

Executive Director's Report

New Staff Reports Aboard

As I mentioned in June, we have hired Dr. Russell Harding to fill our economist position. He is from New Zealand and reported aboard in August. He has just completed his doctoral studies there, focusing on the implementation of IFQ systems for their multi-species groundfish fisheries. He had a major hand in developing the system, both from a government and industry perspective. He will play a major role in development of the comprehensive rationalization program envisioned in the inshore-offshore decision, and in writing up the implementation plan for sablefish and halibut IFQs if those systems are approved by the Council at this meeting.

Secondly, we have hired Jess Grunblatt on a half-time basis to be our database manager/computer assistant and shape up the fisheries databases required for the analyses of the comprehensive rationalization program. He holds a Masters in natural resource planning and remote sensing, and has ten years of specialization in the design and implementation of complex, natural resource databases focusing on natural resource evaluation and management. He is an expert in GIS, the geographic information system, and statistical analysis. For the past four years he has been a systems analyst and senior technical expert to the Government of Kenya, and was stationed in Nairobi.

Meeting Places

We have firmed up hotel arrangements for the January 13-17, 1992 meeting. We will be meeting at the Hilton Hotel in beautiful downtown Portland overlooking the Willamette River. Judy will be sending you reservation cards soon.

The Council still needs to select a site for its June 1993 out-of-town meeting. For 1993 we will be in Anchorage for January, April and September, and in Seattle in December.

Bering Sea Crab Survey

Though the report of the Bering Sea crab survey has been postponed to December, item B-1(a) summarizes the status of the stocks as we head into 1992. Bob Otto will be with us in December for the complete report.

Saltonstall-Kennedy Research

Item B-1(b) is a news release from NMFS request for suggestions for the types of research and development projects that should be considered for S/K funding. The funding for 1992 is unknown, but was about \$5.4 million in 1991. The Council may want to suggest its preferences for research.

ADF&G Representatives to the Plan Team

Item B-1(c) contains new nominations to the plan teams from ADF&G. The Council needs to formally approve the nominations. The SSC will have their recommendations available for the Council's executive session on Wednesday.



National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
P.O. Box 1638
Kodiak, Alaska 99615-1638
(907)487-4961 fax (907)487-4960

20 September 1991

Dr. Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Dr. Pautzke,

The accompanying document is the Executive Summary from the Report to Industry on the 1991 NMFS eastern Bering Sea (EBS) Crab Survey. It details the results of population abundance estimates for all commercially valuable species of crab in the EBS. The Report itself will not be available until sometime in October 1991. I am forwarding this copy to you now so that the NPFMC will have the most up-to-date information possible at this time. If you have any questions about these data or need more information, please contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley G. Stevens".

Bradley G. Stevens, PhD.
Supervisory Fishery Biologist
Ph. (907) 487-4961
FAX (907) 487-4960

cc: Dr. Robert Otto, NMFS Kodiak
Dr. Gary Stauffer, NMFS Seattle

RESULTS OF THE 1991 NMFS BERING SEA CRAB SURVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following is a summary of conclusions presented in the NMFS Processed report titled "Report to Industry on the 1991 Eastern Bering Sea Crab Survey". All numbers given are estimated total abundance of crabs, plus or minus a percentage which represents an approximate confidence interval of 95%. All estimates were compared to those of the previous year by t-test, and values of t greater than 2 were considered significant. Note that for some groups of crabs, especially blue king crabs, the variance of the data, as indicated by the confidence interval, is so great that large changes from last year may not be deemed statistically significant. Such changes are considered to be below the ability of the survey to detect. GHL = Guideline Harvest Level, as determined by the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

For questions about these data, contact Dr. Bradley G. Stevens or Dr. Robert Otto, NMFS, P.O. Box 1638, Kodiak, AK 99615. Phone (907) 487-4961.

Red king crab (*Paralithodes camtschatica*) All districts combined.

Legal males: 12.0 million \pm 36%; Non-significant decrease of 29%.
 Pre-recruits: No significant change.
 Large Females: No significant change.
 Outlook: Population remains stable at moderate levels.
 GHL: 18.0 million lbs.

Pribilof Islands blue king crab (*P. platypus*) Pribilof District.

