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Contact: Edna Ross

Phone: 202 - 634-7405

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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Organization/Position Routing Code Incumbent/Designee Telephone Room Building

Asst. Admin. For Fisheries, Terry L. Letzell, 634-7283, 400
 Deputy Asst. Admin. for Fisheries, Jack W. Gehring (Actg), 634-7243, 400
 Fisheries
 Executive Director, Manfred H. Halbohm (Actg), 634-7292, 432A
 Deputy, Robert K. Crowell (Actg), 634-7405, 428A
 Admin. Support Staff, Jack Falta (Actg), 634-7405, 424A
 Budget Op. Staff, Dave Rand (Actg), 634-7444, 354
 Mgt. Services Staff, Craig Felber (Actg), 634-7405, 426B
 Director, Office of Policy and Planning, Rk5, 348
 Deputy, Kenneth Goodwin (Actg), 634-7430, 350
 Policy Staff, Herb Black, 634-7430, 350
 Plans and Budget Staff, Jim Czernowky, 634-7430, 330
 Economic Staff, Marc Miller (Actg), 634-7111, 410
 Evaluation Staff, Jack Wise (Actg), 634-7434, 346
 Director, Office of Utilization and Development, R2, 300
 Deputy, Joe Slavin (Actg), 634-7261, 300
 Fisheries Development Div., John Everette, 634-7451, 328
 Seafood Quality & Inspection Division, Tom Bally, 634-7458, 384
 Financial Services Div., Mike Grable, 634-7496, 312
 Consumer Affairs Div., Gene Cope (Actg), 634-7458, 383
 Director, Office of Resource Conservation & Management, R3, 416
 Deputy, Roland Smith (Actg), 634-7218, 416
 State/Federal Division, Dick Schaefer, 634-7454, 412A
 Enforcement Division, Rolan Fallozzi, 634-7265, 361
 Plan Review Division, Roland Finch (Actg), 634-7432, 420C
 Permits & Regulations Div., Denny Moore (Actg), 634-7454, 414B
 Director, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, R4, 428
 Deputy, Carmen Blodinn (Actg), 634-7267, 240
 Foreign Fisheries Analysis Div., Milan Kravnja, 634-7307, 234
 International Organizations & Agreements Division, Hank Beasley (Actg), 634-7257, 242
 International Fish. Dev. and Services Div., Clare Idyll (Actg), 634-7263, 220
 Director, Office of Science and Environment, R5, 186
 Deputy, Robert Scott (Actg), 634-7469, 186
 Resource Assessment Div., Joe Flieght (Actg), 634-7366, 376
 Resource Assessment Div., Lamar Trotter, 634-7466, 182
 Data Mgt. & Information Systems Division, Hoyt Wheeland, 254-7806, 102
 Director, Office of Marine Mammal & Endangered Species, R6, 410C
 Deputy, Dick Roe (Actg), 634-7461, 410C
 Director, Office of Habitat Protection, R7, 194
 Ken Roberts (Actg), 634-7490, 194

Location of Page Buildings and Mailing Address:

Mailing Address for Page 1 and Page 2

Page 1 -- 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C.
 Page 2 -- 3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.
 Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Routing Code
 Division/Office Name

Roster of Council Officials

Council Chairmen

New England Council

Allen E. Peterson, Jr.
Director, Department of
Fisheries, Wildlife and
Recreational Vehicles
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202
(617) 727-3193

Mid-Atlantic Council

David H. Hart
P.O. Box 353
Cape May, New Jersey 08204
(609) 884-8864

South Atlantic Council

Benjamin T. Bardsley
Vice President, Public
Relations, Shakespeare Co.
P.O. Box 246
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
(803) 779-5800

Caribbean Council

Rector M. Vega-Morera
President, Vega Associates
33 Union Street
Salinas, Puerto Rico 00751
(809) 824-2730

Gulf of Mexico Council

John A. Mahos
Liberty Fish and Oyster Co.
P.O. Box 267
Galveston, Texas 77550
(713) 762-8661

Pacific Council

John A. Martins
209 Bridgeway
Everett, Washington 98207
(206) 252-8907
FIS: 434-7950

North Pacific Council

Clement Tillion
Fisherman and Boat Charters
Halibut Cove, Alaska 99403
(907) 235-8281

