. The results of this analysis will be presented to the Council in October.

The following are very preliminary ball-park figures based on the 1978/79 catch trends; 1977/78 survey trends for pre-recruits; a 107 mm C. opilio size factor; general declines in ABC's for both opilio and bairdi; and an increase in DAH for opilio.

<u>C. bairdi</u>		<u>ABC</u>
<u>C. opilio</u>	(north of 58)	15,000 metric tons
	(south of 58)	8,000 metric tons
		25,000 metric tons

Domestic capacities - projected based on 1979 performances.

83 million lbs (a) 43,000,000 C. bairdi (20)
(b) 40,000,000 C. opilio (possible) (18)
or 38,000 metric tons.

TOTAL	ABC =	48,000 metric tons
Less DAH		<u>38,000</u> metric tons
leaves		5,000 TALFF ^{1/} and
		5,000 Reserve ^{2/}

1/ All north of 58°

2/ Reserves indicated as a contingency to further refinement of resource estimates.

An update will be available in July.

COUNCIL ACTION

The Council should schedule preliminary approval of an amendment to the Tanner crab plan for July, changing all Bering Sea OY's, TALFF's, possibly the foreign fishing area and an (interim) reserve concept.