Legal males: 1.0 million \pm 70%; Non-significant increase of 147%.
 Pre-recruits: No significant change.
 Large Females: No significant change.
 Outlook: Population low but may be increasing; trends not detectable.
 GHL: Fishery closed for 1991.

St. Matthew blue king crab (*P. platypus*) Northern District.

Legal males: 2.17 million \pm 35%; Non-significant increase of 31%.
 Pre-recruits: Non-significant increase of 100%
 Large Females: Non-significant increase of 250%.
 Outlook: Population appears average and stable or increasing.
 GHL: 3.2 million lbs.

Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes bairdi*) Eastern District.

Legal males: 35.1 million \pm 35%; Non-significant decrease of 22%.
Pre-recruits: (All districts) Non-significant increase of 37%.
Large Females: (All districts) Non-significant increase of 27%.
Outlook: Population moderately high and stable.
Expect continued high recruitment in future.
GHL: 32.8 million lbs.

Tanner crab (*C. opilio*) All districts combined.

Large males: 484.1 million \pm 29%; Non significant increase of 15%.
Pre-recruits: Significant decrease of 32%.
Large Females: Non-significant increase of 28%.
Outlook: Overall population high and stable. High recruitment due to growth of pre-recruits into large sizes.
GHL: 400.0 million lbs.

Hair crab (*Erimacrus isenbeckii*)

Large males: 0.65 million \pm 57%; Non-significant increase of 18%.
Large Females: No significant change.
Outlook: Population above average and improving due to recent pre-recruitment. No directed fishery.
GHL: None Projected.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

Agenda B-1(b)
September 1991

September 17, 1991



Dr. Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Clarence,

We are beginning the 1992 Saltonstall-Kennedy grant process. Our first step is defining areas where research should be conducted to improve U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries, particularly those in Alaska and in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coast of Alaska. Accordingly, we are asking you and others for suggestions. I am enclosing a copy of our news release on this subject.

At this time, NMFS does not know the level of funding that will be available for S-K projects in 1992. If the amount in 1991 can serve as a reference point, NMFS had about \$5.4 million for funding new projects. (The exact amount and the projects funded have not yet been determined.)

Our deadline for submitting the NMFS Alaska Region's recommendations to NMFS Headquarters is 15 October; thus, to ensure we consider your suggestions, I am requesting that you submit them to me by 04 October 1991.

I recommend you make your suggestions specific and narrow in scope so we can request tightly focused proposals. I have enclosed a list of the 16 areas in which NMFS requested proposals in 1991. (More details are contained in a Federal Register notice of 22 March 1991 (56 FR 12186).)

Please call if you have any questions (907-586-7228). I look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Allen
for Aven M. Andersen, Ph.D.
Federal Program Manager

Enclosures: News Release
List of 1991 Areas





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

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NEWS RELEASE
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

September 16, 1991

For Immediate Release

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ASKS FOR RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is asking the public--particularly the commercial fishing industry and commercial and recreational fishermen--for suggestions on what types of research and development projects NMFS should consider funding in 1992 under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act.

Each year, the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (15 USC §713(c)(3)) provides NMFS with some funds to assist persons in carrying out research and development projects that address aspects of U.S. fisheries (commercial and recreational or personal use), including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, marketing and associated infrastructures. Funding may be provided for any fishery that is or may be engaged in by U.S. citizens or nationals, or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated State of Micronesia. The funds are derived from receipts collected under U.S. customs laws from duties on fishery products.

In 1991, NMFS considered funding projects in 16 categories (which were developed from last year's suggestions). Chief among those categories were (a) reducing bycatches, (b) resolving user conflicts, (c) improving fishery management, (d) improving aquaculture, (e) improving the use of underutilized species, (f) investigating marine pathogens and toxins, (g) resolving fraudulent business practices, (h) recovering products from fish processing wastes, (i) compiling nutritional data on fishery products, (j) developing a universal product code for shellfish,



- (k) obtaining information for shark fishery management plans, and
- (l) controlling shellfish transfers.

The amount of funding available for Saltonstall-Kennedy projects in 1992 has not yet been determined, but should be known by early 1992. In 1991, about \$5.4 million, was available and NMFS received 193 proposals for consideration.

