

Summary Report  
of the  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Reporting Requirements Workgroup Meetings

September 23, 1987

At its May meeting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council took action on proposed amendments to the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish FMPs. Among the proposals was a change in reporting requirements in the two management areas. The Council chose to continue the status quo but recognized the importance of the issue and appointed a Reporting Requirements Workgroup to meet with representatives of NMFS, the Council, and industry. The group was instructed to develop recommendations for consideration by the Council at its September meeting.

The workgroup, consisting of Bob Mace (Chairman), Dave Woodruff, Ron Hegge, Rudy Petersen, and Barry Fisher, met in Seattle on June 19, 1987, to consider a proposal from NMFS for a four-part reporting system. Also present were John Peterson of the Council, H.J. Park, Steve Hughes, Barry Collier, Bill Stockes, John Schmiedtke, Ron Pauley, Bill Orr, and Ted Evans. Craig Hammond, Bill Robinson, and Ron Berg of the Alaska Region of NMFS, Jon Pollard of NOAA General Counsel were also present. Terry Smith and Helen Allen of the NPFMC staffed the meeting.

The reporting requirements for catcher-processors and motherships as proposed by NMFS would consist of a:

1. Weekly catch report augmented by at-sea transfer information - provides catch data (round weight and number of cartons) and allows managers to monitor the catches;
2. Daily catch production log (DCPL) - allows enforcement personnel to verify the weekly report;
3. Transfer log - allows enforcement personnel to verify the weekly report by accounting for product offloaded;
4. Fish tickets - a follow-up catch record, filled out when the catch is landed, is not suitable for inseason management use because of the time necessary for processing the data. If items 1 through 3 were adopted it may no longer be necessary to require completion of the fish ticket.

After considerable discussion, the workgroup supported retention of a weekly catch report augmented by at-sea transfer information, and a cargo transfer log but failed to reach consensus on the need for a daily catch production log. A subgroup consisting of John Peterson, Bill Orr, and Steve Hughes was appointed and subsequently met with NMFS representatives on July 14 to consider the daily catch production log issue. The meeting resulted in a recommendation against requiring such a report due to the costs involved, the apparent duplication of information now furnished on the fish tickets, and the questionable value of boarding vessels for routine inventory when illegal fishing is not apparent.

## Recommendations

The Reporting Requirements Workgroup makes the following recommendations with regard to amendments to the current reporting requirements for domestic catcher/processor vessels and motherships: *(imple ASAP)*

1. The weekly catch report should be augmented by at-sea transfer information (Attachment 1).
2. Vessels should also maintain a cargo transfer/offloading log as shown in Attachment 2.
3. The above reports should be implemented as soon as possible.
4. Comparable information should be supplied by all processing entities in the same time frame.
5. To facilitate at-sea reporting and inspection the Workgroup recommends that
  - each vessel have on board the information submitted in the weekly product report;
  - NMFS provide standardized conversion ranges and enforcement guidelines to the fleet; and
  - a comprehensive data gathering/data coordination plan (State-Federal) be prepared by NMFS and made available to the Council and the fleet.

In addition to the above recommendations, the Workgroup wishes to note that

- the responsibility of the companies in maintaining accurate reporting forms should be emphasized;
- the specified tolerance for finished weight may vary by plus or minus 4% for enforcement purposes.
- ADF&G fish tickets may not be federally required should the comprehensive data gathering plan adequately replace the fish ticket system.

Attachments (2)



