

Executive Director's Report

Staff Economist Search

We have been fortunate to retain the services of Darrell Brannan, who is attending this meeting and will be able to work remotely for us for another month or so. I am happy to tell you that we have just hired a new staff economist, Maria Tsu, to help fill the void left by his departure to Florida. While she is not replacing Darrell as Senior Economist, I am confident she will be a dynamic addition to our staff and will be able to tackle a variety of economic analyses and other tasks. She has a Master's degree in economics from Virginia Tech, as well as a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from UW, and several years experience on Wall Street. She also served four years as a Naval Officer in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. She will start later this month, and once we get her up to speed on our fisheries issues, which should not take long, I expect her to really round out our staff. There is still some possibility of hiring a Senior Economist to provide overall guidance to our excellent team.

Evening Events

Tonight of course is the reception honoring Rick Lauber and his long and outstanding service in the Council process. We intend to get started around 6:30 pm or shortly thereafter to give us time to rearrange the room for the festivities. A lot of thought and effort went into planning this event, from Helen, Clarence, and Maria in our office to Linda Behnken here in Sitka. Numerous fishing industry associations and individuals have also contributed generously to make this event a success. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Russian Tragedy

On a much more somber note, I recently received an e-mail report that on September 20, Aleksandr Pukalo, the head of the Kamchatka fishing company Magellan, was executed on a street in Moscow by an unidentified gunman. Itar-Tass news agency reports that his company had been accused of illegal fishing activities off Kamchatka, and was recently organizing fish shipments from the Far East to Moscow. No other information was available from police.

November Meeting

A reminder that we do indeed have a November meeting scheduled to take final action on the Pacific cod/Steller sea lion interactions, at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel. I presume this to be a single issue meeting, and our available schedule will not really allow for additional agenda items. The schedule will look a little different than normal, due to other obligations of several SSC members. The AP will start on Wednesday the 15th and meet through Friday the 17th, allowing approximately one day each for staff reports, public testimony, and development of their recommendations. The SSC will meet on Thursday the 16th and they believe they can complete their review and comments in that one day. The Council will start on Friday the 17th and meet through Sunday the 19th, or Monday the 20th if necessary.

Future Council Meeting Schedules

Back in April we briefly discussed the issue of the Council meeting cycle, the fact that Helen normally has to confirm our meeting arrangements two years in advance, and the possibility of altering our meeting cycle for 2003 and beyond (we are locked in through 2002). Please refer to B-1(a) in your notebook for the tentative meeting dates and places for 2003-2005. I think our basic schedule of meeting in February, April,

June, October, and December still probably makes the most sense, though we do plan to switch the locations of our February and October meetings, so that we meet in Seattle in February and Anchorage in October starting in 2003.

Plan Team Nomination

We have one more nomination for Council approval which I believe will round out our Groundfish Plan Teams. NMFS has nominated Elizabeth Sinclair to replace outgoing John Sease as the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) delegate to the Gulf of Alaska Plan Team (see letter under B-1(b)). She has 20 years experience researching marine mammals and their prey in the North Pacific. Her vitae is attached and we have requested the SSC to review that as well.

AP/SSC Nominations

We will be calling for AP and SSC nominations following this meeting. The Council will review them in December for one-year appointments at that time. The Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee (PNCIAC) members were appointed last year for two-year terms, so they are not up again until next year.

A Farewell to Arms

As many of you already know, we are about to bid fond farewell to someone who has been a very large presence in the management and enforcement of our fisheries off Alaska. Steve Myers, Special Agent in Charge of the NMFS Alaska Enforcement Division for the past several years, is relocating to Sacramento, California to supervise the operational aspects of the Pacific salmon program, beginning in November. I understand that Steve will be in Juneau through the end of this year, but this will likely be his last NPFMC meeting. I have always had the highest respect for Steve, both professionally and personally, and I know you will join me in thanking him for his years of dedicated service and wishing him the best in his new position. Steve, we will truly miss you.

