

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The plan teams have been working hard on both groundfish amendment packages since the February meeting. Through a lot of extra work, some improvements in our teleconferencing and manuscript transmitting ability, as well as some long face-to-face meetings, the teams have the amendment packages pretty well in shape. They did not get them to the scientific committee two weeks prior to this meeting as the SSC prefers; that was impossible.

Chairmen's Meeting

The Council chairmen met in Hilo, Hawaii February 23-27. Acting NOAA Administrator Tony Calio was at the meeting from the 23rd through the 26th as were Carmen Blondin, Roland Finch, Richard Roe and Howie Hockman from the Central Office of NMFS. The meeting was quite productive with the two major agenda items the reauthorization of the MFCMA and the latest draft of the Commerce Department's Inspector General's report on Council operation. The chairmen reached consensus on a number of reauthorization points (those will be covered in more detail under Agenda Item C-2) and with Administrator Calio agreed to set up a joint NMFS-Council task force to look at Council-NMFS roles and operations with their report due by the end of this year. The terms of reference for that investigation were to have been developed Sunday by the Council chairmen from the Mid-Atlantic and Gulf Councils working with Acting Director of the Management Section, Dick Roe. We should have a further report on that by Wednesday from Ron Miller who is in Washington in working with the chairmen and executive directors. Another chairmen's meeting had been called for March 25 in preparation for the House Subcommittee oversight hearings on March 26. Neither Chairman Campbell nor I were able to attend because of this Council meeting.

We have received a request from Baranof Fisheries to rescind or drop the emergency action the Council took in February to make sablefish a longline-only fishery in the Eastern Regulatory Area. Rich White, speaking for Baranof Fisheries, in the telegram [Attachment B-1(a)] says that all of the pot boats that are involved in the fishery off Alaska have agreed not to fish in the Eastern Regulatory Area for the remainder of this season. The Regional Office has verified the commitment of all known pot boat operators to abide by that promise.

The emergency order had been signed off by Calio and was ready to go to the Federal Register on Thursday, March 21. Assistant Administrator Bill Gordon is holding further action on the emergency order, however, until he receives some direction from the Council. It could be in effect next Friday if the Council asks Gordon to go ahead with the action. Chairman Campbell has asked for advice from the industry on the Council response to Gordon's request.

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1986 NMFS Budget

As the result of another commitment made by the Council chairmen at their meeting in Hilo, the Council's Finance Committee teleconferenced on March 11 to review the 1986 NMFS budget. As proposed by the Administration, it is for approximately \$90 million. The Councils were asked to examine priorities for funding at that level and then at increasing \$20 million increments to the 1985 base level of approximately \$150 million. The Finance Committee declined to do so feeling that earmarking specific items for elimination could be counterproductive, but they did indicate where they thought the priorities should be and responded to the New England Council who is going to consolidate all Council comments on the budget for use by Mr. Calio. That letter is Attachment B-1(b).

MFCMA Workgroup/Taiwanese Squid Regulations

The Council's FCMA workgroup met twice since the last Council meeting to develop a position for the Council on reauthorization. The first time before the Council chairmen's meeting to give the Chairman some direction and again after the meeting to look at the consensus positions developed in Hilo and expand this Council's concerns for separate submission to the House Subcommittee. They also reviewed draft regulations to govern the high seas squid fishery by Taiwan that had been sent to the Council by Ambassador Ed Wolfe for comment. The workgroup felt that the regulations proposed by Taiwan were not adequate and I responded to Mr. Wolfe in Attachment B-1(c) per their direction.

Other Action Items

The Council needs to take action in several areas between now and the next two meetings. Most of it can be done through existing workgroups and subcommittees.

The workgroup to develop goals and objectives for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan will meet on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to develop a plan for future action. They should continue that project in hopes that goals and objectives can be adopted by September at least. We need them for the amendment process and should have them in place for the 1986 review if at all possible.

The new AP needs to assign members to the various Council workgroups that have always included Advisory Panel members. Those subcommittees with the number of AP members assigned in the past are listed in Attachment B-1(d). The two members for the Permit Review Subcommittee should be chosen immediately since it meets on Thursday morning.

