

Executive Director's Report

Farewells

Three Council members are moving on to other activities. This is the last meeting for CDR Joe Kyle and his boss, RADM Ciancaglini. RADM Roger T. Rufe, Jr. will take over as Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District on June 26. CDR Kyle is leaving the service to enjoy the endless days of summer in Juneau as a private consultant. Though we will miss him, we may be seeing more of him. WDF Director Joe Blum's last Council meeting was in April. He is occupied this week with shellfish negotiations in Washington State and could not make it to Sitka. I want to wish the three Councilmen well in their future endeavors. I'm happy I had the opportunity to work with them.

Elasmobranchs and Sharks

Item B-1(a) is a letter from the American Elasmobranch Society requesting the Council to develop a comprehensive shark plan. I sent it to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission which did not mince any words in their response, also under that item. Does the Council want to pursue this topic further?

Internal Waters JV Request

Oceantrawl has requested an internal waters JV request to process pink salmon. Item B-1(b) is the request for comments.

Washington Sojourn

Bob Alverson, Don Bevan and Deming Cowles circulated through Washington, D.C on May 28-29 to inform them of priority issues facing the region's fisheries. Mr. Alverson has provided an excellent report under item B-1(c). The item includes a list of critical funding needs for FY 1993. Congressman Don Young requested our input. Mr. Alverson may want to expand on his report for the information of the Council.

August Council Meeting

Just a reminder that we will start the August meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, and go through the 5th. The AP and SSC may start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday (August 3), rather than 8:00 a.m. as previously announced, so they can arrive that morning. The August meeting will be a one-issue meeting: inshore-offshore allocations.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

605 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Telephone: (907) 271-2809
FAX: (907) 271-2817

MEMORANDUM

TO: Guy Thornburgh, PSMFC
Steve Pennoyer, NMFS-AKR
Bill Aron, AFSC

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Pautzke', written over the printed name of the sender.

DATE: May 27, 1992

SUBJECT: Shark Management Plan

I'm attaching a letter from the American Elasmobranch Society regarding the need for a comprehensive fishery management plan for sharks. I would appreciate your comments on the need for the North Pacific Council to begin looking at the development of such a plan.

enclosures

MAY 15 1992

AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY

May 5, 1992



Frank Murre
President

Sea World of Florida
Animal Services
7007 Sea World Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
(407) 363-2156
FAX: (407) 363-2316

Mr. Clarence Pautcke, Executive Director
North Pacific Fish Management Council
Room 306
605 W. 4th Street
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Mr. Pautcke:

Jeffrey C. Carrier
Secretary-Editor

Department of Biology
Albion College
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Linda K. Martin
Treasurer

Monterey Bay Aquarium.
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J. A. Musick
Past-President

Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
(804) 642-7317

In August 1990, AES committee members were requested to review an Interjurisdictional Fishery Management Plan for Thresher sharks as proposed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. It was their

general consensus that, although this document was a step in the right direction, it was insufficient for management purposes. The basic concern was with a multi-layered review process which would prove cumbersome and too slow to be timely and effective. Additionally, the plan's recommendation that current fishing regulations continue unaltered was unacceptable to good management strategy. The plan also attempted to uphold individual state rights to legislate target migratory stocks.

The need to develop a comprehensive plan is indicated by the increased exploitation and utilization of other elasmobranch resources along the west coast. California is an obvious nursery ground for shortfin mako and landings of juveniles from an experimental longline fishery and as by-catch in the swordfish drift-net fishery, continue to increase. Leopard sharks are the target of both commercial and recreational interests, and a long-term skate fishery also exists, as does a fishery for angel sharks.

May 5, 1992
Page 2

In almost all instances concerning U.S. Fisheries, research on target stocks lags drastically behind the development of the fishery. By the time sufficient data are available to document the status of the resource, the resource is often in decline. The west coast Thresher shark fishery is a prime example.

While we realize that data may be insufficient to provide precise estimates of stock abundance, a management plan built with a framework for modification could provide initial conservation of the resource. There is little disagreement within the scientific community that management is needed, and good management dictates that the resource be managed from the beginning and not as crisis management as so many fishery plans begin.

In 1991 bills were introduced in the U.S. Congress in support of the conservation of species biodiversity. The Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) formed a Shark Specialist group, also in 1991, to develop a program outlining the status of shark resources worldwide. The members of AES are involved in some way in all of these endeavors. Our membership urges you to begin development of a comprehensive west coast shark management plan and would be pleased to assist in any way. Please contact me or any of our other officers at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Frank Murru
President
American Elasmobranch Society



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GUY N. THORNBURGH

PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

2501 S.W. FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 200, PORTLAND, OREGON 97201
PHONE (503) 326-7025 FAX (503) 326-7033

June 2, 1992

Mr. Frank Murru, President
American Elasmobranch Society
Sea World of Florida
Animal Services
7007 Sea World Drive
Orlando, FL 32821

Dear Mr. Murru:

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is an interstate compact representing the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. The goal of the Commission is "to promote and support policies and actions directed at the conservation, development and management of fishery resources of mutual concern to member states through a coordinated regional approach to research monitoring and utilization".