**NPFMC
Suggested Meeting Dates and Locations
Years 2003-2005**

Year 2003:

Weeks of: February 3-10, 2003 Seattle
 March 31-April 7, 2003 Anchorage
 June 9-16, 2003 Kodiak
 October 6-13, 2003 Anchorage
 December 8-15, 2003 Anchorage

Year 2004:

Weeks of: February 2-9, 2004 Anchorage
 March 29-April 5, 2004 Anchorage
 June 7-14, 2004 Portland
 October 4-11, 2004 Sitka
 December 6-13, 2004 Anchorage

Year 2005:

Weeks of: February 7-14, 2005 Seattle
 April 4-11, 2005 Anchorage
 June 6-13, 2005 Dutch Harbor
 October 3-10, 2005 Anchorage
 December 5-12, 2005 Anchorage

Current Meeting Schedule through 2002

	February Week of/ Location	April Week of/ Location	June Week of/ Location	October Week of/ Location	December Week of/ Location
2000				2/Sitka	4/Anchorage
2001	5/Anchorage	9/Anchorage	4/Kodiak	1/Seattle	3/Anchorage
2002	4/Anchorage	8/Anchorage	3/Dutch Harbor	Sept 30/ Seattle	2/Anchorage

*Meeting dates subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's newsletter.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ALASKA FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
P.O. Box 15700 F/AKC
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

September 5, 2000

Richard B. Lauber, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Ave., Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RECEIVED

SEP - 7 2000

N.P.F.M.C

Rich
Dear Mr. Lauber:

I nominate Elizabeth Sinclair to replace outgoing representative John Sease as the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) delegate on the Gulf of Alaska Plan Team. Ms Sinclair heads the Diet and Prey Resources Task in the Alaska Ecosystems Program at the NMML. She has 20 years experience researching marine mammals and their prey in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, and will be an asset to discussions regarding potential marine mammal/fisheries interactions. Her curriculum vitae is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Coe".

James M. Coe
Acting Science and Research Director,
Alaska Region

Attach.

cc: Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director NPFMC
Douglas P. DeMaster, Director NMML



CURRICULUM VITAE: Elizabeth H. Sinclair
345-40-3110

EDUCATION

M.S. Biological Oceanography, Oregon State University, 1988
B.G.S. Zoology and Anthropology, University of Michigan, 1977

EXPERIENCE

- 1998-present Fisheries Research Biologist (GS-12), Team Research Coordinator, Diet and Prey Resources, National Marine Mammal Laboratory. Coordinate research and publish research findings on diet and prey of Steller sea lions and northern fur seals. Administrate and analyze research results for four ongoing interagency research projects. Coordinate northern fur seal long-term programmatic goals. Conduct field studies as needed. Supervise seven permanent and term employees.
- 1996 Summer Faculty, University of Washington, School of Fisheries. Designed and lectured an upper division course in Marine Mammal Ecology as part of a three person team.
- 1987-1998 Fisheries Research Biologist (GS-7, 9, 11), Northern Fur Seal Task, National Marine Mammal Laboratory. Designed and conducted diet studies on northern fur seals including expansion and curation of prey reference collection. Published results of diet studies and edited annual research reports. Proposed and administered research grants and cooperative research program. Administrated permits, contracts and travel. Conducted field studies up to four months out of the year. Supervised work study and contract employees.
- 1982-1986 Research Consultant. Five proposed studies were funded and completed during this time:
- Geographic variation of Dall's porpoise, *Phocoenoides dalli*, in the eastern North Pacific, Bering Sea, and southern Fisheries Conservation Zone of the western North Pacific Ocean. Northwest Fisheries Center, NOAA, Rept. 83-ABC-00047.
 - The potential use of the parasites *Crassicauda* (Nematoda) and *Nasitrema* (Platyhelminthes) as biological tags and their role in the natural mortality of common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*, in the eastern North Pacific, 1984. Southwest Fisheries Center, NOAA, Admin. Rept. LJ-84-08C.
 - Analysis of age in *Tursiops truncatus* based on teeth. Southwest Fisheries Center, NOAA).
 - Stomach content analysis of short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) from the southern California Bight. Southwest Fisheries Center, NOAA, Admin. Rept. LJ-86-08C.

- Review of the biology and distribution of the neon flying squid (*Ommastrephes bartrami*) in the North Pacific Ocean. Oregon State University, NOAA Tech Rept. NMFS 105.

