

Executive Director's Report

New Council Members

It is my pleasure to welcome aboard our three newest council members, Kevin Duffy, Bob Penney, and Anthony DeGange (USFWS), and to congratulate David Benton on his appointment to the Council following his retirement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Duffy assumed the position of Deputy Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game in early July, succeeding Mr. Benton. He has been heavily involved in Pacific Salmon Commission negotiations. Mr. Penney is a self-employed businessman from Anchorage and Soldotna who owns and operates Penco, AK, a family-owned real estate development company. He is a co-founder and past chairman of the Resource Development Council, and a founder, past chairman, and present board member of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. Mr. DeGange, who is taking over for Doug Alcorn, has been closely involved with the Service's riparian habitat restoration program, development of the Service's Coastal Program, and has been involved in endangered species issues in Alaska.

New SSC Nomination from Oregon

For our SSC, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has nominated Dr. Steve Berkeley to take over Hal Weeks' place. Dr. Berkeley currently is conducting rockfish studies at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport as a faculty research assistant at Oregon State University, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Previously he was a fishery biologist working on highly migratory species at the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Acting Chairman Mace approved his tentative membership to the SSC for this meeting, pending formal Council approval for the rest of 2000.

Plan Team Nominations

Alaska Department of Fish and Game has nominated Herman Savikko to our crab and scallop teams to replace Ken Griffin. His resume has been distributed to the SSC and we need to confirm him to those teams.

We also have a nomination from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Kathy Kuletz to replace Vivian Mendenhall as the "bird expert" on our plan teams. Her resume will be reviewed by the SSC.

Steller's Critical Habitat

Last spring we reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed designation of critical habitat for Spectacled and Steller's Eiders, commenting as indicated in item B-1(a). On August 22, 2000, USFWS released for comment a draft economic analysis of the impacts of the proposed designation of critical habitat. Comments are due by September 25th. A copy of the cover letter is also under B-1(a). The analysis will be distributed at meeting time. I encourage you to review it and determine if further comments should be transmitted.

October Meeting

Our October meeting will start with the AP and SSC meeting on Monday, October 2, and the Council commencing on Wednesday the 4th. Wednesday evening we will have a special reception for Rick Lauber to celebrate his many years on the Council and AP and involvement in fisheries in general. A draft agenda for the October meeting, as we best know it at this point, is under B-1(b). We may revise it as a result of actions at this meeting.

November Meeting?

When we get to agenda item C-2 on cod interactions with sea lions, we need to discuss the timing of the next biological opinion, covering all fisheries and due out in late October, and determine if there is a need for a special meeting in November. And if so, when? The Pacific Council meets November 1-4, Donut Hole meetings are the week of November 6, as are the plan team meetings. Thanksgiving is on the 23rd, and the Pacific Salmon Commission will hold an executive session on November 28-30. That leaves the week of November 13 as the only really clear one. Calendars for September through the end of the year are provided under B-1(c) for your reference.

Ming Chang Seizure

The Chinese vessel Ming Chang was seized on August 14 for fishing over the U.S. - Russia maritime boundary in the norther Bering Sea. Though we do not have our normal enforcement and surveillance reports scheduled for this special meeting, I thought it would be valuable to hear a special report from the Coast Guard and NMFS on this enforcement action. An editorial and letter relating to this action are under B-1(d).

Committee on Marine Protected Areas

NOAA is calling for nominations for a new Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas. As noted in their press release and background materials under B-1(e), they are seeking nominations of non-Federal scientists, resource managers and other interested persons and organizations for this committee. The nominations need to be in by October 2, 2000.

This committee on MPAs is part of a larger legislated effort in the Oceans Act of 2000 which will establish a national commission to "...chart a 21st century strategy to restore and protect America's ocean resources." Further information on the commission is also under B-1(e).

Pollock Cooperative Research

Dr. Balsiger requested a few minutes to update the Council on the status of research projects recently funded through the Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks. He, along with Dr. Al Tyler, are among the Advisory Board members setting research priorities and selecting proposals for funding.