We have reviewed your letter of May 5, 1992, and while we share some of your concerns, we cannot agree with your conclusions. We specifically do not agree with your stated need for the immediate development of a comprehensive west coast shark management plan.

You have stated AES committee members reviewed the PSMFC Interjurisdictional Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for thresher shark in August of 1990. I do not recall that we received any comment from them or you indicating that the plan was in any way deficient. PSMFC was requesting suggestions and would have welcomed your input.

You indicated the FMP contained a "multi-layered review process which would prove cumbersome and too slow to be timely and effective". We are members of the North Pacific and the Pacific Fishery Management Councils. Our experience to date is that the process set out in the FMP is much more timely and less cumbersome than any such similar actions taken in the Council process.

You also expressed concern that individual state rights were acknowledged in the FMP. If your membership had more fully researched this issue you would find the FMP is working quite well. Washington and Oregon closed the driftnet fishery in their waters, and California has responded to reduce effort. The California legislature is currently considering further reductions in the fishery, to protect the shark resource. There is some anecdotal evidence that the thresher shark resource is presently increasing.

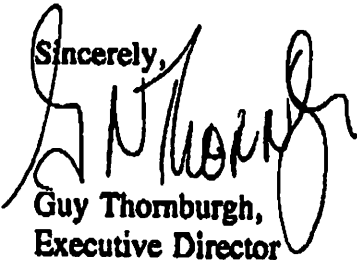
California has the vast majority of the west coast shark resource and has increasingly managed on a more conservative basis. Sharks are landed incidentally in Oregon trawl and troll fisheries but in extremely low numbers. There is virtually no sport fishery off Oregon or Washington. The state of Washington also takes very few sharks incidentally off its coast. Washington does have a directed spiny dogfish shark (*Squalus acanthias*) fishery in Puget Sound. It is conducted entirely within state waters.

PSMFC can only conclude that a comprehensive federal shark management plan is not a high priority at this time. We believe you will find the Pacific Fishery Management Council does not have the funding or manpower to take on a relatively low priority task at this time.

We do feel however there is a need for more and better information on the shark resource and fisheries. Without such information the development of a more comprehensive plan is doomed to failure. Your members could provide a valuable service to the resource and the states by working to secure funding for additional research and data acquisition to promote sound conservative management of this valuable resource.

We appreciate your members' interest in West Coast shark resources, but feel a coast wide comprehensive shark management plan is not necessary at this time.

Sincerely,

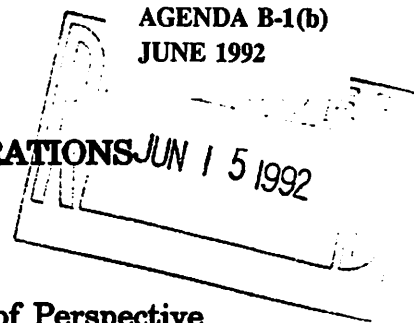


Guy Thornburgh,
Executive Director

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**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON APPLICATION
TO CONDUCT FOREIGN SEAFOOD PROCESSING OPERATIONS
IN THE INTERNAL WATERS OF ALASKA**



Oceanrawl, Inc., acting as agent for the Pacific Department of Perspective Scientific Fishing Research Fleet of Russia, and 15 members of the Prince William Sound Seiners Association have applied to the Governor of Alaska for permission to process pink salmon in the internal waters of Prince William Sound. The proposed venture has the following features:

Period of Operation: July 25 to September 15, 1992.

Processing: Pink salmon will be frozen whole and/or gutted head-on and extracted fish roe by one Russian factory trawler with a daily capacity of 70 metric tons. The proposed location of the vessel is the southwest district of Area E - likely Crab Bay, Port San Juan, and Fox Farm Bay.

Fishing: To be conducted by 15 seine permit holders and members of the Prince William Seiners Association.

Market: Salmon products produced as a result of this venture will be sold in the Russian international market.

The Governor may grant permission for a foreign fishing vessel to engage in fish processing if he determines that fish processors within the state do not have adequate capacity or will not use the capacity to process all of the domestically-harvested fish that are landed in the state. The applicant has stated that domestic markets do not exist for the 15 seine vessels.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development is compiling a record of public comments on this application to assist the Governor in his determination. To be considered, your comments must be received by June 26, 1992.

Please address written comments to Diane Mayer, Acting Director, Division of Economic Development, P.O. Box 110804, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0804, or by fax, (907) 586-8399.