In addition to my travel to the Chairmen's Meeting in Hilo, I participated in a Sea Grant symposium on limited entry in Newport, Oregon, on March 7-8. I had been asked to describe the Council's role in the halibut management. While in Oregon I took the opportunity to address a graduate seminar on Resource Economics at Oregon State University as well as an undergraduate class in their Fisheries School. I was in La Jolla at the Southwest Fisheries Center on March 18-19 to develop a research plan for the \$1 million Congress has authorized for entanglement work this year. That does not involve the Council directly although we have worked closely with both NMFS and the Marine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mammal Commission in this area. At least some of the information derived from these research programs should be of use to the Council in fisheries management off Alaska.

The request I had received by telephone from Iceland for a direct allocation off Alaska never materialized as a official permit application. I have not had any further communication with them and don't know whether they have dropped it permanently or not. The subject has been dropped from this agenda.

We'd like you to think about changing the schedule for 1986 so that instead of holding a meeting in May, we meet the fourth week of June, i.e., June 24-26. That splits the meetings more evenly and gives the groundfish plan teams a little more time to prepare groundfish amendments for Council action at the June meeting. Amendments should still be in place in time for the next calendar year. It also shortens the time between the May and September meetings giving us a little more balance in that direction.

We've arranged to have group photos taken of the SSC, AP, staff, and Council at this meeting. The SSC, AP and staff are scheduled Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Aft Deck, and the Council at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the same room. We've arranged for a copy for each member of that group. If any of you want others, or copies of photos of other groups, please let us know. They can be arranged for a nominal fee.

Mr. Robert Gilmore has replaced Dr. Robert Putz as Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. I expect Jon Nelson to continue as the alternate for the Regional Director.

Attachment B-1(e) is the usual update on the status of FMPs.

And, finally, on a very sad note indeed, one of the gentlemen of the fishing industry died on March 14, a very old and dear friend to many of us, Sig Jaeger.

BARANOF FISHERIES
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REDMOND WA 98073 20AM



Mailgram®



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AGENDA B-1(a)
MARCH 1985

RECEIVED MAR 21 1985

JAMES O CAMPBELL CHAIRMAN
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
411 WEST 4 AVE
ANCHORAGE AK 99510

1. BLACK COD HARVESTING VESSELS BARANOF, COURAGEOUS, SALTY II AND NORTH STAR USING POT GEAR ARE NOT FISHING EAST OF 147 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE
2. ABOVE VESSELS HAVE NO INTENTION OF FISHING THE ABOVE DESCRIBED AREA OF FCZ DURING BALANCE OF CURRENT SEASON
3. THEREFORE NO EMERGENCY ACTUAL IMPLIED OR EXPRESSED EXIST
4. YOU ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE COUNCIL AND NOTIFY SECRETARY BALDRIDGE AND DIRECTOR GORDON OF THE ABOVE AND FURTHER REQUESTED TO ASK THE SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR TO NOT PROMULGATE THE EMERGENCY REGULATION

RESPECTFULLY
RICHARD C WHITE
BARANOF FISHERIES

CC: JIM BRANSON

1505 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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March 13, 1985

Mr. Douglas Marshall
New England Fishery Management Council
Suntaug Office Park
5 Broadway (Route 1)
Saugus, Massachusetts 01906

Dear Doug:

The Council's Finance Committee teleconferenced on March 11 to review the NOAA/NMFS budget. They concluded that it would not be productive to review in detail the Administration's proposal to determine which programs should be reinstated to bring it, in \$20 million increments, up to last year's level of over \$150 million. In their view any significant reductions in NMFS support would in effect reduce the agency to caretaker status, which they view as totally unacceptable and contrary to the national interest. Further, they are confident that the Congress shares this view. The Committee accepts the premise that some restructuring of services and rearrangement of priorities are in order.