1978-1982 Biological Technician (GS-5, 7), National Marine Mammal Laboratory. Field duties included shipboard, aerial, and land-based surveys of marine mammals six months out of the year. Laboratory responsibilities included cetacean necropsy and database maintenance; co-design and curation of marine mammal osteological collection; literature review and summaries for laboratory director; and administration of field program travel accounts.

MOST SIGNIFICANT AWARDS

1997 Bronze Medal Award for Outstanding Research (Fur Seal Team),
Department of Commerce

1997 Outstanding Performance Award

1996 Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Public Service (Fur Seal Team),
Federal Executive Board

1996 Employee of the Year Award, National Marine Fisheries Service

1996 Outstanding Performance Award

1995 Certificate of Recognition for Research, Department of Commerce

1995 Outstanding Performance Award

1994 W.F. Thompson Best Paper Award Nominee, Am. Inst. Fish. Res. Biol.

1994 Outstanding Performance Award, National Marine Fisheries Service

1990 Certificate of Recognition for Research, Department of Commerce

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Loughlin, T.R., I.N. Sukhanova, E.H. Sinclair, R. Ferrero. 1999. Summary of biology and ecosystem dynamics in the Bering Sea. In: Loughlin, T.R. and K. Ohtani (eds), The Bering Sea: Physical, Chemical, and Biological Dynamics. PICES, SeaGrant.

Sinclair, E.H., A.A. Balanov, T. Kubodera, V.I. Radchenko, and Y.A. Fedorets. 1999. Distribution and ecology of mesopelagic fishes and cephalopods. In: Loughlin, T.R. and K. Ohtani (eds), The Bering Sea: Physical, Chemical, and Biological Dynamics. PICES, SeaGrant.

Sinclair, E.H. (ed.) 1990-1999. Annual Fur Seal Investigations. U.S. Dep. Commer. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-AFSC (2-106).

Antonelis, G.A., E.H. Sinclair, R.R. Ream, and B.W. Robson. 1997. Inter-island variation in the diet of female northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) in the Bering Sea. *J. Zool., Lond.*, 242:435-451.

Sinclair, E.H., G.A. Antonelis, B.W. Robson, R.R. Ream, and T.R. Loughlin. 1996. Northern fur seal, *Callorhinus ursinus*, predation on juvenile walleye pollock, *Theragra chalcogramma*. P. 167-178, In: Brodeur, R.D., P.A. Livingston, T.R. Loughlin, and A.B. Hollowed (eds), *Ecology*

of Juvenile Walleye Pollock, *Theragra chalcogramma*. NOAA Tech. Rep. NMFS 126.

Sinclair, E.H. 1994. Prey of juvenile northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) in the southern California Bight. *Mar. Mamm. Sci.*, 10(2):230-239.

Sinclair, E. T. Loughlin, and W. Pearcy. 1994. Prey selection by northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) in the eastern Bering Sea. *Fish. Bull.* 92: 132-156.

Loughlin, T. R. and E. H. Sinclair. 1994. Sample collection, storage, and documentation. p. 377-384, In: T. R. Loughlin (ed), Marine Mammals and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Academic Press, San Diego, California.

Frost, K.J., L.F. Lowry, E.H. Sinclair, J. Ver Hoef, and D.C. McAllister. 1994. Impacts on distribution, abundance, and productivity of harbor seals. P. 97-118, In: Loughlin, T.R. (ed), Marine Mammals and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Academic Press, San Diego, California.

Sinclair, E.H. 1992. Stomach contents of four short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) from the southern California Bight. *Mar. Mamm. Sci.*, 8(1): 76-81.

Sinclair, E.H. 1991. Review of the biology and distribution of the neon flying squid (*Ommastrephes bartrami*) in the North Pacific Ocean. P. 57-67 In: Wetherall, J.A. (ed), *Biology, Oceanography, and Fisheries of the North Pacific Transition Zone and Subarctic Frontal Zone*. U.S. Dep. Commer. NOAA Tech. Rep. NMFS 105.

