

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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DRAFT AGENDA  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMET COUNCIL  
25th PLENARY SESSION  
Anchorage Westward-Hilton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska  
May 24-25, 1979

The Council will meet Thursday and Friday, May 24th and 25th in the Kenai-Aleutian Room of the Anchorage Westward-Hilton Hotel. The Council meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. both days.

The Advisory Panel will meet on Wednesday, May 23rd in the Kenai Room of the Westward at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet in the conference room at the Council offices in the Post Office Mall Building beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 22nd and again on May 23rd.

The public comment period is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 24th.

## AGENDA

1. Draft Agenda
2. February 22-23 and March 22-23, 1979 Council Minutes
3. Executive Director's Report
4. ADF&G Report
5. NMFS Report
6. U.S. Coast Guard Report
7. Scientific & Statistical Committee Report
8. Advisory Panel Report
9. Draft FMP/DEIS for the Herring Fishery in the Bering/Chukchi Sea - Sent to All Council members April 20.

A Scientific and Statistical Committee review group has gone through the plan and will go over their recommendations with the SSC on May 22 - 23. The Council needs to review the FMP objectives and management measures and give further direction to the Team for re-drafting. The Council should be in a position to OK it for public review at the June meeting.

10. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP - Rattail OY

There does not appear to be any administrative remedy for allowing a take of rattail outside the "other species" OY. An amendment to the Gulf Groundfish FMP has been drafted setting OY for rattails at 13,000 plus tons for the Gulf to take care of the incidental catch in the sablefish longline fishery. This is a Council decision item at this meeting.

11. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP - Release of Reserve

Following the May 2nd review the Regional Director has not made a final decision on further reserve releases. At the moment 75% of the original reserve is intact. Another reserve release is scheduled for July 2nd. The Council may want to make a recommendation for action on that release date. The recommendation can be delayed until the June 28 - 29 meeting.

12. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP - Conflicts between State and Federal regulations.

When the fishery management unit (FMU) for the GOA FMP was developed, we overlooked some of those areas inside the Alexander archipelago that are defined by the U.S. State Department as international waters. Since State groundfish regulations are more restrictive than federal regulations there is some potential for conflict in what the State considers inside waters, such as Chatham Straits. Re-definition of the FMU may be necessary to solve this problem. The problem also exists in the Tanner crab and salmon FMP's. A Council decision on the approach to use is needed at this meeting.

13. Tanner Crab FMP

Scientists at the NWAFC have indicated the Tanner crab stocks (mostly C. opilio) north of 58°N may be overfished by the Japanese this summer. Last summer's resource survey indicates a drastic shift (south) in the distribution and abundance of C. opilio creating this overfishing potential. Also it appears that the U.S. fishery could harvest upwards of 20,000,000 pounds of opilio south of 58°. A Council decision on cutting the TALFF or allowing some change in fishing area for Japan may be necessary at this meeting.

14. FMP/EIS for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery

The section dealing with openings and closures to foreign fishing around the Aleutian Islands was reserved in this FMP. The Japanese trawl and longline industry groups asked for a delay so they could reach an agreement between themselves on that area. It does not appear that they have done so but the Council will have at least two proposals to consider at this meeting. Action is required on this agenda item so the section can be included with the rest of the ongoing Secretarial review of the FMP.

15. Report from the DAH Working Group

The Council working group headed by George Rogers met in Seattle on May 7th to begin discussion of better methods of assessing DAH and DAP. A preliminary report is expected from them at this Council meeting. Council recommendations on the 'Processor Preference' regulations are needed at this meeting. The review period has been extended until June 4.

16. Troll Salmon FMP

Lorry Nakatsu and members of the Pacific Council's salmon group will make a presentation on the status of west coast salmon stocks, the Pacific Council's FMP for salmon and the relationship of that FMP to the North Pacific Council's salmon plan.

NOAA Administrator Frank signed off on the North Pacific Council's High Seas Salmon Plan on May 3rd, approving all but the ban on hand trolling in the FCZ. Controlling expansion of hand trollers offshore must apparently be approached in some other fashion. The possibilities include limited entry for hand trollers under a Council plan or season and area closures for both hand and power trollers offshore. The possibility of instituting a limited entry system for hand trollers by the Council has been advertised for this Council meeting and the Council can act legally on instituting such a system at this meeting.

17. Council consideration of possible changes in the FCMA

Congress has set oversight hearings on the FCMA for June 25th and 26th and two more days in mid-July (not yet identified). A Council working group will meet in Seattle on May 14th to prepare a list of suggestions for Council consideration. Council action is needed at this meeting if the Chairman is to testify at any of the oversight hearings.

18. Report on FMP Development Workshop, Anchorage, May 3 - 4.

Mr. Meacham, the Council staff, NMFS representatives from the Region and the Northwest Center and ADF&G members met with the workgroup from NMFS, Washington on May 3rd and 4th. The subject of discussion was the management plan development process and framework or matrix FMP's that would allow changes by regulation rather than plan amendment. Council discussion of these subjects is desirable at this meeting to develop a position for the Chairman and Executive Director to carry back to the Chairmen's Meeting in Pennsylvania in mid-June.

19. Council Contracts

Status report on existing Council contracts with a recommendation for extensive revision of the contract with ADF&G for development of a fisheries information system. Council decision required on revision or amendment of the existing contract.