Your E.D. Heads to Washington

On September 18th, I will be heading off to NMFS HQ in Silver Spring to be the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries. This is the largest HQ unit, having some 140 employees in six divisions: Highly Migratory Species, Financial Services, Domestic Fisheries, International Fisheries, Regulatory Services, and the National Food Inspection Laboratory. With your approval, I have made a commitment through next June. I want to thank the Council and NMFS for giving me this challenging opportunity to learn more about NMFS HQ and their responsibilities, and to help shape sustainable fisheries management and a stronger partnership with the regional fishery management councils. Again, with your approval, Chris Oliver will be Acting Executive Director while I am away.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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



605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone: (907) 271-2809

Fax: (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc>

June 21, 2000

Anne G. Rappoport, Field Supervisor
Anchorage Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
605 W. 4th Avenue, Room G-61
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Ted Swem
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Branch
Northern Alaska Ecological Services
101 12th Avenue, Box 19, Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Ms. Rappoport and Mr. Swem:

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council wishes to comment on the proposed designation of the critical habitat for spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders in Alaska. Our concern is with the potential impact of the designations on local fisheries. We have had considerable experience now with the designation of critical habitat for Steller sea lions. The pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutians and the Gulf of Alaska were displaced from many traditional fishing areas and their seasons were revised. Similar restrictions may be imposed on local fisheries as a result of concerns over eiders.

It is imperative that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gather and use the best technical information available to support critical habitat designations, and comprehensively assess the potential impacts to local fisheries. Toward that end, we used GIS to overlay critical habitat for both eider species with 1999 groundfish and 1997-1998 shellfish fishery information from the NMFS and ADF&G observer programs, recognizing that not all fishing activities in the area are necessarily included in the observer data sets. I have enclosed copies of the GIS maps for your reference, and additional copies may be obtained by calling Cathy Coon in our office at 271-2809.

Spectacled Eiders

Our preliminary analysis based on 1999 observed groundfish data comparing fishing locations to spectacled eider winter habitat and molting areas (Led Bay, Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Norton Sound) showed no overlap with the longline, bottom trawl, pelagic trawl, and pot fishing. Observed retrievals for the 1998 blue king crab community development quota fishery and the 1997-1998 commercial fisheries fell outside the winter habitat area for spectacled eiders. Although the blue king crab fishery now is a winter fishery, there was a fishery in the proposed area in previous years. For example, from 1990 to 1998 an average of 5.2% of the St.

Anne G. Rappoport/Ted Swem
June 21, 2000
Page 2

Matthew blue king crab fishery landings came from between St. Matthew and St. Lawrence islands. The percentages ranged from 2 to 11% of total landings. Additionally, crab are caught in Norton Sound, but these harvests are unobserved and would not be reflected in our database. Additional fisheries may occur near shore in State or Federal waters that are unobserved, and therefore would not be in our data base.

Steller's Eiders

There is some overlap within the 1999 observed groundfish bottom trawl and pot fisheries (Figures xx-yy). Based on 1999 groundfish observer data, some overlap exists with the pot fisheries targeting Pacific Cod in Bechevin Bay near False Pass and with the yellowfin sole bottom trawl fishery in the northern part of Kuskokwim Bay. Other nearshore fisheries prosecuted with small vessels occur within the proposed critical habitat for Steller's eider, but cannot be identified using observer data. These would occur in the areas around Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula perimeter, and the East Aleutian perimeter. Alaska communities would most likely be affected socio-economically by an action to designate critical habitat.

We encourage as much coordination and communication between your agency and the council as possible as the impacts of the eider critical habitat designations are analyzed.

Sincerely,



Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director

cc: NMFS-Alaska Region
Protected Resources Division



IN REPLY REFER TO:
ESO

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2000

AUG 22 2000
N.P.F.M.C

Dear Interested Party:

The Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking your comments on the draft economic analysis for our proposal to designate critical habitat for the Steller's eider. Enclosed for your reference please find a copy of the draft economic analysis.

As you know, the Service earlier this year proposed to designate critical habitat for the Steller's eider in accordance with provisions in the Endangered Species Act. If you did not receive a copy of the proposal in an earlier mailing, or would like to have another copy sent to you, please contact the Northern Alaska Ecological Services Office in Fairbanks at the address listed below. Similarly, if you wish to comment on the Service's proposal and economic analysis for designation of critical habitat for the spectacled eider, please contact the Ecological Services Field Office at the Anchorage address listed below.

The public comment period on the proposals to designate critical habitat for the Steller's eider and spectacled eider has been extended to ensure that you have an opportunity to review and comment simultaneously on the proposals and their associated economic analyses. We will accept written comments on the proposals and economic analyses through September 25, 2000.