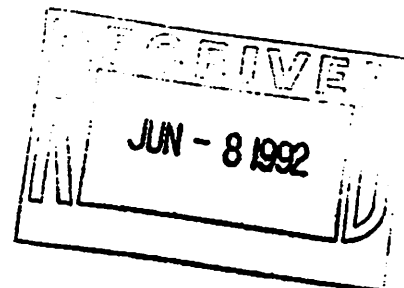
If you would like to continue to receive the requests for public comments for internal waters permit applications, please notify the Division of Economic Development, attention Dorothy Hurley, at the above address.

**FISHING VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

ROOM 232, WEST WALL BUILDING • FISHERMEN'S TERMINAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98119

SINCE 1914

June -2, 1992



Mr. Rick Lauber
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P. O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Chairman Lauber:

The following is my report to the Council based on my trip to Washington, D.C. concerning funding issues. Our meetings were conducted over two days, May 28 and 29, 1992. I was accompanied by Dem Coles representing the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, and Dr. Don Bevan representing the Industry Coalition. I have enclosed a copy of the industry coalition budgetary priorities as well as a copy of our itinerary and Congressman Young's letter to the Council.

Upon reviewing the various priority issues with the representatives of Congress, we emphasized the Council's desire to have funding available to "jump-start" the NPFMC research plan (observer program) once the Council's proposed regulations were in place. We informed members of Congress that final action will take place at the June 1992 meeting on the Research Plan and hopefully the Secretary will approve it in the late fall of this year. Budgetary issues and a tight budget within the NMFS and elsewhere produced the following information.

- (a) It is likely that the government in 1993 will be on a continuing resolution for funding for five to six months which requires a cut of 1.1% from the previous years appropriated budget.
- (b) The 1.1% cut will result in a \$270 million cut in funding of those issues of responsibility for the Committee on Maritime, Judiciary and Enforcement. This, however, must be meshed with an increase in drug enforcement monies, additional funding for some U.N. peace keeping issues, which means more than a 1.1% reduction for other programs.
- (c) The balanced budget amendment supported by over 270 members of Congress would force a balanced budget in five years which is out of balance by \$400 billion.
- (d) Perhaps the most sensitive issue of the first day was finding

FAX

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LATITUDE: 47° 39' 36" NORTH

DIAL "A VESSEL"

(206) 283-7735

LONGITUDE: 120° 22' 58" WEST


out that the house staff might forgo retroactively their 4% cost of living raise for 1992.

- (e) Amongst the gloom of the first day, a very positive idea was initiated in our meeting with Congressman Norm Dicks. Congressman Dicks asked why we couldn't get the start-up funds by utilizing appropriated Commerce Department funding that might not be expended until later in the year of 1993 and paid back from receipts of the fleet which are obtained earlier in 1993. This would accomplish our goals without an actual appropriation, which is going to be difficult.
- (f) Congressman Young gave a very high priority to the house Appropriation's Committee for \$2.5 million for our start-up funding.

It was suggested that legislation could be built into the 1993 appropriations that would allow Commerce to maneuver some appropriated funds in the manner described above. A consideration the Council should study at the June meeting is the requirement of industry to pay the amount due monthly for the first six months of implementation of the present plan and then go to quarterly payments. This would provide funding 60 days earlier to the fund for expenditures. This would decrease the amount needed to be transferred within Commerce and provide a more positive atmosphere of accommodating the temporary use of appropriated Commerce funding. Congressman Dicks and Unsoeld's staffs indicated they would assist in needed legislation as did Mr. Osthau. Dr. Bill Fox and his aids were also extremely helpful with this issue.

Considering the difficult budgetary issues before Congress, there seemed to be some hope when we left.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Alverson
Manager

RDA:cb

cc: Congressman Norm Dicks
Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld
Congressman Don Young
Dr. Bill Fox
Dan Consentein
Bill Woolf
Jean Flemma
Megan Brown
John Shrank
Jim Stoda
John Osthau

**DON BEVAN & BOB ALVERSON
MAY 28 & 29, 1992 TRIP**

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1992

TIME	PERSON	PLACE
8:30 a.m.	Governors' Representatives - Danny Consenstein, Mary McDonald, Tim Cook	LaColline
9:50 a.m.	Mark Van der Water (224-7241)	150 Dirksen
10:30 a.m.	John Shank (224-7243)	152 Dirksen
11:30 a.m.	Cong. Norm Dicks (225-5916)	2429 Rayburn
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
1:45 p.m.	Megan Bowman (Sen. Adams, 224-2621)	513 Hart
2:30 p.m.	Cong. Jolene Unsoeld (Jim Hoff unable to attend)	1508 Longworth
4:00 p.m.	Jean Flemma (Fisheries & Wildlife 226-3533)	House Annex II

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1992

TIME	PERSON	PLACE
8:30 a.m.	Bill Fox, Mike Tillman, John Oliver - NMFS	Silver Spring
10:00 a.m.	Jim Stoda (Cong. Sid Morrison, 225-5816)	1434 Longworth
11:00 a.m.	Paul Carlson (Cong. Les AuCoin, 225-0855)	2159 Rayburn
11:45 a.m.	Bill Wolf (Sen. Murkowski 224-6665)	709 Hart
12:15 p.m.	LUNCH	
2:00 p.m.	John Osthaus	H-309 Capitol

CURRENT STATUS OF OTHERS:

1. Sen. Gorton is not in town this week. Terri Claffey returned my call, unfortunately she is going into surgery and is unavailable. If you need to discuss any thing new that she doesn't know about, you should drop it by the office, labelled "attention Julie Kays".
2. Sandy Matthieson of Cong. Foley's office has yet to call me back.
3. Cong. Nancy Pelosi is not in the office this week, Melissa Merson is unavailable.
4. Eric Ostrowsky of Sen. Adams is not in town this week.

