

Executive Director's Report December 1987

The plan teams and everyone else concerned with Council activities have been going full tilt since the September Meeting. Among the items I failed to note in previous Council mailings was Terry Smith's attendance at the Atlantic Offshore Fisheries Limited Entry Conference Nov. 12 & 13 in Providence, Rhode Island. The interest in and discussion of limiting access is not confined to the West Coast. Both groundfish plan teams spent a good share of November meeting in Seattle where they overlapped with the Halibut Team, the Future of Groundfish Workgroup and a special meeting of the SSC to work with the crab team for what we hope is a final revision of that document before it's reviewed by the Council prior to going public.

The Future of Groundfish WG got off to a flying start at their first meeting. They meet again on Dec. 17-18, again in Seattle. We have hired Dorothy 'Bunny' Lowman to staff this workgroup and are working closely with all of the people on the west coast that are working along similar lines. Bunny has been the economist on the Pacific Council Staff for the past several years. She resigned recently to go into private business but will be able to stay with the FOG Group thru the end of June, when they are charged with having a recommendation to the Council. The Pacific Council has been considering limited access in the groundfish fisheries for some time and Bunny has been involved in all of that work. She landed running on this assignment. We're also fortunate to have Dan Huppert available to work with us on the committee, at least for a short time. His project for the last six months ties in very closely with the task of the workgroup. Natural Resources Consultants has just received an SK Grant to study ways of controlling growth in the groundfish fishery off Alaska and we will be working closely with them to augment, rather than duplicate, our work.

We have received a complete report on the Kodiak and Western Trawl Group - Kanai Fisheries joint venture for flatfish in the Gulf. I sent you the preliminary report from Dave Harville in a

Council mailing. The final one is quite long and very complete. Copies are available on request. Dave Harville and his group should be commended for the care they have taken to document this operation and their willingness to share the information with all of us.

There are several housekeeping items I'd like to bring to your attention. It does not look like we will get any Programmatic money next year. Administrative funding requests from all of the Councils have used all the funding that is expected to be available. If there are further cuts as Congress attempts to reduce the deficit it will probably require cuts in our Administrative budget. We have enough identified at the moment to fund the special programs now underway thru June. After that, if additional funding cannot be found, it will be very difficult to continue development of any access system.

Please file your expense claims as soon as possible, DEC. 31 is the end of our fiscal year and we need to get the books cleaned up as soon as possible.

We will be moving back into the old Federal Building January 6 thru 8 so the office may be closed some of that time. Our new phone number will be 271-2809. The mailing address remains the same.