Comments on the economic analysis and proposal to designate critical habitat for the Steller's eider should be sent to:

Ted Swem
Endangered Species Branch
Northern Alaska Ecological Services
101 12th Ave. Rm 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone (907) 456-0441
Fax: (907) 456-0208

Comments on the economic analysis and proposal to designate critical habitat for the spectacled eider should be sent to:

Ann Rappoport, Field Supervisor
Ecological Services Field Office, Anchorage
605 W. 4th Ave. Rm G-62
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 271-2787 or toll-free (800) 272-4174
Fax (907) 271-2786

Sincerely,

Susan Detwiler
Endangered Species Coordinator

Enclosure

North Pacific Fishery Management Council



Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
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August 25, 2000

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA
146th Plenary Session
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 4-9, 2000
Centennial Building
Sitka, Alaska

Estimated Hours

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 - (a) Approval of Agenda •
 - (b) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings •

- B. REPORTS
 - B-1 Executive Director's Report •
 - B-2 State Fisheries Report by ADF&G •
 - B-3 NMFS Management Report •
 - B-4 Enforcement and Surveillance Reports •

(4 hours for
A/B items)

- C. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS
 - C-1 Pacific Cod/Steller Sea Lions (16 hours)
Final action on amendment package.

 - C-2 American Fisheries Act (6 hours)
 - (a) Update on EIS/rulemaking.
 - (b) Final action on groundfish processing sideboards and BSAI pollock processing excessive share caps.
 - (c) Report from industry on Pacific cod sideboard issues.

 - C-3 Halibut Subsistence Regulations (8 hours)
Final action.

 - C-4 Halibut Charter IFQ Program (2 hours)
 - (a) Preliminary review/progress report.
 - (b) Discuss Gulf of Alaska Coastal Community Coalition proposal.

- C-5 CDQ Program (3 hours)
(a) Amendment package to conform State/Federal regulations: initial review.
(b) Review State of Alaska recommendations on CDQ allocations.

D. FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- D-1 Groundfish Management (5 hours)
(a) BSAI: recommend interim & preliminary specifications for 2001.
(b) GOA: recommend interim & preliminary specifications for 2001.
(c) BSAI Pacific cod pot gear split (CP/CV): initial review.
(d) Progress report on GOA rationalization.

- D-2 Crab Management (1 hours)
(a) SAFE reports.
(b) Progress report on co-op development and buyback.

- D-3 Staff Tasking (3 hours)
(a) Review progress and current tasking.
(b) Direction to staff.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Total Agenda Hours: 48

	SSC	AP	Council
Monday, Oct. 2	8:00am C-1 Pacific Cod/Steller Sea Lions	8:00am C-2 American Fisheries Act	
	1:00pm C-1 continued	1:00pm C-2 continued C-1 Pacific Cod/Steller Sea Lions	
Tuesday, Oct. 3	8:00am C-4 Halibut Charter IFQ Program C-5 CDQ Program	8:00am C-1 continued	
	1:00pm D-1 Groundfish Management	1:00pm C-1 continued	
Wednesday, Oct. 4	8:00am D-1 continued D-2 Crab Management	8:00am C-3 Halibut Subsistence	8:00am B-1 ED Report B-2 State Fisheries by ADF&G B-3 NMFS Mgmt. Report B-4 Enforcement & Surveillance Report 12:00 Lunch
	1:00pm continue if necessary	1:00pm C-4 Halibut Charter IFQ Program C-5 CDQ Program	1:00pm C-1 Pacific Cod/Steller Sea Lions
Thursday, Oct. 5		8:00am D-1 Groundfish Management	8:00am C-1 continued 12:00 Lunch
		1:00pm D-2 Crab Management D-3 Staff Tasking	1:00pm C-1 continued
Friday, Oct. 6			8:00am C-1 continued 12:00 Lunch 1:00pm C-2 American Fisheries Act
Saturday, Oct. 7			8:00am C-2 continued C-3 Halibut Subsistence 12:00 Lunch 1:00pm C-3 continued
Sunday, Oct. 8			8:00am C-3 continued C-4 Halibut Charter IFQ Program 12:00 Lunch 1:00pm C-5 CDQ Program D-1 Groundfish Management
Monday, Oct. 9			8:00am D-1 continued 12:00 Lunch 1:00pm D-2 Crab Management D-3 Staff Tasking
Tuesday, Oct 10			8:00am continue if necessary

NOTE: The above agenda items may not be taken in the order in which they appear and are subject to change as necessary. All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council Executive Sessions.

