

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
DATE: March 13, 1986
SUBJECT: Sablefish Management

ACTION REQUIRED

Receive report from Sablefish Management Committee and provide further direction for the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Sablefish Management Committee will meet on March 18, 1986 at 10:30 a.m. in the Council offices. A report on this meeting will be presented to the full Council on March 19.

On February 13, 1986 notice of the September 26, 1985 control date the Council adopted at the December meeting was published in the Federal Register. As stated in the notice [item C-3(a)], anyone entering the Gulf of Alaska commercial sablefish fishery after September 26, 1985 will not be assured of future participation in the fishery should a limited entry system be implemented in that fishery at some future date.

At the January meeting, the Council approved a funding request for \$75,000 to be used for workshops and data gathering/analysis related to management alternatives for the sablefish fishery. On February 4, 1986 the request was sent to Bob McVey who forwarded it to the NMFS Central Office with an approval recommendation attached. No decision has, as yet, been made by the Central Office on the request.

ensure that decisions in every phase of the process to list or delist species are made solely on biological criteria and to prevent non-biological considerations from affecting such decisions (H.R. Rep. No. 97-835, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. 19 (1982) Conference Report).

Petition Received

On November 7, 1985, the Service received a petition from Mr. Cay C. Goude, California-Nevada Chapter, American Fisheries Society, to list the winter-run of chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the Sacramento River, California, as a threatened species.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries has determined that the petition presents substantial scientific information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. Pursuant to section 4 of the ESA, this determination requires that a review of the status of *O. tshawytscha* be conducted to determine if the petitioned action is warranted. In addition, section 4 also requires that within 12 months of receipt of a "substantial" petition the Secretary must make one of the following findings: (1) The petitioned action is not warranted; (2) the petitioned action is warranted; or (3) the petitioned action is warranted, but pending listing proposals preclude immediate proposal of a regulation to implement the action. A Notice of the finding must be published in the Federal Register and in the case of (2) above, the completed text of a proposed regulation to implement the action must be included.

The petition does not address the designation of Critical Habitat. If it is determined that the petitioned action is warranted, section 4(a)(3)(A) of the ESA requires that Critical Habitat be addressed in the publication of proposed and final rules listing the species.

Biological Information Solicited

To ensure that the review is complete and is based on the best available scientific and commercial data concerning *O. tshawytscha*, the Service is soliciting information and comments concerning the status of the species from any interested party. The Service requests that such data, information, and comments be accompanied by: (1) Supporting documentation, such as maps, bibliographic reference, or reprints of pertinent publications; (2) the Party's name, address, and any association, institution, or business that the Party represents.

Dated: February 6, 1986.
William G. Gordon,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 86-3199 Filed 2-12-86; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

North Pacific Fur Seals; Meeting

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is to announce a meeting to discuss fur seal issues in preparation for the Ottawa Meeting Concerning North Pacific Fur Seals. This notice also announces the availability of a draft issue paper on the Ottawa meeting. Issues that will be discussed include the future role of the Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals, long-term research planning, the entanglement problem, and the U.S.-regulated 1985 subsistence harvest. The issue paper is available on request from the information contact listed below.

DATE: March 19, 1986, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESS: National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Building 9-Auditorium, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E., Seattle, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted I. Lillestolen, Office of International Fisheries (F/M31), National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, DC, 20235, (202) 634-7257.

Dated: February 10, 1986.
Carmen J. Blondin,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Resource Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 86-3200 Filed 2-12-86; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-32-M

[Docket No. 50720-5154]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.
ACTION: Notice of control date for entry into the Gulf of Alaska sablefish fishery.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that anyone entering the commercial sablefish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska after September 26, 1985 (control date) will not be assured of future access to the sablefish resource if a management regime is developed and implemented that limits the number of participants in

the fishery. This announcement is necessary for public awareness of a potential eligibility criterion for access to the Gulf of Alaska sablefish resource. This announcement does not prevent any other date for eligibility in the fishery or another method of controlling fishing effort from being proposed and implemented. The intended effect of this announcement is to discourage new entry to the fishery based on speculation while discussions continue on whether and how access to the sablefish resource should be controlled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay J.C. Ginter (Resource Management Specialist), NMFS, 907-586-7229.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) was developed and recently amended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). The final rule implementing this Amendment 14 to the FMP was approved by the Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), on September 26, 1985, and published in the Federal Register (50 FR 43193 October 24, 1985).

This notice is not part of Amendment 14. However, in his letter to the Council approving the amendment, the Regional Director noted that NMFS was "convinced that the rapid increase in fishing effort experienced in the sablefish fishery is likely to continue if not checked." Since the current fishing fleet is capable of harvesting the entire sablefish quota, additional fishing effort would lead to harvesting inefficiencies, more management constraints, and increased conservation risks. The Regional Director recommended that the Council begin immediately to address this problem by developing additional controls on fishing effort. Such controls contemplated in his letter include those that control access to the sablefish fishery resource.