THE PACIFIC FISHERIES COALITION SUPPORTING AN EFFECTIVE NMFS APPROPRIATION FOR FY 1993

The Pacific Fisheries Coalition represents the major fishing, processing, and marketing associations of the State of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, and Hawaii, the Territories of American Samoa and Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The associations listed below represent the vast majority of the fishing industry. They request that adequate funding be made available to properly manage the fisheries upon which their livelihood depends.

Alaska Crab Coalition, Seattle
 Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Kodiak
 American High Seas Fisheries Assn., Seattle
 American Samoa Aiga Fisheries Comm.,
 Pago Pago
 CNMI Sports Fishermen's Assn., Saipan
 Dana Wharf Sportfishing, Dana Point
 Eureka Fisheries, Eureka
 Fishermen's Marketing Assn., Eureka
 Fishing Vessel Owners Assn., Seattle
 Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Assn.,
 Agana
 The Hawaiian Seafood Promotion Comm.,
 Honolulu
 Kodiak Longline Vessel Owners Assn.,
 Kodiak
 Northwest Fisheries Assn., Seattle
 North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Assn.,
 Seattle
 Midwater Trawlers Cooperative, Newport
 Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
 Assn., Sausalito
 Pacific Seafood Processors, Seattle
 Sport Fishing Assn. of California, San Diego
 United Fishermen's Marketing Assn., Kodiak
 Washington Charter Boat Assn., Westport
 Westport Charter Boat Assn., Westport

Alaska Draggers Assn., Kodiak
 American Factory Trawlers Assn., Seattle
 American Samoa Gamefishing Assn.,
 Pago Pago
 Bering Sea Fishermen's Assn.,
 Anchorage
 Deep Sea Fishermen's Assn., Seattle
 Fishermen's and Allied Workers Union
 ILWU, San Pedro
 Golden Gate Fishermen's Assn.,
 Sausalito
 Hawaiian International Billfish Assn.,
 Honolulu
 Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Unlimited,
 Boise
 The Highliners, Seattle
 Oregon Trawl Comm., Astoria
 Peninsula Marketing Assn., Sand Point
 Tautai O Samoa Fishery Assn.,
 Pago Pago
 Trout Unlimited, Aberdeen
 United Fishermen of Alaska, Juneau
 Saipan Sports Fishermen's Assn., Saipan
 United Fishing Agency of Hawaii
 Honolulu
 Yukon-Kuskokwim Fisheries Task Force
 Bethel

The Pacific Fisheries Coalition is joined by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the States of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, the Territory of American Samoa, the Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 Carl Rosler, Commissioner
 American Samoa Department of Marine and
 Wildlife Resources
 Henry S. Seseapasara, Director
 California Department of Fish and Game
 Boyd Gibbons, Director
 Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife
 Resources Rufo J. Lujan, Chief
 Hawaii Department of Land and Natural
 Resources William W. Paty,
 Chairman & Director

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Jerry M. Conley, Director
 Northern Mariana Islands Natural
 Resources Nick M. Leon Guerrero,
 Director
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Randy Fisher, Director
 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Comm.
 Guy Thornburgh, Executive Director
 Washington Department of Fisheries
 Joe Blum, Director

CRITICAL FISHERIES FUNDING NEEDS FOR FY 1993						
National Marine Fisheries Service						
FY 1993 Budget \$ Thousands	1	2	3	4	5	
	1992 Enacted	1993 President's Request	1993 Requirement Total	1993 Additions required to President's Request	1993 Additions to 1992	
Mitchell Act Hatcheries	\$13,000.	\$10,300	\$15,000.	\$4,700.	\$2,000.	
Bering Sea & Gulf of Alaska Research						
Includes Dorset Pollock,	\$1,000.	\$1,000.	\$2,100.	\$1,100.	\$1,100	
Conservation Engineering (By-Catch Issues)	\$746.	\$746.	\$750.	\$4.	\$4.	
Alaskan Groundfish Surveys	\$700.	\$697.	\$700.	\$3.	\$0.	
Pacific Salmon Treaty	\$5,900.	\$4,654.	\$6,928.	\$2,274.	\$1,028.	
Regional Fishery Councils	Note #1 & 4 \$9,200.	\$6,500.	\$9,500.	\$1,000.	\$300.	
Anadromous Fish Conservation Act	Note #4 \$2,342.	\$2,342.	\$3,800.	\$1,158.	\$1,158.	
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act	Note #4 \$3,483.	\$3,483.	\$5,300.	\$1,817.	\$1,817.	
Bering Sea Lion Recovery Plan	\$1,500.	\$0.	\$1,500.	\$1,500.	\$0.	

