

## Executive Director's Report

### Board-Council Joint Committee Meeting

The joint committee will meet in Anchorage on July 29-30. Board representatives include Dan Coffey, Larry Engel, and Ed Dersham. Council members include Kevin O'Leary, Robin Samuelsen, and Dennis Austin. We do not have an agenda quite yet, but it could include a wrap-up on current management activities, revisions made at this meeting to the scallop and crab plans, a summary of the local area plan for Sitka, and discussions of proposals received by the Board on additional local area plans. I will place a notice in the June newsletter on the specifics of the agenda.

### Council Chairmen's Meeting

Regional Council chairmen, vice-chairs and executive directors will meet July 13-15. Tentative agenda items include the Council administrative handbooks, recusal regulations, update on Sustainable Fisheries Act requirements, NMFS guidelines for vessel buyback programs, carryover of funding from one year to the next, and status of Pacific pelagics management. We will report the results of the meeting to you in October.

### October Council Meeting

We meet in Seattle at the Doubletree at SeaTac Airport the week of October 5th. It could prove to be a long meeting, considering the number of items shown in the attached three-meeting outlook. The AP and SSC will begin on Monday, the Council on Wednesday. We will go the full weekend.

### National Standard Lawsuit

Several environmental organizations have filed a lawsuit against NMFS for their guidelines on the national standards. Specific concerns include (1) the portion of the guidelines that allow weak stock to be overfished in a mixed stock fishery so long as the stock did not become endangered; and (2) provisions that allow a Council to balance the requirement to avoid and minimize bycatch against net benefits to the nation. The organizations fear that the guidelines will allow fishery managers to suggest that the best way to maximize net benefits to the nation is not to decrease bycatch, but to increase it in conjunction with harvesting fish that have great economic intent.

I will have copies of the guidelines and the lawsuit available in Dutch Harbor.

**NPFMC: Three-Meeting Outlook\***

June '98 8/Dutch Harbor	October '98 5/Seattle	December '98 7/Anchorage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFQ/CDQ Fee/Loan Program: Status Report</li> <li>• Total weight measurement: Discussion</li> <li>• Pollock/YFS scales &amp; bins: Report</li> <li>• SFA Compliance: Status Report</li> <li>• VBA/HMAP/IVCP Committee: Report</li> <li>• Atka mackerel apportionment: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Essential Fish Habitat: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Cape Edgecombe Pinnacles Closure: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• BSAI Pollock CDQ: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Multi-species CDQ Program: Status Report</li> <li>• Inshore/Offshore 3: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Observer Program &amp; JPA Report and Final Action to extend current program</li> <li>• Halibut DMRs: review IPHC recommendations</li> <li>• Prohibit BSAI pollock bottom trawls: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Groundfish, scallop, salmon &amp; crab Overfishing Definitions: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• OY/MSY groundfish definitions: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• LLP Amendments: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• Moratorium rollover: <i>Final Action</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFQ Amendments: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• IFQ/CDQ Fee/Loan Program: Council comment</li> <li>• Weighmaster Proposal: Report</li> <li>• Halibut GHL Discussion Paper</li> <li>• Local area management plan proposals: Review</li> <li>• Sablefish Rolling Closures: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• SFA Compliance: Status Report</li> <li>• Ecosystem Management: Status Report</li> <li>• VBA/HMAP/IVCP Committee: Status Report</li> <li>• Social/economic data: Status Report</li> <li>• IR/TU Regulatory Amendments: <i>Initial Review/Report</i></li> <li>• W/C GOA Fair Start: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• W/C GOA Committee: Report</li> <li>• GOA Communities Request: Review</li> <li>• Multi-species CDQ Program: Status Report</li> <li>• Observer Program: Status Report</li> <li>• GOA MRB Pacific cod/ATF: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• GOA DSR Rockfish Retention: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• Halibut DMRs: review IPHC recommendations</li> <li>• Crab SAFE Review</li> <li>• Groundfish Specs for 1999 BSAI/GOA: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• Annual Amendment Proposals: Review &amp; direction</li> <li>• Chinook Bycatch Control: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• OY/MSY groundfish definitions: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Scallop Limited Entry: <i>Initial Review</i></li> <li>• LLP Amendments: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Crab Buyback Program: Report &amp; direction</li> <li>• Draft SEIS for groundfish: Status Report</li> <li>• EGOA Boundary Change: Status Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halibut Subsistence: Discussion</li> <li>• IR/TU Regulatory Amendments: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• W/C GOA Fair Start: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• GOA MRB Pacific cod/ATF: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• GOA DSR Rockfish Retention: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Groundfish Specs for 1999 BSAI/GOA: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Chinook Bycatch Control: <i>Final Action</i></li> <li>• Scallop Limited Entry: <i>Final Action</i></li> </ul>
<b>IPHC/Council Joint Meeting</b>		

\* Note: This tentative timeline will be updated periodically, particularly after each Council meeting, as the Council works through its decision process.

MRB = maximum retainable bycatch; ATF = arrowtooth flounder; SRRE = shortraker/rougeye rockfish; GHL = guideline harvest level  
DSR = demersal shelf rockfish; HMAP = Halibut Mortality Avoidance Program; IVCP = Individual Vessel Checklist Program