To assist the Council, the Regional Director offered "... to publish a notice in the Federal Register, announcing that anyone entering the sablefish fishery after September 26, 1985, will not be assured to future participation should the Council develop, and the Secretary [of Commerce] implement, an effort control regime that limits the number of participants in the fishery." At its meeting of December 11-13, 1985, the Council voted to accept this offer and adopted September 26, 1985, as the control date. No further action was taken on this issue at that time. The NMFS and the Council intend, in making this announcement, to discourage speculative entry into the

sablefish fishery while potential entry or access control management regimes are discussed by the Council and possibly developed. If the Council decides to develop an access or entry control management regime, some fishermen who do not currently fish for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska and never have done so may decide to enter the fishery for the sole purpose of establishing a record of making commercial landings of sablefish. Such a record generally is considered indicative of economic dependence on the fishery. On this basis, the fishermen may successfully claim access to a fishery that is otherwise limited to traditional participants. New entrants may have to buy the fishing rights or a permit from an existing participant. Hence, initial access to the fishery at little or no cost may result in a windfall gain when selling an access right to a new entrant. This speculation often is responsible for a rapid increase in fishing effort in fisheries already fully or over developed when management authorities begin to consider use of a limited access management regime. The original problems become exacerbated by those who seek possible windfall gain from the solutions being discussed. To help distinguish *bon fide*, established sablefish fishermen from the speculative entrants to a fishery, a management authority may set a control date before discussions and planning of controlled access regimes begin. Fishermen are notified that entering the fishery after that date will not necessarily assure them of future access to the fishery resource on grounds of previous participation. Other qualifying criteria may be applied for entry.

This announcement establishes September 26, 1985, as such a control date for potential use in determining historical or traditional participation in the Gulf of Alaska sablefish fishery. This action does not commit the Council or the Secretary to any particular management regime or criterion for entry to the sablefish fishery. Fishermen are not guaranteed future participation in the sablefish fishery regardless of their date of entry or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control date. The Council may choose a different control date, or it may choose a management regime that does not make use of such a date. The Council may choose to give variably weighted consideration to fishermen in the fishery before and after the control date. The Council may choose also to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery.

Dated: February 3, 1986.

Joseph W. Angelovic,
Deputy Assistant Administrator For Science
and Technology, National Marine Fisheries
Service.

[FR Doc. 86-2659 Filed 2-12-86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices; Advisory Committee Meeting

SUMMARY: Working Group A (Mainly Microwave Devices) of the DoD Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED) announces a closed session meeting.

DATE: The meeting will be held at 0900, Thursday, March 19, 1986.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at Palisades Institute for Research Services, Inc. 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 307, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold Summer, AGED Secretariat, 201 Varick Street, New York, 10014.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the Advisory Group is to provide the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Military Departments with technical advice on the conduct of economical and effective research and development programs in the area of electron devices.

The Working Group A meeting will be limited to review of research and development programs which the military propose to initiate with industry, universities or in their laboratories. This microwave device area includes programs on developments and research related to microwave tubes, solid state microwave, electronic warfare devices, millimeter wave devices, and passive devices. The review will include classified program details throughout.

In accordance with section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II section 10(d) (1982)), it has been determined that this Advisory Group meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) (1982), and that accordingly, this meeting will be closed to the public.

Dated: February 10, 1986.

Linda M. Lawson,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 86-3221 Filed 2-12-86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-01-M

DOD Advisory Group on Electron Devices; Advisory Committee Meeting

SUMMARY: Working Group B (Microelectronics) of the DoD Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED) announces a closed session meeting.

DATE: The meeting will be held at 0900, Wednesday, March 18, 1986.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at Palisades Institute for Research Services, Inc., 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 307, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Becky Terry, AGED Secretariat, 2011 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the Advisory Group is to provide the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Military Departments with technical advice on the conduct of economical and effective research and development programs in the area of electron devices.

The Working Group B meeting will be limited to review of research and development programs which the military propose to initiate with industry, universities or in their laboratories. The Microelectronics area includes such programs as integrated circuits, charge coupled devices and memories. The review will include classified program details throughout.

In accordance with section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, (5 U.S.C. App. II section 10(d) (1982)), it has been determined that this Advisory Group meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) (1982), and that accordingly, this meeting will be closed to the public.

Dated: February 10, 1986.

Linda M. Lawson,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 86-3222 Filed 2-12-86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Civilian Radioactive Waste Transportation Business Plan; Availability

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Transportation Business Plan.

The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), U.S. Department of Energy, has developed a Transportation Business Plan to assist implementing section 137 of the Nuclear

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Sablefish Management Committee

DATE: March 19, 1986

The Sablefish Management Committee met on March 19, 1986 at 7:00 a.m. in the Council offices to consider the direction of its work. The Committee decided that it should focus on alternate management systems for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea domestic groundfish fisheries rather than just the Gulf of Alaska sablefish fishery. As the first step in this regard, Council staff was directed to prepare a questionnaire that would solicit ideas from the industry on the direction of groundfish management. Information from the questionnaires will be the basis for the public meetings the Committee intends to conduct upon receipt of the \$75,000 requested from the NMFS Central Office. The Committee cautions those in the domestic groundfish fisheries that implementation of any management scheme other than the status quo could take several years.