

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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March 13, 1980

EXPANDED DRAFT AGENDA
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
31st ~~PRELIMINARY SESSION~~ *Plenary*
March 26, 27, 28, 1980
Anchorage Westward/Hilton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

The Council will convene on Wednesday, March 26th, 1980 at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn on Friday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m. in the Alaska Room of the Anchorage Westward/Hilton Hotel, Third and E Streets, Anchorage, Alaska. The Advisory Panel will convene Tuesday, March 25th in the Alaska Room of the Anchorage Westward/Hilton Hotel at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. The Scientific & Statistical Committee will meet Monday, March 24th, 1980 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room and will adjourn Tuesday, March 25th at 5:00 p.m. A joint meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries has been scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 27th and 28th from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Additionally, on Saturday, March 29th, there will be a special crab management workshop sponsored by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, all day in the Anchorage/Westward/Hilton. The meetings may be lengthened or shortened depending on progress on the agenda. The meetings are open to the public.

INFORMATION ON THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Preregistration will be required for all public comments which pertain to specific agenda topics. Preregistration is accomplished by informing the agenda clerk by 10:00 a.m. of the first day of the agenda item to be addressed and the time required. Preregistration for public comments may be scheduled for F. OLD BUSINESS, G. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS, and H. NEW BUSINESS agenda items. There will be a general comment period (Agenda K) scheduled for late afternoon of the second day for testimony on matters not on the current agenda. Ten minutes will be allotted for each person or group.

Special sign-up sheets will be prepared for those who wish to present comment or testimony at the joint Board of Fisheries/Council sessions scheduled Thursday and Friday mornings, 8:30 to noon. Sign-up for public testimony or comment for this joint session is accomplished by informing the Agenda Clerk at the door of the item to be addressed and the time required and by signing in. Ten minutes will be allotted for each person or group.

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- C. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER/JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MINUTES

Copies of these minutes are included in this mailing. Please review them before the meeting so they can be handled expeditiously.

- D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- E. SPECIAL REPORTS

- E-1. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Report on Domestic Fisheries.
- E-2. The National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Foreign Fisheries, Including Joint Ventures.
- E-3. U.S. Coast Guard Report of Enforcement and Surveillance.
- E-4. Special SSC and AP Reports on Matters not on the Agenda.
- E-5. A Report by the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center on the Foreign Observer Program: What Happens with the Data?

Bert Larkins and Robert French plan to report on the foreign observer program. The presentation will be designed to show what happens with the data collected by observers: i.e., how is it used to manage the fishery?

- F. OLD BUSINESS

(Executive Director, SSC, AP and other staff comments may be scheduled. Preregistered public comments are allowed following each item.)

- F-1. Advisory Panel Selection for Two Vacancies.

Nominations closed for two Advisory Panel vacancies at the last meeting. Twenty-six nominees comprise the list from which two must be selected. An updated Advisory Panel "special interest/occupation" matrix has been mailed for review to each member of the Advisory Panel and will be given to each Council member at the meeting. The matrix will display each Advisory Panel member's special interest, occupation, geographic region represented and fishery expertise.

- F-2. A Request by the Federal Republic of Germany through the European Economic Community for 1980 Quota off Alaska of 16,000 Metric Tons.

In February we received a letter from Mr. Bernhard Rolfes of the Federal Republic of Germany asking the Council for their view of their 1980 quota request for 16,000 metric tons off Alaska. I responded on February 20th and explained their request would be brought to the attention of the Council at our meeting on March 26th. The request is probably related to (1) additional quotas which may be available as a result of the USSR allocations and (2) the concept of special allocations for those countries that offer reciprocal market potentials. No mention is made in the letter of the market potential, only the quota request relative to "the Afganistan-Crisis."

F-3. Akutan, Akun Islands proposed 12 mile closure as a joint venture permit restrictions.

Our recommended restrictions on foreign joint venture vessel operations in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands was submitted shortly after the January Council meeting. We also later (by telegram) encouraged a more expeditious handling of our recommendations after the February Council meeting to which we have now received a March 4th reply from Terry Leitzell. We now have until April 10th to comment on their reply which rejects one recommendation and delays the other by publishing it in the Federal Register for comment.