2000

September

2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 JDC-AL MS-AL	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 AP/SSC	7 AP/SSC → Dam Subsistence Committee Ipm Joint Board/ Council Committee	8 → AP Council begins	9 Council →
10 Council →	11 Council → Pacific Council mtg	12 Council → (T)	13 Plan Team Mtg	14 →	15 →	16
17	18	19 Crab Plan Team - Kodiak (DW)	20 Crab Plan Team	21	22 CDD Cmtee - Anct (JDC) CO-AL	23
24	25 CO-AL	26	27	28	29	30

2000

October

2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 N.P. Council Mtg - Sitka	3 →	4 →	5 →	6 →	7 →
8 →	9 →	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 JDC-AL	21
22	23 Int'l Fishing Safety/Health Conf. - Woods Hole JDC-AL	24 → JDC-AL	25 → JDC-AL	26 HA-AL (T)	27 HA-AL (T)	28
29	30 Pacific Council Meeting HA-AL (T)	31 → HA-AL (T)				

2000

November

2000

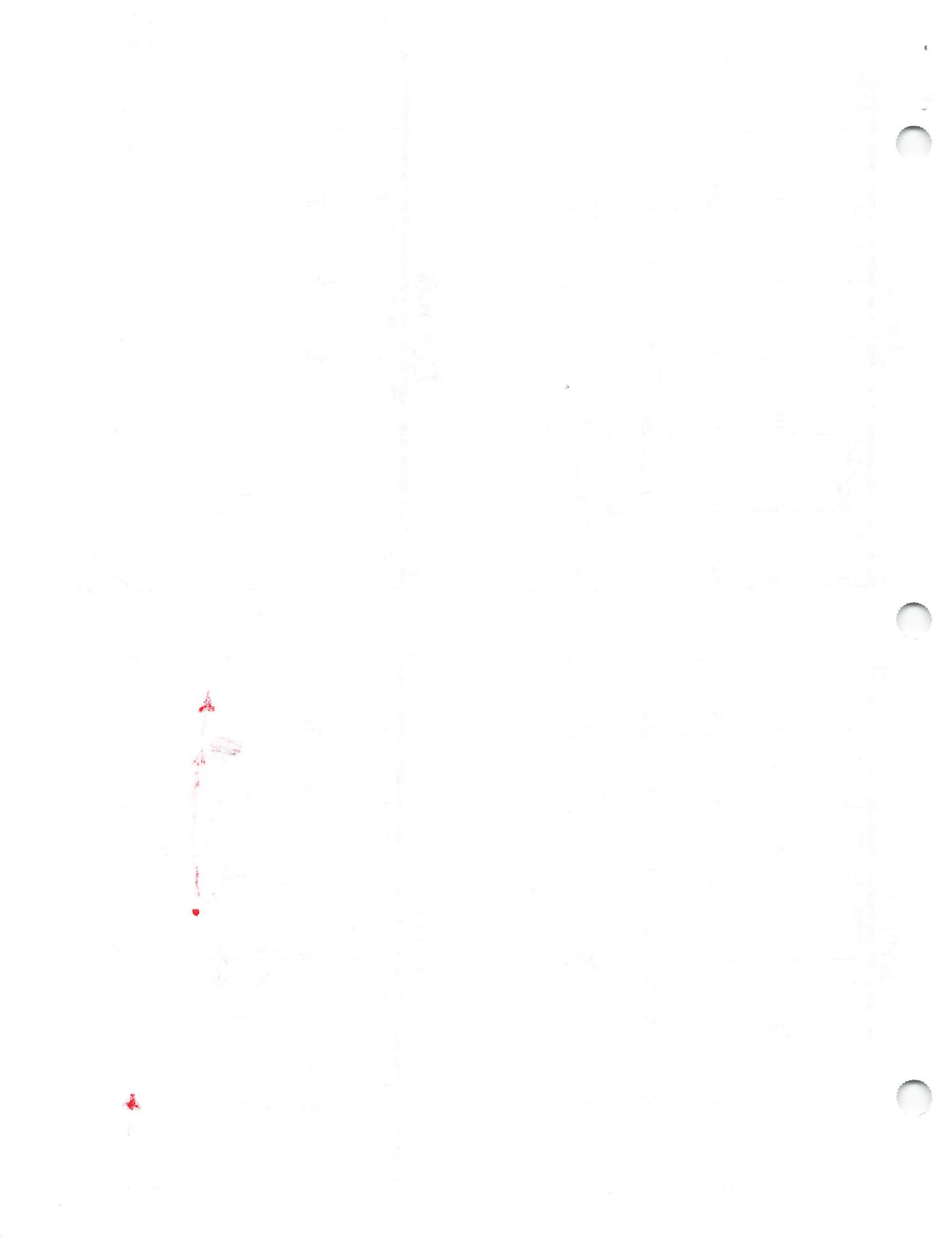
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Pacific Council Meeting	2 →	3 →	4
5	6 NPFMC Plan Team Meetings Donut Hole Mtg - Shangai (CP) all wk JPHC Interim Mtg all week	7 →	8 →	9 →	10 Veteran's Day Observed	11
12	13 Cnce mtg	14 CH - AFS/Fbx	15 CH - AFS/Fbx AP/SSC	16 CH - AFS/Fbx Cnd	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 TKS/GVG	24	25
26	27	28 Pacific Salmon Comm. Exec. Session	29 →	30 →		

