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J.M.M.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center  
Resource Ecology & Fisheries Management  
2725 Montlake Blvd. East  
Seattle, WA 98112

June 21, 1977

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P.O. Box 3136 DT  
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Elmer:

With regard to the Draft Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery, I would like to offer one additional comment concerning Options II-A and II-B, which deal with the priority of groundfish management objectives (Section 8.1; pp. 256-7).

In asking the Council to choose whether halibut protection or domestic trawl fishery development should be of higher priority, the Management Team did not mean to infer that the management plan should follow one extreme or the other. We are instead asking for guidance on which way and how far to lean.

Regardless of the option chosen, the Team will (unless otherwise instructed by the Council) endeavor to develop a plan that recognizes both needs even though it favors one element over the other, rather than stressing one to the exclusion of the other.

Most sincerely,

/s/ Bert  
H. A. Larkins  
Leader, Groundfish Management Team

cc: Branson  
SSC (Alverson)