

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director

DATE: April 9, 1999

SUBJECT: IFQ Weighmaster Program

ESTIMATED TIME
1 HOUR

ACTION REQUIRED

Receive Committee report and take action as necessary.

BACKGROUND

In October 1998, the Council reviewed a proposal from NMFS Enforcement on a weighmaster program for IFQ fisheries. The Council adopted a recommendation from the Advisory Panel to refer enforcement issues identified in the weighmaster proposal to a joint committee of the Enforcement Committee and IFQ Implementation Team subcommittee. The joint committee was tasked with evaluating the following: (1) adequate compliance monitoring levels; (2) the potential for involving personnel from ADF&G, USCG, NMFS and the IPHC in achieving the compliance monitoring program; and (3) proposals to address the remaining enforcement needs at adequate compliance monitoring levels.

The joint committee convened on December 8, 1998 and will meet again on April 22, 1999. The December minutes are attached as Item C-7(a). The April minutes will be provided this week. Relevant background material for this discussion includes Steve Meyer's weighmaster discussion paper which was distributed at the October 1998 Council meeting. It also contains the IPHC weighmaster discussion paper. The Dayna Mathews report on the Alaska IFQ programs that was distributed in April 1997 is also useful. A few extra copies of these documents will be available at the meeting for reference.

Lastly, the advance copy of the National Research Council report entitled "Sharing the Fish: Toward a National Policy on Individual Fishing Quotas" also reviews the Alaska program. We have ordered copies of the final report, as well as the final NRC report on the CDQ program, for the Council family and will distribute them when available. The Council may wish to consider the findings in the IFQ report in order to provide further staff direction.

**Enforcement Committee and IFQ Implementation Team Weighmaster Subcommittee
Joint Meeting
December 10, 1998**

The joint meeting of the Enforcement Committee and IFQ Implementation Team Weighmaster Subcommittee convened at 6:40 pm on December 10, 1998. The meeting was rescheduled from the evening of December 9, and some members were unable to attend. Enforcement Committee members in attendance were Chairman Dave Hanson, CAPT. Vince O'Shea, Steve Meyer, and Bill Karp. Sue Salveson and Lisa Lindeman were absent. IFQ Subcommittee members in attendance were Chairman Jeff Stephan, John Bruce, Arne Fuglvog, Jack Knutsen. Drew Scalzi and John Woodruff were absent. Staff in attendance were Jane DiCosimo (NPFMC), Gregg Williams (IPHC), and Paul Flynn and Scott Tobias (USCG). Members of the public were Bob Alversen and Brandon Owen.

The committee reviewed written reports from NMFS Enforcement and USCG on 1996-98 IFQ enforcement staffing and activities. The reports summarized:

- 1) 1998 monitored offloads/at-sea boardings
- 2) summary of violations (96-98)
- 3) 1998 IFQ boardings and inspections by code
- 4) 1998 IFQ boardings and inspections by port
- 5) staffing
- 6) enforcement effort
- 7) adjudications

Steve Meyer reviewed the four levels of enforcement outlined for the IFQ program: 1) patrol; 2) monitoring offloads; 3) auditing; and 4) investigations. He reported that 11 funded IFQ enforcement positions (FPOs) were not staffed in 1998 and reviewed IFQ enforcement coverage in relation to target enforcement levels (i.e., monitoring 20% of offloads). Mr. Meyer identified the difficulty in recruiting and keeping the positions filled as the primary difficulty in meeting target levels of IFQ enforcement.

The joint committee discussed the necessity for a strong enforcement presence for the continued success of the IFQ program and discussed that the lack of staffing potentially jeopardized the program. The committee discussed the lack of staffing in specific ports, particularly Seward and Homer where IFQ landings are high and enforcement effort is low. The committee identified that nine additional enforcement positions may be approved under the American Fisheries Act and possible additional positions for Steller sea lion protection. The committee discussed that weighmasters, as proposed by NMFS, would fill the monitoring role not being met by current levels of enforcement, and might not be necessary if NMFS Enforcement was fully staffed. The committee also discussed the apparent current low level of violations in the IFQ fisheries and possible increase in violations in the future under decreasing levels of enforcement. The committee discussed that even under full staffing (18 fishery patrol officers) the goal of 20% monitoring would still not be adequate to meet all four tiers of enforcement.

While some committee members reported the lack of support by IFQ fishermen and processors for development of a weighmaster program, the committee did not dismiss weighmasters as an enforcement solution at this time.

The committee set its next meeting for the evening of February 1, concurrent with the February Council meeting. The committee requested: 1) NMFS Enforcement and USCG combine their reports so the committee could review comprehensive statewide IFQ enforcement coverage; 2) NMFS expand the summary report of violations for 1996-98 (Attachments 2A and 2B); and 3) IPHC provide a report on its port coverage.