The letter concludes that the area restriction was not necessary to prevent substantial harm to a fishery resource. Therefore, they (NMFS) have followed the formal procedures for "modifying foreign fishing permits for purposes of conservation and management as specified in Section 611.3 (i) (2), the Foreign Fishing Regulations," by publishing the proposed modifications in the Federal Register for 30 days. Additionally, the letter conveyed their rejection of our herring recommendations because they felt "a sufficient herring reserve existed in the plan and could be reapportioned to the domestic annual harvest to cover any incidental herring taken later in the year in the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries." The letter from Leitzell and the referenced Federal Register notice are enclosed for your review. We may wish to comment further on both points after hearing from the management plan drafting team, the AP, SSC and other interested parties.

F.4. Limited Entry Report

On March 13 - 14th in Juneau, we held a meeting of the Limited Entry Working Group. I intend to report on the meeting and present any of the findings of the working group that would require Council consideration.

G. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

(Executive Director, SSC, AP and other staff comments may be scheduled. Preregistered public comments scheduled following each item.)

G-1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP:

The Management Plan Drafting Team has met in Seattle and has commented on the proposed amendments which have been submitted for this plan over the last year. The prepared agenda material will list all of the proposed amendments to the plan which have been received over the last year and will include comments on each by the Management Plan Drafting Team. Because this amendment package will constitute our "annual" amendments to the plan, public hearings are probably appropriate. These could be piggybacked with public hearings on the Bering Sea Groundfish amendments and could be held in Seattle, Kodiak, Anchorage and/or Dutch Harbor. Probably between April 7th and April 15th we could schedule the hearings.

A release of reserves was postponed for the Gulf at our last meeting and will be addressed at this meeting. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be on hand to comment on the status of the foreign fisheries and the joint ventures and ADF&G will be on hand to comment on the status of the domestic fisheries. From those pieces of information we should be able to project the domestic catches and determine whether a total or partial release of reserves appears justified.

G-2. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP:

The Management Plan Drafting Team met in Seattle to discuss annual amendments and has prepared comments on those proposals which have been submitted to the Council over the past year. The agenda material will contain a list of all the amendments proposed to this plan and comments on those amendments by the Drafting Team. The plan probably won't be implemented until mid to late April. The amendments surfaced at the Council meeting will be submitted for public review and comment before the April Council meeting. At the April meeting an annual amendment package should be approved by the Council and submitted for this plan. Any public hearings held on these amendments could be piggybacked with those proposed for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan and could be held between April 7th and April 15th in Seattle, Anchorage, Kodiak and/or Dutch Harbor.

A significant release of reserves is scheduled for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery. We expect NMFS and ADF&G to be on hand and report on the status of the foreign fishery and joint venture fisheries and domestic fisheries. From that information we should be able to project anticipated domestic needs and comment on the proposed release of reserves.

G-3. Tanner Crab off Alaska FMP:

There has been some confusion regarding amendment No. 5 to the Tanner Crab Plan. It had not been approved until last week by the NOAA/NMFS Policy Group and we expect a notice to appear in the Federal Register of the proposed implementing regulations soon. However, National Marine Fisheries Service recommended the Department of State make a final allocation of 7,500 metric tons of Tanner crab north of 58° to the Japanese on February 3rd. We learned of this decision in early March in response to inquiries from the industry regarding the status of the amendment and of the foreign allocation.

For the March meeting, we are proposing an amendment to the Tanner crab plan to provide for an inseason field-order biological closing of the C. opilio season. The issue is complicated and obviously involves the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We are scheduled to meet with them to discuss this matter on Thursday, March 27th from 8:30 to noon. The Tanner Crab Management Plan Drafting Team will meet in Anchorage on March 17th to discuss this amendment as well as other related issues: i.e., (1) an assessment of the biological effects of different pot storage alternatives in the Bristol Bay Pot Sanctuary area, and (2) a background paper on the need to remove the gear from the grounds ahead of king crab season, analyzing enforcement rationale, mortality considerations and fuel/cost problems.

On Saturday, March 29th, we have been invited to join the Board of Fisheries in a Workshop/Roundtable discussion of past, present and future crab management strategies and philosophies. The Board will be recessed and we should be adjourned so the meeting is voluntary but could prove quite interesting and helpful in identifying the areas of mutual concern of the Board and Council for the long range management prospects for the crab fisheries.