CRITICAL FISHERIES FUNDING NEEDS FOR FY 1993 (Continued)						
National Marine Fisheries Service						
FY 1993 Budget \$ Thousands		1	2	3	4	5
		1992 Enacted	1993 President's Request	1993 Requirement Total	1993 Additions required to President's Request	1993 Additions to 1992
Interstate Fisheries Commissions		\$328.	\$0.	\$600.	\$600.	\$172.
Alaska Groundfish/Crab Monitoring	Note #2	\$3,700.	\$2,000.	\$4,600.	\$2,600.	\$600.
Marine Mammal Protection Act (Observers)		\$7,463.	\$7,463.	\$7,463.	\$0.	\$0.
Domestic Fishery Observers	Note #3	\$0.	\$0.	\$2,000.	\$2,000.	\$2,000.
Industry funded Observer Program						
Start up costs		\$0.	\$0.	\$5,000.	\$5,000.	\$5,000.
Computer Upgrade (IT-85)		\$2,600.	\$4,663.	\$2,600.	\$2,167.	\$4,000.
PacFIN		\$2,200.	\$1,886.	\$3,000.	\$1,014.	\$600.
Enforcement and Surveillance		\$10,926.	\$11,620.	\$14,800.	\$2,672.	\$3,674.
West Coast Groundfish Research		\$939.	\$839.	\$2,100.	\$1,261.	\$1,261.
High Seas Driftnet Program		\$4,500.	\$3,276.	\$3,276.	\$0.	-\$1,224.
Marine Mammal Population Assessment		\$2,410.	\$2,936.	\$3,500.	\$600.	\$1,100.

CRITICAL FISHERIES FUNDING NEEDS for FY 1993

MITCHELL ACT HATCHERIES

\$15.0 million is needed; the Administration requested \$10.3 million

Congress authorized the Mitchell Act in 1938 to develop improvements in the Columbia River watershed for the benefit of salmon and steelhead. The Act recognizes that the salmon resources are in serious decline due to construction of hydroelectric and water diversion projects.

This program has focused funds on fish hatcheries, stream improvement (fishways, irrigation screening, and stream clearance) and research related to improving the quality of fish produced in the system. The federal government has invested significant monies in this program and, until the controversy of alternative funding for the hatcheries is resolved, the federal government must assure its continued commitment to the program. Maintenance of the physical facilities and increasing operation costs of the 1990's requires \$15.0 million for 1993.

BERING SEA AND GULF OF ALASKA RESEARCH

\$2.1 million needed; the Administration requested \$1.0 million

The broad continental shelf of Alaska, especially in the Bering Sea, supports large stocks of groundfish. Principal species are pollock, yellowfin sole, Pacific cod, Pacific halibut, and several other species of flatfish. Rockfish, sablefish and Atka mackerel are other important species. The rapidity of U.S. development of the fisheries, coupled with the requirement for management, has resulted in a number of critical fishery management problems. Examples include, allocation, overcapitalization, and management of trans-boundary stocks.

Funding of \$2.1 million is needed to:

- Collect data on stock structure, life history, population dynamics, predator-prey relationships, and ecosystem linkages.
- Assess the abundance of groundfish resources Bering Sea-wide (including the western Bering Sea).
- Develop and refine research survey and analytical techniques to improve accuracy and precision of stock assessments, and
- Develop and implement data management systems that allow timely access to fisheries data to facilitate stock assessment and evaluation of allocation issues.

CONSERVATION ENGINEERING (BYCATCH ISSUES)

\$750 thousand is needed; the Administration requested \$746 thousand

Pursuant to amendments to the Magnuson Act, the Conservation Engineering program will be used to analyze individual bycatch measures adopted by the Council in an effort to reduce bycatch, to design fishing gear to effect bycatch reduction, and for analysis of the database obtained from the Council's Observer Program.

ALASKA GROUND FISH SURVEYS

\$700 thousand is needed; the Administration requested \$697 thousand

This request will be used to conduct surveys of groundfish stocks surrounding the Aleutian Islands, and will be part of the North Pacific Management Council's efforts to monitor and manage groundfish in Alaska.

PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

\$6.928 million is needed; the Administration requested \$4.654 million

After decades of negotiations the United States finally signed a treaty with Canada for Pacific salmon. Implementation of this international agreement, to achieve conservation and equitable utilization of the resource requires an obligation of adequate, stable federal funding. The U.S. section of the Pacific Salmon Commission needs \$6.928 million in the FY 1993 NMFS budget to honor its commitment to the treaty.