2000

December

2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 N.P. Council Mtg Anchorage	5 →	6 →	7 →	8 →	9 →
10 →	11 →	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Aug. 2000 Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						





AT-SEA PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

Partners for Healthy Fisheries

August 23, 2000

Mr. Robert C. Bundy
U.S. Attorney
District of Alaska
222 West 7th Avenue #9, Room 253
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

SENT VIA FAX

Re: Chinese Fishing Vessel MING CHANG

Dear Mr. Bundy:

The At-Sea Processors Association ("APA") represents a 19-vessel fleet of U.S. pollock catcher processor vessels that catch and process at-sea. Our members depend almost exclusively on the Bering Sea pollock fishery for their livelihoods. In addition to the production of surimi, our fleet is one of the largest suppliers of pollock fillets to U.S. and world whitefish markets.

The purpose of this letter is to express our concern over what we believe to be an increasingly serious pattern of illegal fishing activity by foreign-flagged vessels along the maritime boundary between the United States and Russia north of the high seas area in the Bering Sea known as the "Donut Hole". The problem has become increasingly acute this year as overfishing on the Russian side of the maritime boundary has resulted in a seriously depleted pollock resource just to the west of the U.S. fishery zone (the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone or "EEZ").

As a result of poor fishing on the Russian side of the boundary, a number of vessels licensed to fish in Russian waters, including a sizeable fleet of Chinese-flagged vessels, have been engaging in what appears to be an escalating pattern of illegal fishing forays into U.S. waters where pollock stocks are abundant. These activities occur in a remote area of the Bering Sea where U.S. Coast Guard enforcement capabilities are limited.

Early last week, the U.S. Coast Guard succeeded in arresting one of those vessels, the MING CHANG. The vessel was seized and charged with illegally fishing in U.S. waters. It was taken to Dutch Harbor, where it is currently being detained pending a determination by U.S. officials as to the appropriate amount and scope of penalties to be imposed. In addition, it has come to our attention that the vessel has approximately 375 metric tons of finished pollock product on board. That product primarily consists of boneless, skinless, fillet blocks, a product that directly competes in the U.S. and world markets with the product produced by the members of this association and other domestic pollock producers in Alaska.



SEATTLE 4039 21st Avenue W. Tel: (206) 285-5139
Suite 400 Fax: (206) 285-1841
Seattle, WA 98199 www.atsea.org

ALASKA 1029 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 550
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 276-8252
Fax: (907) 276-8262

319 Seward Street, Suite 2
Juneau, AK 99801
Tel: (907) 586-4260
Fax: (907) 586-4261

Mr. Robert C. Bundy
August 23, 2000
Page Two

While it is unusual for the APA to comment on an enforcement action of this sort, the case of the MING CHANG is of particular importance for the reasons set forth below.

First, illegal and unaccounted-for pollock harvests undermine the integrity of the conservative management system that has been the hallmark of the U.S. fishery management regime in the North Pacific. Furthermore, it does so at a time when U.S. pollock fishermen are being forced to operate under severe restrictions imposed because of concerns about declining populations of Steller sea lions, an endangered species.

Second, given the difficulty associated with enforcing such a remote boundary, it is imperative that the violators who do get caught pay a heavy price. Otherwise, there is no effective deterrent to further violations by a fleet that has already demonstrated a propensity to ignore U.S. fishery laws. Anything other than the most severe of penalties will serve as an invitation to increased violations by those who would consider lesser penalties as simply a cost of doing business.

We therefore encourage the U.S. government to impose the maximum civil penalty authorized under 16 U.S.C. § 1860 and to enforce the penalty through an action *in rem* seeking forfeiture of the vessel involved, together with its fishing gear and cargo. Under no circumstances should the fish or fish products on board be released to the vessel owner as part of any settlement or other resolution of the enforcement action. The products in question were produced from illegally harvested fish and should not be released for sale in the domestic or world markets where they would compete with the products legitimately produced by the U.S. pollock industry. Those markets are already severely depressed and the influx of additional product would only serve to exacerbate an already bad situation - - thereby penalizing the U.S. industry.

The vessel owner may claim that only a small fraction of the product onboard the MING CHANG results from its fishing activities on the U.S. side of the boundary line. If such a claim is made, we would encourage you to secure copies of the vessel's production logs to see what its daily production rates were during the fishing trip leading up to the time of arrest. Production rates on the Russian side of the line are reportedly very low, with vessels producing as little as 3-5 tons of finished product per day - - a fraction of what comparable vessels produce on the U.S. side of the line.