G-4. High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175 Degrees East Longitude FMP:

Much has been happening with our proposed amendment to the High Seas Troll Salmon Fishery Management Plan although we

have received no formal word. We understand the amendment has been greeted less than enthusiastically by NOAA/NMFS in Washington, D.C. and that the ban on handtrolling will not be accepted for the same reasons it was rejected last year, i.e., a violation of National Standard 4. They have also judged our environmental assessment inadequate or inappropriate and have requested a full supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed amendment. Last, their approval of the amendment appears conditional on our intent to adopt a resolution (or declaration) at the Council meeting clearly stating our intent to adopt a conservative management approach to the chinook troll salmon fishery for 1980. NMFS has apparently determined that the management plan contains sufficient flexibility to allow and incorporate conservative management measures; i.e., to implement a conservative chinook quota in the FCZ. It is also important to note that Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, has taken an active interest in this plan and the amendment and has commented extensively on Columbia River chinook conservation problems.

We plan a meeting of the Management Plan Drafting Team in Anchorage March 19th to address several issues: (1) the biological rationale for the "heads-on" amendment (2) consideration of the minority report filed by Gordon Sandison, Director of the Washington Department of Fisheries, (3) an evaluation of the request to consider implementing a chinook quota, and (4) an evaluation of the handtroll issue.

This matter is on the SSC and AP agendas and we should expect reports from them during the Council meeting. Additionally, we will meet jointly with the Board of Fisheries to discuss this matter, Friday morning 8:30 to noon. At that time, we intend to review staff reports, entertain public comments and then discuss the areas of mutual concern with the Board.

When we receive a formal communication on our amendment we may comment on any rejection or partial rejection of our amendment. In addition, the issue of a Council resolution (or declaration) of "conservative-intent" will be raised as will the discussion of our longer term relationship with the Pacific Council and any proposed comprehensive chinook salmon plan.

G-5. Bering/Chukchi Sea Herring Draft FMP:

The comment period on the Herring Plan expired for the last time on March 15th; after three time extensions. In all, public hearings were held in Nome, Kotzebue, Unalakleet, Anchorage, Kodiak, Bethel, Dillingham and Hooper Bay. The Herring Management Plan Drafting Team will meet in Anchorage

on March 18th to discuss all of the comments received on the plan and any modifications that may have precipitated with the plan as a result of the comments. We expect to include in your agenda material, a summarized list of all comments on the plan as well as an outline of any proposed changes to the plan as a result of the comments. Approval of the plan is scheduled for the April Council meeting.

At this meeting we also expect a presentation from Pat Travers on the status of the "herring-injunction" and any new proposals or resubmission of the foreign regulations.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H-1. April Council Meeting.

The April meeting has been scheduled for April 24th and 25th in Anchorage.

H-2. May Council Meeting.

The May Council meeting is scheduled for Kodiak on May 22nd and 23rd. Housing, airline schedules and other accommodations are tight so we are asking for an early indication for those who intend to come. At the present time it appears that we may be able to cancel the June meeting but will remain flexible.

H-3. Other New Business as Necessary.

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM

Joint Meetings with the Alaska Board of Fisheries for Thursday and Friday mornings, March 27 and 28th.

We have three basic issues to discuss with the Board of Fisheries: Tanner crab, troll salmon and as time permits, herring. On Thursday, March 27th, from 8:30 until noon, we will meet with the Board to discuss Tanner crab. The schedule calls first for staff presentations on the fishery and the resource. Next is a period for public comment on the proposed amendment and related pot storage issues. The remainder of the morning will be spent discussing the matter with the Board of Fisheries. Thursday afternoon we will meet separately to discuss the proposed Tanner crab amendment and appropriate action.

On Friday morning, beginning at 8:30, we will again meet jointly with the Board of Fisheries to consider troll salmon issues and, as time permits, herring. We expect to begin with staff reports on the proposals before the Board of Fisheries and on the Council's

amendment and all of the various problems. Immediately following the staff reports will be a time for public comment. Then we intend to discuss with the Board these problems and alternative solutions. If time allows, we intend to discuss herring with the Board of Fisheries. That discussion would center on the management options in the Herring Management Plan.