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

\$9.5 million is needed; the Administration requested only \$8.5 million

Most fisheries face contentious allocative issues related to bycatch, expanding fishing power, and competition for fishing grounds. The Councils must address these problems, but they have inadequate support for critical independent analyses and for required meetings with constituent groups. The transition from foreign fishing to domestic allocation has caused the workload to increase five-fold, but the Councils remained funded at about \$7 million through 1990. Council funding was increased to \$8.5 million for FY 1991 and \$9.2 million in FY 1992, which will enhance their ability to provide for management of the fisheries. However, the North Pacific, Pacific, and Western Pacific Councils will not be able to meet their obligations under the Magnuson Act because of the funding reductions proposed by the Administration. Management for many of the nation's fisheries within the western EEZs will be seriously affected at a time when the Councils are experiencing increased workloads due to developing bycatch control measures, moratoria, limited entry programs and other management programs. Council funding needs to be increased to \$9.5 million to mitigate a decade of level funding in the face of a greatly increased management burden.

ANADROMOUS FISH CONSERVATION ACT

\$3.5 million is needed; the Administration requested \$2.342 million

This program also matches federal dollars with state resources, but for anadromous species (e.g. salmon, steelhead, striped bass) which migrate through international, federal and state waters. The five west coast states and their two federal Regional Councils have worked hard over the past decade to develop a state/federal salmon program. These states' anadromous grants help fund the data collection that is necessary to implement the Regional Councils' multijurisdictional fishery management plans. The federal cost to perform these projects alone would be considerably higher. We recommend funding at the authorized level of \$3.5 million.

INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES ACT

\$5.3 million is needed; the Administration requested \$3.483 million

This is a long-standing program (IFA was preceded by the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act of 1965), designed to match federal dollars with state resources (state funds, experienced labor, established field facilities, vessels, etc.) for the conservation and management of interjurisdictional fisheries resources important to the nation. Over the past decades this program has evolved into projects that are the building blocks of fisheries management — day-to-day collection of basic fisheries-related data that is explicitly designed to meet priorities from a federal point of view. All Pacific Coast projects are directed at fisheries that are either:

a) managed by a Regional Council (e.g. groundfish), or

b) are managed by the states but were once considered for federal management in the formative years of the Regional Councils (e.g. Dungeness crab, shrimp, herring, thresher shark).

If NMFS was to accept the responsibility to perform these tasks alone, the cost would be considerably higher!

Due to inflation, the continued level funding by NMFS means their share is dwindling substantially in this state/federal partnership. Since enactment of the Magnuson Act, the spending power of the federal funds has been cut in half. We recommend funding at the authorized level of \$5.3 million to restore the partnership.

• STELLER SEA LION RECOVERY PLAN

\$1.5 million is needed; the Administration has requested nothing

Research to focus on the causes of the Steller sea lion decline, to monitor their status and trends and to conduct other important biological studies will cost approximately \$1.5 million each year. In FY 1992 Congress appropriated \$1.5 million, with \$750 thousand to the State of Alaska. In FY 1993 \$1.5 million (\$750 thousand to Alaska) are again needed. These funds are required to implement studies recommended in the Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan. Recovery Plan studies include, for example, determination of seasonal use patterns, identification of critical habitat, and stock identification, in addition to basis population trend monitoring through aerial and vessel surveys and pup counts of certain index rookeries. Money included in the marine mammal assessment package and the proposed mammal/fishery interaction package do not incorporate funds to conduct the studies recommended in the Recovery Plan.

INTERSTATE FISHERIES COMMISSION

\$500 thousand is needed; the Administration has requested nothing

The nation's three interstate fisheries commissions are charged under the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act with the development and monitoring of multi-state fishery management plans (FMP). The commissions each receive one-third of the funding under Section 8(c) set aside for this purpose.

Nearly 30 plans have been developed and are under operational along the coasts. These plans are in lieu of federal FMP's and are remarkably cost effective (the research, data collection, regulations and day-to-day management are done by the coastal states). Current funding is sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining these plans and coordinating their implementation through the state rulemaking agencies. Additional money is needed if new plans are to be developed, and many fisheries remain absent of a formal, cooperative interstate FMP. Failure to have such plans means either the federal Regional Councils will eventually need to prepare a plan (at 5-50 times the expense) or the fishery will suffer from parochial interests (which have often led to severe overfishing).