The Councils, in responding to Mr. Calio's invitation to comment on the 1985 budget with respect to marine fisheries programs, would be remiss if they did not express their concern over badly overestimated cost savings in the NOAA budget. Cost savings not made will result in additional budget cuts. Science Magazine estimates the true cut in NOAA at one-third when realistically examining offsets and requests. A one-third cut in NOAA is a very serious matter which jeopardizes NOAA's ability to work with non-governmental entities and will remove NMFS as a research and management agency, retaining only its administrative and regulation development functions.

The Committee would like to express their overall impressions of what needs to be done to keep the marine fisheries resource programs of NMFS viable.

1. NMFS ORF funding should be maintained at least at this year's level of \$153 million. The 19% cut in NOAA from \$1,148 million to \$932 million is imposed mainly on NMFS, whose budget will drop 45% from 1985, even though fisheries programs were only 13% of NOAA's budget last year. Further, the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center will take a disproportionate cut of 37%. This magnitude of reduction would be a disaster now when U.S. fisheries resources are becoming fully utilized by the U.S. and research and management are needed more than ever before.

Mr. Douglas Marshall

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2. In the overall NOAA budget it is of paramount importance that there be funding for at-sea research. The deactivation of eight fisheries research vessels without commensurate increases in funding for charters will seriously cripple stock assessment surveys. Those surveys are especially critical to effective management of shellfish and groundfish stocks off Alaska. Rather than wholesale reductions in the fleet, NOAA should examine ways of increasing its cost effectiveness, possibly through changes in crew complements. Related to this are the impacts that pay cuts, grade reductions, and travel reductions associated with the Deficit Reduction Act will have on staff morale and effectiveness of NOAA/NMFS' manpower.
3. NMFS still needs to decentralize more of its operations. A significant portion of the large share currently utilized in the Washington office must be transferred to the regions where most of the work is done. There is absolutely no reason why NMFS-Washington DC should require \$24-25 million, which is nearly as high as funding in the Northeast, Southeast and Northwest Region's, and higher than the Southwest and Alaska Regions. Anything that can be saved from those funds can be better used in the field, closer to the fisheries.
4. Stock assessment and fisheries data monitoring are of highest priority and critically important in making sound fisheries management decisions. In particular, we are concerned with the \$1.078 million reduction in recruitment studies, ecosystem model development, resource surveys and related salmon research, and the \$922,000 cut in research on marine resource abundance and distribution as related to variability in atmospheric and oceanic conditions. Funds for research to support the U.S. salmon treaty with Canada must be restored and increased if we are to realize the benefits of the treaty. Funding for studies on the interception of U.S. salmon by the Japanese high-seas salmon fishery need to be restored to identify all interception problem areas with Japan if we are to successfully negotiate with them to reduce that problem. Both programs face a combined reduction of \$1.45 million if the Administration has its way. The proposed \$3.6 million reduction in economic and commercial fish statistics is also of great concern. More, not less, information will be needed to effectively conserve and manage the fisheries as they become totally U.S. utilized.
5. The regional management Councils need adequate funding. Total funding for administrative and programmatic budgets must be restored and increased to at least the \$8 million level. Management of the nation's fishery resources is becoming ever more complex as U.S. utilization increases. Domestic allocational issues in ever increasing numbers now confront the Councils and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future.
6. The anadromous and commercial fisheries grants to states should be continued at least at last year's levels. These funds support projects that deliver stock assessment and other data very economically to us through state programs. Without the grants many of the state programs on shellfish, salmon and groundfish would die for lack of matching funds.

Mr. Douglas Marshall

March 13, 1985

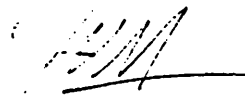
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7. Debris and gear entanglement studies should be fully funded. These were encouraged by nationally-recognized experts at a recent workshop and culminate a long period of growing public awareness of the problems with net discard. They are necessary if we are to reduce the amount of debris discarded and lost at sea that now appears to extract a heavy mortality from Pacific mammal, bird and fish populations.