Please submit any suggestion for S-K research or development to Aven Andersen, S-K Program Officer, NMFS, P.O. Box 021668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668. For more information, telephone 907-586-7228.

SUGGESTIONS FOR S-K FUNDED RESEARCH

I suggest that NMFS use 1992 Saltonstall-Kennedy funds to support research in the following area or areas:

_____ Methods for reducing bycatches.

_____ By modifying gear (examples: trawl design, pot design, mesh configurations, bycatch exclusion or separation devices).

_____ By providing better information on the locations of target and bycatch species.

_____ By obtaining better information on mortality rates of species caught but returned to the sea (e.g., Pacific halibut).

_____ By obtaining better information on the reactions of bycatch species to encounters with or behaviors within various fishing gears.

_____ By holding workshops on ways to reduce bycatch.

_____ Other: _____

_____ Make Better Use of Underused Species (e.g., arrowtooth flounder, Korean hair crab, snails).

_____ Make Better Use of the Whole Harvest--Reduce Harvesting and Processing Wastes.

_____ Improve Ways of Detecting Parasites in Groundfish Fillets.

_____ Investigate Ways of Reducing Hooking Mortality of Undersized Sport-Caught Salmon.

_____ Evaluate the Effectiveness of Individual Transferrable Quotas (ITOs) or other Fishery Limiting Systems.

_____ OTHER: (Use back of page if more space is needed) _____

List of Subjects Considered in 1991.

A. Reduce Bycatch.

Develop methods for evaluating, managing, and assessing the impacts of the inadvertent capture or destruction of juvenile fishes, nontarget species, or protected species in commercial or recreational fishing operations. Studies could involve either (a) technical development, demonstration, or evaluation of fishing gear or strategies or (b) planning for the acquisition of information for managing bycatch issues or for organizing the various interest groups into a coordinated effort.

B. Resolve Fishing Conflicts.

Develop innovative approaches to resolving user conflicts, including evaluation of fishing alternatives. Conflicts deemed important for consideration are those in the driftnet, gillnet, hook-and-line, mobile-vs-fixed gear, and aquaculture-vs-traditional fisheries.

C. Manage Fisheries Better.

Assess biological, economic, and other impacts of various fishery management alternatives, including the impact of gear types, areas or times of capture, resulting product types, or market values.

D. Improve Aquaculture.

Conduct research for culturing regional living freshwater and marine resources. Areas deemed to be of particular interest are (1) differentiating cultured stocks from wild stocks, (2) assessing genetic impacts resulting from interactions between escaped pen-cultured fish and wild stocks, (3) determining the impacts of net pen culture on the marine environment, (4) improving efficiency and conserving water in closed-cycle systems, (5) improving quality of effluents, (6) assessing factors leading to toxic phytoplankton blooms, (7) develop a long-range plan for sponge culture in the South Pacific, and (8) improve methods for culturing hard clams.

E. Use Underutilized Species.

Develop innovative ways to achieve optimum yields of underutilized species (such as the arrowtooth flounder, spiny dogfish, Atlantic mackerel, hagfish, skates, and trochus snails) and from artisanal fisheries.

F. Identify and Quantify Marine Toxins and Pathogens.

Develop new methods for rapidly identifying and quantifying marine toxins and pathogenic bacteria and viruses in fish and shellfish that are of significant public health concern, for example: *Vibrio vulnificus*, Norwalk virus, paralytic shellfish poison, ciguatera, and scombrototoxin (histamine).

G. Study Marine Pathogens and the Chemistry of Toxins.

NMFS deems research in the following areas to be important: determine the distribution of *V. vulnificus* in tissues of Eastern oysters; identify the differences between "culturable" and "nonculturable" *V. vulnificus*; determine the rates of and conditions for growth of *V. vulnificus* and *V. parahaemolyticus* in tissues of oysters grown in pond culture with crustaceans; consolidate existing data on the occurrence of *V. vulnificus* in shellfish, sediments, and waters; evaluate available bioassays of brevetoxin and collect samples of fish, mollusks, and water before, during, and after a bloom of *Ptychodiscus brevis*; and help characterize semipurified ciguatoxin and maitotoxin.