ALASKA GROUND FISH/CRAB MONITORING

\$4.5 million is needed; the Administration requested \$2.0

Alaska Groundfish/crab Monitoring funds will be used to significantly improve fisheries data acquisition, transfer and analysis. These improved capabilities are essential to the in-season implementation of the North Pacific Council management plans, observer programs, and bycatch control measures on a real-time basis. This increment will upgrade the field offices in Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, improve data transfer from the fleet, provide the staff with computer capabilities necessary for real-time acquisition and analysis to data obtained from the observer program in order to implement in-season bycatch management measures, and provide support of State of Alaska implementation of the Council's crab management program. Specifically, this increment will fund the following:

AK Regional Office Support (included Kodiak and Dutch Harbor)	\$2.3 million
State Crab FMP Implementation	\$200.0 thousand
Bering Sea Crab Research	\$850.0 thousand
Moratorium Implementation	\$250.0 thousand
AFSC Logbook Program	\$150.0 thousand
Fishery Management Communications	\$750.0 thousand

MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT (OBSERVERS)

\$7.463 million is needed; the Administration requested \$7.463 million

Going into the final year of this five-year effort, funds are required for implementation of the Commercial Fisheries Interim Exemption Program under the Marine Mammal Act amendments. The data collection and management elements of this program will lead to the reauthorization of the Act in 1993. Although the Program focuses primarily on the observer coverage, it also is responsible for implementation of the following requirements:

- Permitting and reporting
- Log books
- Education
- Gear Research

DOMESTIC FISHERY OBSERVERS

\$2.0 million is needed; the Administration has requested nothing

Pursuant to the 1988 MMPA amendments, marine mammal observers were required on Alaska trawl vessels. These observers also served as marine fishery observers and recorded fishery information and data on fishery/marine mammal interactions. Congress appropriated funds for this observer program for every year subsequent to the 1988 MMPA amendments including FY 1992. In FY 1992, NMFS discontinued funding administration and support of the observer program from the MMPA observer appropriation, shifting those funds to other uses. NMFS instead used funds allocated for fishery management programs under the Alaska Groundfish Monitoring budget appropriation to support the observer program. Several important fishery management and research needs, such as an improved fishery data processing and important Bering Sea crab assessment work, were not funded in order to make up the shortfall caused by shifting administration and support of the domestic observer program to the Alaska Groundfish Monitoring appropriation.

Operating an effective and efficient domestic observer program is a crucial component of the NMFS program to manage the Alaska groundfish fishery. These observers

provide critical information needed to manage in-season fishery quotas, assess stock conditions, analyze proposed fishery management options, and monitor compliance with regulations on catch and bycatch in the fisheries, as well as continuing to record data regarding marine mammal/fishery interactions. The National Marine Fisheries Service is responsible for the administration and operation of this program, including the training, equipping, and debriefing of observers, and the management of the data collected by the program. In FY 1992 observer program support amounted to \$1.3 million. \$2.0 million is required in FY 1993 due to additional management burdens brought on by increasingly complex fishery management needs.

INDUSTRY-FUNDED OBSERVER PROGRAM START-UP COSTS

\$5.0 million is needed; the Administration has requested nothing

In 1990, a mandatory domestic observer program was implemented for the domestic groundfish fishery off Alaska. This program is required to provide the data needed to manage in-season fishery quotas, assess stock conditions, analyze proposed fishery management options, and monitor compliance of fishery regulations. The program required that the owners and operators of vessels and processing plants pay for the costs of the placement of observers.

The 1990 Amendments to the Magnuson Act established a North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan which authorized the development and implementation of a user-fee program, including a special fund in the Treasury, to operate the observer program for the fisheries managed by the North Pacific Council. The user fees will be deposited into the fund and used to pay for the placement of observers aboard domestic vessels. In order for NMFS to "start up" the program and then manage and operate on a continuing basis, a one-time appropriation to "capitalize" the fund is required. It will be impossible to provide the needed continuity in observer program operations if funding of these operations is solely dependent upon the collection of user-fees.

Fishermen will likely contribute in excess of \$120 million in user-fees to this observer program over the next decade. A \$5 million contribution by the government to get it going is a fair investment.

COMPUTER HARDWARE (IT-95)

\$6.88 million is needed; the Administration requested \$4.683 million

The AFSC provides the data processing for both the AFSC and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (i.e. servicing the fishery management plans of both the Pacific Council and the North Pacific Council).

The AFSC requires \$1.8 million of additional funding for FY 1993 to support the new computer installation and essential fisheries data base system design and management. At the present time, base funding provides only \$600K of \$1.78 million required to provide installation, operation and maintenance of AFSC's computer facility that supports fisheries research and management. Full funding of the AFSC data management function will allow timely support of MPCMA, MMPA, and other legislation for managing living marine resources.

PACIFIC FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK (PACFIN)

\$3.0 million is needed; the Administration requested \$1.986 million

Timely data is needed for effective management. The nation's first regional fisheries data network, PacFIN, provides such information — enabling managers and industry to track catches by area and to plan better. Fisheries off Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and the American-flag Pacific Islands provide information to a central database accessible to all. These states already have contributed over \$25 million in data collection and processing to this multi-agency effort which also includes the West PacFIN (Hawaii, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and NMFS). The \$3.0 million is needed to maintain this highly-efficient data system so critical to management of the fisheries.

ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE

\$14.5 million is needed; the Administration has requested \$11.828 million

This program will provide the following:

- Enforcement of Magnuson Act amendments
- Enforcement of Marine Mammal Act
- Closures for threatened and endangered species
- General enforcement under the Endangered Species Act
- Enforcement of Halibut Act
- Enforcement of new responsibilities under the Magnuson Act amendments for highly-migratory species
- Enforcement of bycatch rules
- Monitorization and enforcement of quotas
- Monitorization of vessel incentive programs
- Enforcement of international law in donut hole and highseas driftnet fisheries
- Enforcement and surveillance of the new salmon convention
- Enforcement and surveillance for a new donut hole convention, which should be signed in 1993.

WEST COAST GROUND FISH RESEARCH

\$2.1 million is needed; the Administration requested \$839 thousand

Sablefish, rockfish and Pacific whiting support the largest fishery off California, Oregon and Washington. Sablefish has declined in abundance, but remains the most valuable. Critical funding is needed to:

- Conduct research and surveys on rockfish and whiting.
- Annually estimate stock abundance and recruitment.
- Assess the status of the sablefish and Dover sole resources.

HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET PROGRAM

\$3.276 million is needed; the Administration requested \$3.276 million

The programs to implement the Driftnet Act need to be continued at least through 1993. The international debate over the terms and conditions for implementing the United Nation's moratoria on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing will increasingly turn to research results for guidance. The required work will cost \$3.276 million in FY 1993.

This level will assure adequate monitoring, enforcement and research activities (The President's request of only \$3.276 million produces a shortfall of on-board monitoring and enforcement). It will allow completion of all species and stock bycatch estimates for North Pacific driftnet fisheries. It will also enable the U.S. to carry out technical analyses and reporting to support the implementation of the U.N. moratoria. This program will support evaluation and technical responses to counteract expected driftnet fishing nations' proposals for alternate fishing methods and new conservation and management measures justifying continued driftnetting beyond the moratoria date.

MARINE MAMMAL POPULATION ASSESSMENT

\$3.566 million is needed; the Administration requested \$2.936 million

"MMPA Implementation" monies are used to collect information on the number of mammals "taken" by various commercial fisheries throughout the nation. However, the effect of these takes is not known because NMFS is lacking information on the status of nearly all of the species of marine mammals that interact with commercial and recreational fisheries. Are these populations increasing? decreasing? above OSP? depleted? etc. It is impossible to manage rationally fisheries with mammals until both sides of the equation are known (i.e. the take of mammals and the status of the mammal populations.) Population assessments must be done for all of the species that interact with fisheries throughout the nation.

RECREATION FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK (RecFIN)

\$3.0 million is needed; the Administration has requested \$1.8 million

RecFIN is a necessary enhancement to the Federal Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey. Although RecFIN received \$2.2 million in FY 1992, the survey was so woefully underfunded that the 1990 and 1991 portions for the entire Pacific Coast were deleted, leaving an irreplaceable gap in important fisheries information. Even the increase

for FY 1992 only allows a program on the west coast to operate for half a year. Full funding of RecFIN at \$3 million will assure adequate sampling nationwide. Further, state and federal fisheries agencies will bring their sampling efforts under the RecFIN umbrella. This will allow for integration of various marine recreational data collection programs thereby increasing efficiency and sample sizes and eliminating duplication of sampling effort. The resulting database will allow recreational fisheries programs to move forward with catch statistics on par with commercial landings data.

MARINE MAMMAL/FISHERY INTERACTION

\$3.0 million is needed; the Administration requested \$2.0 million

Significant changes may be taking place in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea ecosystems that could have a profound effect on the long-term viability of marine mammal and fishery resources. The objective is to integrate marine mammal and fishery biology to study such ecological interactions and prey availability, condition indices of individuals, stock assessment (including trends in abundance and distribution), habitat usage among competing species, and the influence of the abiotic component of the environment on population growth. A major effort will be made to understand the importance of the groundfish community on the short and long-term growth and stability of the mammal population, and whether commercial fisheries activities are important in inhibiting or causing the observed decline of the sea lion. This work will be carried out in cooperation with appropriate state and academic scientists, and government specialists within and outside of NOAA.

PACIFIC TUNA MANAGEMENT

\$2.0 million needed; the Administration requested nothing

In 1990, Congress included tuna in the MFCMA. In 1992, recognizing the importance of pelagic fisheries in the Pacific, the Congress appropriated \$1.7 million for tuna and billfish management activities based on a five-year plan developed by the WPRFMC. The funds will be used to:

- Define the spatial and temporal dimensions of the pelagic species to be managed.
- Understand the interdependence of different types of tuna fisheries as a basis for allocation decisions.
- Determine the optimum size of fleets and their composition which harvest pelagic species.
- Define the variability in year class strength and recruitment, and how both impact fisheries.
- Understand the principal oceanographic factors which govern the ecology and dynamics of pelagic fishery stocks.

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