In conclusion, the Committee has identified areas of particular importance to the North Pacific Council and some general changes that would help not only us but other Councils as well. Our main concern is that NMFS be funded at least at the 1985 level. Certain programs may need to be reduced to maintain higher priority ones. For example, fishery development activities within NMFS should be given lower priority. Saltonstall-Kennedy funds should not be used by NMFS for general program support as now proposed but reserved solely for development work channeled mainly through the fisheries development foundations. If any of the \$13 million now in the revised 1986 base for fishery development is available it should be reprogrammed to higher priority stock assessment work. The same could be said for the inspection program.

The Councils should do everything in their power to keep the Administration from chipping away, program-by-program, at the NMFS budget. Some internal reprogramming may be needed, some operations such as the research fleet may need streamlining, and funds should be redistributed from Washington out to the regions. But above all, the budget for fisheries programs should not be allowed to drop below \$150 million in 1986.

Sincerely,



Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

MARCH 1985

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

James O. Campbell, Chairman
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March 14, 1985

Mr. Edward Wolfe
Deputy Asst. Secretary
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs
United States Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ed:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Pacific squid fishing management regulations proposed by Taiwan. The Council's major concern is that Taiwan have enforceable regulations that minimize the incidental catch of salmon by their squid fleet.

The draft regulations you sent for our review are unacceptable in this respect. They would allow much too high a bycatch of salmon even if they were rigorously followed. We believe we should encourage Taiwan to adopt regulations similar to those now used by Japan to control her high seas squid gillnet fishery. They put an Eastern boundary on the fishery at 145°W longitude, shift the Northern boundary to follow reasonably closely the 15°C isobar and do not permit retention of salmon in that fishery in any area.

As the Council said in their February 12 letter to Bill Gordon on this subject, they endorse the approval of Taiwanese joint venture permits as soon as the Departments of State and Commerce are satisfied with the regulations and the enforcement provisions the Taiwanese propose to use to regulate the squid fishery. Their primary purpose should be to eliminate the high seas interception of salmon.

The Council would like to review the final enforcement plans and regulations from Taiwan when you are satisfied with them. They do not need to do so before the joint venture permits are issued.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim H. Branson".

Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

ADVISORY PANEL REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Finance	AP Chairman + 2
Permit Review	2
Policy and Planning	AP Chairman
Incidental Species	3

STATUS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Salmon FMP

No action is scheduled for the March meeting. In February the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Council reviewed the provisions of the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty and management options for 1985. Following the Board's lead, the Council recommended salmon troll season dates and a harvest guideline of 263,000 chinooks which includes an anticipated sport catch of about 22,000 fish. No plan amendments were necessary.

2. Herring FMP

No action is scheduled for this meeting. The Bering-Chukchi Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan was approved by the Council on September 28, 1983 for Secretary of Commerce review. In May 1984, however, the Council decided to take no further action on the plan until more scientific data become available. The data needed include winter and summer stock distribution and composition as well as offshore biomass estimates. On December 11, 1984, the Council requested the Secretary of Commerce to implement a data collection plan.

3. King Crab FMP

The Council will review the stock status and harvest projections by ADF&G and NMFS. Alaska Board of Fisheries' decisions on crab management will be reviewed to determine if amendments are necessary.

The King Crab FMP became effective December 2, 1984 but final implementing regulations will not be published until late 1985 or early 1986.

4. Tanner Crab FMP

The Council will review the stock status and harvest projections by ADF&G and NMFS, and management decisions by the Alaska Board of Fisheries to determine if amendments are necessary.

The FMP's most recent amendment, #9, was partially approved by NMFS on August 24, 1984. NMFS approved the section revising MSY and ABC, "conditionally" approved broadening the Regional Director's authority to set seasons using biological, social, and economic data using rule-related notices and a 30-day comment period, and disapproved broadening the Regional Director's field order authority to make inseason adjustments. The Regional Director has been asked to clarify the "conditional" approval and provide alternative language for the disapproved section.

5. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Council will review the proposed amendments and decision documents for approval to go out to public review. They will also clarify action taken in February on DAP trawl fisheries for sablefish to specify whether these trawlers may target on sablefish.

6. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

The Council will review the proposed amendments and decision documents for approval to go out to public review.