A preliminary draft agenda for these joint meetings is attached.

I. REPORTS, CONTRACTS AND PROPOSALS

I-1. Announce signing of two contracts: The Development and Enhancement of a Computerized Fisheries Information System and The Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Study.

I-2. A Draft Solicitation for proposal for work associated with the Troll Salmon FMP.

We hope to have a draft solicitation for proposal for work needed on the Troll Salmon Plan. This proposal will request an overview statement of the status of the west coast chinook stocks; the known availability and reliability of data on those stocks; the practicability of known, available and alternative management measures to conserve chinook stocks; the needed coordination and cooperation between Alaska, British Columbia and the Pacific Council on the management of chinook stocks; the comprehensive west coast salmon plan; and coordination needed with the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

I-3. Other.

J. FINANCE REPORT

There is no scheduled Finance Committee meeting at this time.

K. GENERAL COMMENTS

L. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS

M. ADJOURNMENT

* * * SPECIAL NOTE * * *

On Saturday, March 29th, a Workshop sponsored by the Alaska Board of Fisheries has been scheduled to discuss crab management strategies. We understand a panel discussion will include Clem Tillion, Don Bevan, Jerry Reeves, Rich Marasco, Jack Lechner, Nick Szabo, a processor representative, and others.

We will be adjourned but it should be an interesting discussion. I would encourage attendance if you possibly can stay over.

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA
JOINT MEETING, MARCH 27 - MARCH 28, 1980
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES & NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MGMT. COUNCIL

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.:

(Subject: Tanner Crab in the Bering Sea: the closing date for the Tanner crab *C. opilio* season in the Bering Sea and related pot storage issues.)

- Introductions by Chairmen Clement V. Tillion and Nick Szabo.
- Staff reports.
- Public testimony.
- Council/Board discussion.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.:

(Subject: Chinook Conservation issues in the offshore troll Salmon fishery off southeast Alaska.)

- Introductory comments.
- Staff reports.
- Public testimony.
- Council/Board discussion.

(Subject: Bering - Chukchi Sea Herring management options.)

--AS TIME PERMITS--

- Introductory remarks.
- Staff reports.
- Public testimony.
- Council/Board discussion.

STATE OF ALASKA

BOARD OF GAME
BOARD OF FISHERIES
C/O DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SUBPORT BUILDING, JUNEAU 99801

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA SCHEDULE, MARCH 26 - MARCH 29, 1980

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes
- D. Director's Report
- E. Special Reports
- F. Old Business
 - F-1. Advisory Panel selection for two vacancies.
 - F-2. German request for 1980 quota.
 - F-3. J/V "Akutan, Akun" Islands area closures.
 - F-4. Limited Entry report.
- G. Fishery Management Plans
 - G-1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP.
 - G-2. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.
 - G-3. Tanner Crab FMP - briefing.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 8:30 A.M. - NOON:
(Joint meeting with Board of Fisheries)

- G-3. Tanner Crab FMP.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

- G-3. Tanner Crab FMP.
- G-4. Troll Salmon FMP - briefing.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 8:30 A.M. - NOON:
(Joint meeting with Board of Fisheries)

- G-4. Troll Salmon FMP.
- G-5. Herring FMP.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

- G-4. Troll Salmon FMP.
- G-5. Herring FMP.
- H. New Business
- I. Reports, Contracts and Proposals
- J. Finance Report
- K. General Comments
- L. Chairman's Closing Comments
- M. Adjournment

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

Joint workshop with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on crab management strategies.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

COUNCIL AGENDA AND SCHEDULE, MARCH 26 - MARCH 29, 1980

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes
- D. Director's Report
- E. Special Reports
- F. Old Business . . . ACTION REQUIRED
 - F-1. Advisory Panel selection for two vacancies.
 - F-2. German request for 1980 quota.
 - F-3. J/V "Akutan, Akun" Islands area closures.
 - F-4. Limited Entry report.
- G. Fishery Management Plans
 - G-1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP . . . ACTION REQUIRED
 - G-2. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP . . . ACTION REQUIRED
 - G-3. Tanner Crab FMP . . . BRIEFING

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 8:30 A.M. - NOON:

*** (Joint with Board of Fisheries) ***

The Council will join the Board to hear staff reports and public testimony on the State's Bering Sea crab proposals.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

- G-3. Tanner Crab FMP . . . DISCUSSION
- G-4. Troll Salmon FMP . . . BRIEFING

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 8:30 A.M. - NOON:

*** (Joint with Board of Fisheries) ***

- G-3. Tanner Crab FMP . . . DISCUSSION
- G-4. Troll Salmon FMP . . . DISCUSSION
- G-5. Herring FMP . . . DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.:

- G-3. Tanner crab . . . ACTION REQUIRED
- G-4. Troll Salmon FMP . . . ACTION REQUIRED
- G-5. Herring FMP . . . INFORMATIONAL

- H. New Business
- I. Reports, Contracts and Proposals
- J. Finance Report
- K. General Comments
- L. Chairman's Closing Comments
- M. Adjournment

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 8:30 A.M. - NOON

Joint workshop with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on crab management strategies.

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March 24, 1980

SSC AGENDA March 24 - 25, 1980

Monday, 1 p.m., March 24

● Troll Salmon FMP (G-4)

- Status report on the Troll Salmon FMP amendments
- Review and recommendations on the NMFS proposals for the conservation of chinook (1)
- Review of the report to the Council on the joint SSC meeting in Seattle (2)
- Review of amendments with the Plan Drafting Team.
 - 'Heads-on' issue (3)
- Report to the SSC on the troll salmon tag recovery contract (4)
- Review and recommendation on a draft RFP for coastwide coordination and analyses for the Troll Salmon FMP (5)

● King Crab FMP (Draft)

- Report to the SSC of the SSC/PDT meeting in Seattle
- Report on the status of the draft King Crab Plan
- Discussion on the issue of preparing a Bering Sea King Crab Plan
- Recommendations to the King Crab PDT

● Tanner Crab FMP (G-3)

- Review report on PDT meeting in Anchorage to discuss C. opilio season closing date, pot storage alternatives and the need to have gear off the ground prior to opening of king crab season; recommendations to Council

Tuesday, March 25

● Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP (G-1)

- Review of amendments with the Plan Drafting Team

- Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP (G-2)
 - Review of amendments with the Plan Drafting Team
 - Review of PDT report on groundfish resources around Akutan and Akun (F-3); recommendations to Council
- Herring FMP (Draft) (G-5)
 - Report on PDT/SSC meeting to discuss public comments on the draft FMP
- Clam FMP (Draft)
 - Report of last PDT meeting
 - Review of plan development schedule
- Petition from Environmental Defense Fund to amend FCMA Guidelines (N)
 - Review and recommendations
- Halibut Limited Entry Proposal
 - Report from the Limited Entry Work Group (F-4)
 - Review of Responses to RFP
- Socioeconomic Data Needs Committee (O)
 - Review of report and proposals
 - Discussion of proposals in relation to 1981 research priorities and programmatic budget; recommendations to Council
- SSC Membership
 - Election of alternates for Steve Pennoyer and George Rogers
 - Election of second Vice-Chairman

ADVISORY PANEL AGENDA
MARCH 25, 1980

The Advisory Panel will convene Tuesday, March 25th in the Alaska Room of the Anchorage Westward/Hilton Hotel at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF ADVISORY PANEL AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER/JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AP MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

E. SPECIAL REPORTS

F. OLD BUSINESS

F-2. A Request by the Federal Republic of Germany through the European Economic Community for 1980 Quota off Alaska of 16,000 Metric Tons.

F-3. Akutan, Akun Islands proposed 12 mile closure as a joint venture permit restriction.

F-4. Limited Entry Report.

G. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

G-1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP.

G-2. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP.

G-3. Tanner Crab off Alaska FMP.

G-4. High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175 degrees east longitude FMP.

G-5. Bering/Chukchi Sea Herring Draft FMP:

H. NEW BUSINESS

H-2. May Council Meeting.

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM

Joint Meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries for Thursday and Friday mornings, March 27 and 28th.

**** SPECIAL NOTE ****

On Saturday, March 29th, a workshop has been scheduled for the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Council to discuss the broad philosophical concerns of crab management strategies, fisheries on mixed stocks and Council/Board coordination. Attendance is encouraged.