Walker, W. A. And E. S. Sinclair. 1990. Geographic variation of Dall's porpoise, *Phocoenoides dalli*, in the eastern North Pacific, Bering Sea, and southern Fisheries Conservation Zone of the western North Pacific Ocean. IWC Special Comm. on Phocoenids.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

David Benton, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Acting Executive Director



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September 28, 2000

The Honorable Norman Mineta
U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th & Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Mineta:

The North Pacific Council recently completed a specially convened meeting to review proposed management measures related to the Pacific cod fisheries and interactions with Steller sea lions (SSL). This meeting was called at the request of the NMFS in order for the Council to take final action on SSL measures in the Pacific cod fisheries at our regularly scheduled October meeting. However, based on advice from NMFS the Council delayed final action until November when we will once again convene a special session to address SSL issues.

At our September meeting the Council met for several days to receive reports and discuss proposed measures to address SSL/Pacific cod concerns. In addition to the pollock measures already adopted by the Council, and the recent court injunction on all trawling in SSL critical habitat, some of the proposed measures for the cod fisheries have the potential for dire economic consequences to all sectors of these fisheries, including the small boat fleet and fishery dependent coastal communities. While our Council is dedicated to the protection of SSL, we do have concerns with the scientific basis for some of the proposed measures, as well as the scientific basis for the premise of prey competition with the commercial Pacific cod fisheries.

These concerns were discussed at length with NMFS staff conducting the analyses, through our Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), industry Advisory Panel (AP), and the Council itself. Based on those discussions we crafted an additional set of alternatives to be analyzed and a lengthy set of recommendations for additional research and information. We expect much of that additional information to be provided by NMFS in time for our scheduled final action in November. At that time we will also have the comprehensive, plan-level biological opinion to assist in that decision process. Management measures approved at the special November meeting would be implemented by emergency rule for the 2001 Pacific cod fisheries.

While that information will be helpful to the Council's decision process in November, we are also concerned about longer-term research initiatives that we believe will shed light on some of the fundamental scientific issues at hand. To that end, our Council requested that I write to you to request that adequate funding be provided in the Department of Commerce budget for Steller sea lion research, and that funds also be dedicated for immediate use this year by NMFS RACE Division to launch winter biomass surveys in SSL critical habitat, including the three large, aquatic foraging areas which have been identified. Extensive surveys are conducted in the summer, but the distribution of fishery resources differs significantly in the winter months. In light of SSL protective measures based on distribution of stocks throughout the year, the

winter component of the survey program now has heightened importance. Adequate funding on an annual basis is needed to provide data which is essential for understanding potential fisheries interactions.

The Council further recommended that NMFS collaborate closely with the State of Alaska, and utilize commercial fishing vessels, crews, and industry expertise, to the extent possible to most efficiently use these limited funds to conduct stock assessment and management efficacy studies. An example of the latter would be the design and implementation of experimental fishing areas that would test the hypothesis of whether and to what extent SSL and the commercial fisheries are competing for prey.

Again, we are dedicated to coming up with measures that legitimately address SSL concerns, hopefully in a manner that does not cause undue harm to our fishermen and coastal communities.

Sincerely,


David Benton
Chairman

cc: Congressional delegations (AK, WA, and OR)

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

David Benton, Chairman
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director



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September 15, 2000

Dr. James Balsiger
Regional Administrator, NMFS
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Dear Jim:

To follow up on our recent September Council meeting, I want to first thank you and your staff for all the hard work put into the analysis of Pacific cod/Steller sea lion interactions and potential management measures. Having said that, I now want to reiterate all the additional issues and analyses requested by the Council! Attached is the final version of the Council's motion, complete with the alternatives and additional analytical requests that came from the AP and Council. Also attached is a copy of the SSC minutes with their specific analytical recommendations.

I fully realize the tall order embodied in these numerous requests and additional alternatives. However, given the serious ramifications of the proposed actions to the industry, the Council wishes to stress the importance of addressing all of these analytical requests to the extent possible. Particularly, the Council discussed the critical importance of the agency addressing the scientific concerns raised by the SSC and AP as it completes the comprehensive FMP-level consultation scheduled for delivery on October 31, 2000. We will look forward to the information in that document to help us make crucial decisions at the November meeting. Thanks again for all the hard work.

Sincerely,



Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director