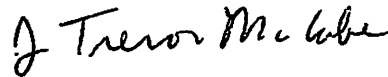
Finally, if the government does succeed in confiscating the product from the MING CHANG, disposition of that product should be limited to food banks or other non-market outlets so that it would not compete with our product in the marketplace. We would be pleased to suggest non-market outlets such as the Food Bank of Alaska or food programs conducted Northwest Food Strategies and Second Harvest. The members of our association actively

Mr. Robert C. Bundy
August 23, 2000
Page Three

participate in these programs and can attest to the contribution they make in alleviating hunger in our country. By distributing the MING CHANG's products into programs designed to feed the hungry, some good would come from an otherwise unfortunate incident.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and interest in this important matter. If we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Trevor McCabe
Executive Director
At-sea Processors Association

cc: Senator Ted Stevens, Alaska
Senator Frank Murkowski, Alaska
Congressman Don Young, Alaska
Senator Slade Gorton, Washington
Senator Patty Murray, Washington
Dr. Jim Balsiger, Regional Director, NMFS - Juneau

Editorial - Ketchikan Daily News, Thursday August 17, 2000

Encouraging news comes from the Bering Sea, where the Coast Guard seized a foreign vessel after it was found fishing in U.S. waters.

The seizure of the Chinese-owned Ming Chang trawler-processor – the third such vessel seized off the Alaskan coast so far this year – sends a strong signal that the United States doesn't tolerate foreign boats fishing illegally in its waters.

There was another signal sent by the Ming Chang action. Monday night marked the first time a vessel boarding was conducted jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Russian Federal Border Service. The Russians are becoming serious about stopping the cross-boundary traffic.

Crossing that boundary could prove costly for the Zhou Shan Marine Fisheries Co. that owns the Ming Chang. The vessel had 2 million pounds of processed fish on board when it was seized. Under the federal Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, Zhou Shan could be forced to forfeit the fish as well as the vessel and its gear, according to a story by The Associated Press.

That's no idle threat. The U.S. Attorney's office this month announced it has requested forfeiture of the Spitak, A Russian vessel seized July 31 by the Ketchikan-based Coast Guard Cutter ACUSHNET for fishing illegally in U.S. waters of the Bering Sea.

These seizures and subsequent legal actions should get the attention of foreign fishing companies tempted to cast their nets in U.S. waters. The Coast Guard reports that several other fishing vessels were in the area when it seized the Ming Chang. There's no doubt those boats were paying close attention to what was happening – and paying very close attention to their own positions in relation to the maritime border.

That's good. Message received.

The Bering Sea is one of the most productive fish habitats on the planet. The U.S. side is closely regulated to sustain viable habitats and fish populations. Access to fishery resources are regulated, too, although management decisions are often hotly contested by fishery participants.

What the United States doesn't need and shouldn't tolerate is the poaching of fish within maritime borders in the Bering Sea, especially by high-volume, trawler-processors like the Ming Chang.

Seizing this vessel and any others that dare to follow is the right thing to do.

**TO: Richard Lauber
North Pacific Fishery Mgmt Council
9,1-907-271-2817**

Constituent Contact: Robert Hansen, (202) 482-4594, Robert.C.Hansen@noaa.gov

**NOAA Calls for Nominations for Federal Advisory Committee on
Marine Protected Areas**

As a result of Executive Order 13158, the Department of Commerce is establishing a Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Nominations must be postmarked on or before Oct. 2, 2000. Executive Order 13158 and the full text of the federal register notice calling for nominations are available on the web at: www.mpa.gov. The agency is targeting non-Federal scientists, resource managers and other interested persons and organizations for this committee. Once formed, the committee will provide advice and recommendations in implementing Section 4 of the Executive Order. Nominations should be sent to: Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, NOAA, 14th and Constitution Ave., NW, Room 6117, Washington DC 20230. ATTN: Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas. For more information contact Anne Marie Goldsmith, NOAA, (202) 482-2160 or anne.marie.goldsmith@noaa.gov.

-30-

Constituents who wish to switch from fax to e-mail transmission of NOAA information should send a message to Robert.C.Hansen@noaa.gov. Please do not use the reply function on your e-mail to respond to this message.