H. Review Data Bases of Contaminants in Fish and Shellfish.

Identify the locations of data bases related to anthropogenic and natural chemicals, biotoxins, and microorganisms in fish and shellfish, analyze the compatibility of the data bases, and study the feasibility of forming a single data base.

I. Resolve Malpractice Issues.

Conduct studies which address economic fraud or malpractice issues in fishery products, such as species substitution, short weight, over-glazing, and short fill. Areas deemed to be important are (1) establishing a national data bank of isoelectric focusing information for all major fish and shellfish species, (2) develop a method to determine the seafood content of breaded products, and (3) determine the level of added phosphates in seafood and the relationship between phosphates and moisture content.

J. Compile Nutritional Data.

Develop nutritional data for traditional and underutilized species in raw, preprocessed, and cooked states to help industry provide the nutritional data required by the Nutritional Labeling and Education Act of 1990.

K. Universal Product Code and Identity Manual for Shellfish.

Develop a Universal Product Code for shellfish to complement the UPC for random-weight finfish and complete the shellfish identity manual.

L. Review Methods of Health-Risk Analysis.

Review all current methods of analyses related to the consumption of fishery products and prepare a demonstration project.

M. Evaluate Impacts of EC 92.

Analyze the impact of EC 92 on U.S. fishing tackle and related equipment sales, including all tariffs, standards, labelling requirements, and any nontariff barriers.

N. Gain Products from Fish-Processing Wastes.

Investigate ways of increasing the value and diversity of products from shoreside and floating processing plant waste streams.

O. Develop Shark Fisheries Management Plan.

Conduct studies in support of development of a Federal shark fishery management plan. The studies should include (1) descriptions of the current shark fisheries and their bycatches, (2) determinations of baseline costs and returns for longline fisheries which retain sharks, and (3) estimates of demand curves for shark products and recreational shark fisheries.

P. Control Shellfish Transfers.

Design and implement a training program to control the interjurisdictional transfer and introduction of shellfish for protection against pest, parasites, or diseases that could damage marine species or habitats.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

September 10, 1991

Dr. Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery
Management Council
P.O. Box 3136
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Clarence,

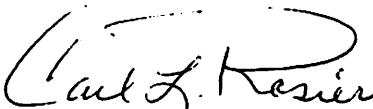
I submit the following changes in ADF&G membership on plan teams and ADF&G alternates to Scientific and Statistical Committee members. Please remove Dave Carlile from the Gulf of Alaska groundfish team, and replace Phil Rigby on the Bering Sea team with David Ackley. On the crab plan team, please replace Bill Donaldson with Bill Nippes, and Dana Schmidt with Leslie Watson. Last, please replace Gordon Kruse's alternate (Dana Schmidt) with Phil Rigby. A tabular summary of these changes is enclosed.

To a large degree, these changes are requested due to internal changes in staffing. Dana Schmidt has resigned his position as regional research supervisor of our westward region to assume a limnologist position in Soldotna. Dana's Kodiak position has not been refilled yet. We may submit a new replacement for Dana on the crab plan team, when his position is refilled. Dave Carlile has resigned his statewide groundfish biometrician position and assumed a regional biometrician position in Douglas. His headquarters position will not be refilled due to lack of funds, and we are not able to provide a replacement to refill his seat on the Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan team.

With these changes, several ADF&G staff members will be new to the council family. Therefore, I have asked the following new team members to send copies of their resumes to the council, c/o Judy Willoughby: David Ackley, Bill Nippes, and Leslie Watson.

Thank you for facilitating these changes.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner

Enclosure

Proposed Changes in ADF&G Membership on NPFMC Committees

<u>Group</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
GOA Groundfish Plan Team	Barry Bracken Dave Carlile	Barry Bracken
BS/AI Groundfish Plan Team	Phil Rigby	David Ackley
King/Tanner Crab Plan Team	Bill Donaldson Ken Griffin Peggy Murphy Dana Schmidt	Bill Nippes Ken Griffin Peggy Murphy Leslie Watson
SSC	Doug Eggers alt. Phil Rigby Gordon Kruse alt. Dana Schmidt	Doug Eggers alt. Phil Rigby Gordon Kruse alt. Phil Rigby

* Changes are in bold.