

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members
FROM: Fishery Foundation Steering Committee
DATE: September 22, 1987
SUBJECT: Private Non-profit Fishery Research Foundation

ACTION REQUIRED

Information only.

BACKGROUND

On September 20, 1987 the third public forum was held to discuss the formation of a private non-profit fishery foundation. The steering committee reviewed the possibility of user fees being levied on the industry by Congress, potential foundation-financed research and data gathering projects, and draft bylaws, articles of incorporation and a general work plan.

After a general discussion it was the consensus of the committee and the audience that background material and the attached resolution should be sent to all relevant fishing and processing associations. The associations are to approve or disapprove the resolution within 60 days and notify the steering committee of their actions. A meeting will be held in conjunction with the 1987 Fish Expo to provide an opportunity for association members to ask questions about the foundation concept before voting on the resolution.

It is the intent of the steering committee that an organizational meeting is to be held in conjunction with the December Council meeting to which all associations approving the resolution will be invited.

FISHERY FOUNDATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS reductions in fishery agency funding are causing voids in needed data; and,

WHEREAS the replacement of foreign fleets, with their required observers, by domestic vessels in the bottomfish fisheries off Alaska is causing the industry to lose an invaluable source of fisheries information; and,

WHEREAS the North Pacific commercial fishing industry recognizes its responsibility to ensure fisheries are managed to achieve the maximum benefit to the country; and,

WHEREAS a demonstration of this responsible attitude would be the creation of an industry-funded, non-profit fishery foundation to aid and implement fisheries research and data gathering; and,

WHEREAS such a foundation would be funded by assessments on its members; and,

WHEREAS the purpose of the foundation would be to complement existing management efforts and not to operate in conflict with, or replace, fishery management programs, or agencies; and,

WHEREAS the foundation's priority projects will be the funding of a domestic observer program and the analysis of existing, unprocessed fisheries data and other research programs deemed necessary by the foundation's board of directors; and,

WHEREAS the foundation's board of directors will be members of the North Pacific commercial fishing industry with fishery agency personnel serving as ex-officio members; and,

WHEREAS the foundation's board of directors may hire a professional staff;

BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned members of the North Pacific commercial fishing industry support the creation of a private non-profit fishery foundation funded by the industry and devoted to fishery research and data gathering.