Subject: Marine Protected Areas - F.R. notice for a new Advisory Committee

Date: Fri, 18 Aug 2000 10:00:35 -0400

From: "Laurel Bryant" <Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov>

Organization: National Marine Fisheries Service


To: Paul Howard <Paul.Howard@noaa.gov>, Dan Furlong <Dan.Furlong@noaa.gov>, Robert Mahood <Robert.Mahood@noaa.gov>, Miguel A Rolon <Miguel.A.Rolon@noaa.gov>, Wayne Swingle <Wayne.Swingle@noaa.gov>, Donald McIsaac <Donald.McIsaac@noaa.gov>, Clarence Pautzke <Clarence.Pautzke@noaa.gov>, Kitty Simonds <Kitty.Simonds@noaa.gov>

Hello All:

I wanted to give everyone the heads up on a request for nominations to a new Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that has been published in today's Federal Register. NOAA has been given the lead in implementing the Executive Order (#13158) signed by the President on May 26, 2000, "...to strengthen and expand the national system of MPAs". This initiative involves the establishment of a new FACA to advise the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior.

I have attached a wordperfect copy of the Federal Register notice requesting nominations. The nomination deadline is missing from my document so please make a note that all nominations are to be postmarked on or before October 2, 2000. A copy of the Executive Order can be found at the Federal Register. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have trouble accessing this file or need additional information.

Laurel G. Bryant <'(((((>< <'(((((><
NOAA Fisheries
Constituent Affairs Coordinator
(301) 713-2259
Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov

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Billing Code: 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(I.D. 081500A)

Nominations for Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is establishing a Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) pursuant to Executive Order 13158 and is seeking nominations for membership on this Committee.

DATES: Nominations must be postmarked on or before (insert date 45 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER).

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, NOAA, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6117, Washington, DC 20230 ATTN: Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anne Marie Goldsmith, NOAA, (202)482-2160. E-mail: Anne.Marie.Goldsmith@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In Executive Order 13158, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior were directed to seek the expert advice and recommendations of non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and other interested persons and organizations through a Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. The

Advisory Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior in implementing Section 4 of the Executive Order, and specifically on strategies and priorities for developing a national system of MPAs and on practical approaches to further enhance and expand protection of new and existing MPAs.

Initial committee members will be selected for two or three year terms of service. The Committee will meet at least once annually; however, members of subcommittees, task forces, and/or working groups established by the Committee may meet on a more frequent basis. Members of the Committee will not be compensated, but may upon request, be allowed travel and per diem expenses.

The Department of Commerce is seeking approximately 30 highly qualified individuals to serve on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. Nominations are sought for non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and persons representing other interests or organizations involved with or affected by marine conservation. Individuals seeking membership on the Advisory Committee should possess demonstrable expertise in a related field or represent a stakeholder interest affected by MPAs. Nominees will also be evaluated based on the following factors: marine policy experience, leadership and organizational skills, region of country represented, and diversity characteristics.

Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties, such as scientific societies; academic and research institutions; groups or governments representing Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Caribbean Islanders and Pacific Islanders; states, territories and localities; interest groups such as the fishing

(recreational and commercial), boating, diving, recreational, maritime, historical and philanthropic communities; conservation organizations; and Federal agencies. (NOTE: No Federal agency employees may be appointed to serve on the Committee, but nominations for non-federal employees will be accepted from Federal agencies).

Each submission should include the submitting person's or organization's name and affiliation, a cover letter describing the nominee's qualifications and interest in serving on the Committee, a curriculum vitae or resume of nominee, and no more than three supporting letter(s) describing the qualifications of the nominee. Self nominations are acceptable. The following contact information should accompany each nominee's submission: name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

Nominations should be sent to (see ADDRESSES) and nominations must be received by (see DATES). The full text of the executive order can be found at the following address: www.mpa.gov.

Dated: August 11, 2000

D. James Baker,

Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere,

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

Department of Commerce.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE:
FORGING A 21st CENTURY STRATEGY FOR OUR OCEANS
August 7, 2000

Today, in an event on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, President Clinton will sign bipartisan legislation establishing a new high-level commission to recommend policies to promote the protection and sustainable use of America's oceans and coastal resources. The Oceans Act of 2000 builds on the Administration's strong efforts to protect our nation's beaches and coasts, restore fisheries and marine mammals, strengthen coastal economies, and expand undersea exploration. The President also will call on Congress to fully fund his Lands Legacy budget for fiscal year 2001, which proposes record funding to protect our oceans and coasts.

Building a New Consensus for Ocean Protection. Two years ago, President Clinton and Vice President Gore presided over the National Ocean Conference in Monterey, California, which brought together for the first time the full array of ocean interests -- from scientists and conservationists to representatives of government and industry. At the Conference, the President announced new steps to protect coral reefs and rebuild fisheries, and extended through 2012 the moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing off most of America's coast. This year, on Memorial Day weekend, the President signed an Executive Order to strengthen and expand the nation's network of marine protected areas -- the ocean equivalent of our national parks -- and directed the Commerce and Interior departments to develop a plan to permanently protect the rich coral reefs of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. And in June, the President announced the launch of three undersea expeditions and directed the Commerce Secretary to develop a plan for a new era of ocean exploration.

