

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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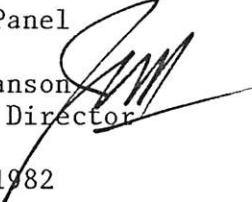


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## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director 

DATE: July 15, 1982

SUBJECT: Operations of the Advisory Panel

I would like to propose for the Advisory Panel's next meeting in September, a discussion of ways to increase the effectiveness of the Advisory Panel in addressing the various issues placed before it by the Council concerning management of the fishery off Alaska. The AP's charter calls on it to advise the Council on the assessments and specifications contained in the FMP's with particular regard to: (a) the capacity and the extent to which the fishing vessels of the United States will harvest the resources considered in the FMP's; (b) the effect of such fishery management plans on local economies and social structures; and (c) the potential conflicts between user groups of a given fishery resource.

It is my impression through discussions with several of you that the AP could use its meeting time most productively by focusing attention on the social and economic impacts of proposed amendment alternatives rather than attempting to evaluate, in depth, the scientific merits of biological decisions made mainly by the SSC and PMT/PDT. While the Council depends heavily on the SSC to sort out the impacts of management proposals on the fish stocks, you as industry representatives are in the best position to guide the Council through the socioeconomic ramifications of a particular action.

Possibly the Advisory Panel should have its own separate agenda much like the SSC does now with the agenda materials arranged to highlight industry issues and leaving out many of the routine reports given the Council. Also, a much broader summary of the pros and cons discussed by the Panel could be presented to the Council along with the results of any vote taken on an issue. The AP's workgroups for specific fisheries possibly could be used more effectively by meeting on the morning of the AP meeting before the whole Panel meets altogether in the afternoon to further discuss the workgroup's recommendations.