New Strategies to Meet a New Set of Challenges. At the Monterey Conference, the President committed to work with Congress to establish a new commission to help chart a 21st century strategy to restore and protect America's ocean resources. More than 30 years have passed since the Stratton Commission, the first such panel, issued recommendations that

laid
the foundation for federal oceans policy -- including the
establishment of
national marine sanctuaries, management of marine fisheries, and
creation
of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. But pressures
on
our oceans and coasts continue to mount. Nearly half of all new
development in the United States occurs along the coast. Rising
demand for
seafood is driving some species toward extinction. And polluted
runoff
causes toxic algae blooms, forces beach closures, and threatens marine
life
and human health.

The Oceans Act of 2000, whose chief sponsor was Senator Fritz Hollings
of
South Carolina, aims to meet these and other new challenges by
developing
broad-based recommendations to strengthen and coordinate federal ocean
policy. To take effect January 20, 2001, the Act:

- * Establishes a Commission on Ocean Policy with 16 members, including
representatives of state and local government, academia, ocean-related
industries, and the conservation and scientific communities. Members
will
be appointed by the President, with 12 members drawn from nominees
submitted by Congress.

- more -

- * Directs the Commission to examine federal ocean policy, and
environmental
and economic trends affecting oceans and coasts, and within 18 months
of
its appointment submit recommendations to Congress and the President.

- * Directs the Commission to recommend ways to promote responsible
stewardship of fisheries and other marine resources; protection of the
marine environment; enhancement of marine-related commerce and
transportation; expansion of human knowledge of the marine
environment;
cooperation among federal, state and local governments, and with the
private sector; protection of life and property; and preservation of
America's international leadership on ocean issues.

- * Directs the Commission to hold public hearings (including at least
one in
the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, the Northwest, the Gulf
of
Mexico, and Alaska), release a draft report for public review, and
consult
with the Governors of coastal states.

- * Calls on the President, within 120 days of receiving the
Commission's
report, to submit proposals to Congress for the responsible use and
stewardship of ocean and coastal resources; and, beginning in
September,
2001, to report biennially to Congress on federal ocean
programs and projected funding over the coming five years.

- * Investing in Our Oceans and Coasts: President Clinton has secured
significant new funding to rebuild marine fisheries and a four-fold

increase in funding to manage and protect our national marine sanctuaries.

Through his Lands Legacy initiative, he is proposing a record \$429 million

in fiscal year 2001, a 159 percent increase, for ocean and coastal protection. This includes \$100 million for a new program to help coastal

states address the environmental impacts of existing offshore oil and gas development; \$159 million to states for other

programs to protect, restore, and revitalize coastal areas; \$100 million to

help states and tribes restore Pacific Northwest salmon; \$35 million to

protect and expand marine sanctuaries; and \$15 million to

protect and rebuild coral reefs. However, budget bills approved by the

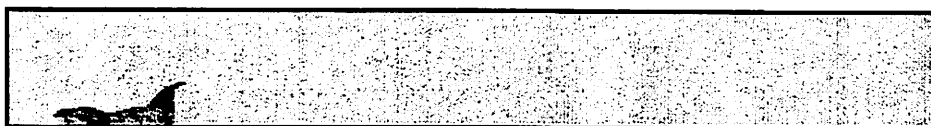
House and Senate fall far short of the President's request. The President

calls on Congress to fully fund these programs and his entire Lands Legacy

initiative.

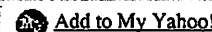


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Oddly Enough News - updated 11:31 AM ET Aug 30



Reuters

Tuesday August 29 11:24 AM ET

Police Find Human Head Inside Giant Cod

BRISBANE, Australia (Reuters) - Workers at an Australian fish wholesaler were shocked to find a human head inside a giant cod they were preparing for sale, police say.

Police in Cairns in the far north of Queensland state said the 97-pound flowery cod was caught by a fishing trawler off Townsville at the weekend and had been delivered to the seafood wholesaler before sale to the public.

“On preparing the fish they observed the remains inside and contacted police,” detective sergeant David Miles told reporters Tuesday.

“It was fairly big and the head appeared to be fairly much intact inside it,” he said.

Forensic tests were being carried out on the head as police attempted to identify the remains.

Local media suggested the head could have belonged to a trawler fisherman missing after falling overboard about 31 miles off Townsville early Sunday.

Police said a search for the fisherman, 39-year-old Michael Edwards of Cairns, was called off after the discovery of the head inside the 5.2-foot fish. It was hoped forensic tests would help determine how the head was severed.

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