Western Pacific Council

Wadsworth Y. H. Yee
President, Grand Pacific Life
Insurance Company
195 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 548-5101

Council Vice Chairmen

Jacob J. Dykstra
President, Ft. Judith
Fishermen's Cooperative Assn.
P.O. Box 730
Ft. Judith, Rhode Island 02882
(401) 783-3368

Elliot J. Goldman
Strong, Barnett, Hayes, and
Hamilton of Counsel
4138 Presidential Drive
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania 19444
(215) 363-5910

David H. G. Gould
Georgia Department of Nat. Res.
Coastal Research Program
1200 Glynn Avenue
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
(912) 254-7215

John A. Harms
Lagoon Marina
Red Hook
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801
(809) 775-0570

Theodore B. Ford, III
Associate Director, Office of
Sea Grant Development and
Marine Sciences
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
(504) 687-4181

E. Charles Fullerton
Director, California Department
of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(912) 445-3131
FIS: 445-1535

Harold E. Lokken
Room 230, Building C-3
Fishermen's Terminal
Seattle, Washington 98119
(206) 283-0758

Peter E. Reid
GHC Reid and Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1478
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
633-5169

Paul J. Bordallo
P.O. Box 1306
Agaña, Guam 96910
477-8530

Council Secretary-Treasurer

Robert H. Lowry
Richmond Townhouse Road
Carolina, Rhode Island 02812
(401) 364-9959

Scientific and Statistical
Committee (SSC) Chairman

Dr. Leah J. Smith
Economist and Research Assoc.
Woods Hole Ocean. Institute
Crowell House
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543
(617) 548-1400 (ext. 449)

Dr. William J. Bergis, Jr.
Director, Virginia Institute of
Marine Science
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
(904) 642-2111

Dr. Albert P. Chestnut
Institute of Marine Sciences
Morehead City, North Carolina 28577
(919) 726-6841

Donald S. Erdman
Assistant Director, Commercial
Fisheries Laboratory of the
Department of Agriculture
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 3665
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00708

R. Gary Knight
Law Center, Room 334
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
(504) 388-8701

Dr. Donald E. Bevan
Associate Dean, College of Fish.
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195
(206) 543-4276
FIS: 392-4276

Steven Pennover
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Support Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dr. Isadora Barrera
Director, Southwest Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, California 92038
(714) 453-2820
FIS: 893-6235

Living Address for Southwest Fisheries Center: P.O. Box 271, La Jolla, California 92038

Federal Pay Raise

Council salaries parallel those of the General Service (GS) of the regular Federal Service, with salary limitations placed on non Federal voting members and Executive Directors of GS-18 and GS-15, respectively.

Councils are authorized to increase compensation/salaries of Council members and administrative staffs in accordance with the following Federal Pay Schedule authorized by the President and effective on October 1, 1978.

5.5 Percent Pay Raise Table

years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GS-1	36,561	36,780	36,999	37,218	37,437	37,656	37,875	38,094	38,313	38,532
GS-2	7,422	7,669	7,916	8,163	8,410	8,657	8,904	9,151	9,398	9,645
GS-3	8,366	8,645	8,924	9,203	9,482	9,761	10,040	10,319	10,598	10,877
GS-4	9,391	9,704	10,017	10,330	10,643	10,956	11,269	11,582	11,895	12,208
GS-5	10,507	10,857	11,207	11,557	11,907	12,257	12,607	12,957	13,307	13,657
GS-6	11,712	12,102	12,492	12,882	13,272	13,662	14,052	14,442	14,832	15,222
GS-7	13,014	13,448	13,882	14,316	14,750	15,184	15,618	16,052	16,486	16,920
GS-8	14,414	14,894	15,374	15,854	16,334	16,814	17,294	17,774	18,254	18,734
GS-9	15,920	16,451	16,982	17,513	18,044	18,575	19,106	19,637	20,168	20,699
GS-10	17,532	18,116	18,700	19,284	19,868	20,452	21,036	21,620	22,204	22,788
GS-11	19,263	19,905	20,547	21,189	21,831	22,473	23,115	23,757	24,399	25,041
GS-12	23,087	23,857	24,627	25,397	26,167	26,937	27,707	28,477	29,247	30,017
GS-13	27,453	28,368	29,283	30,198	31,113	32,028	32,943	33,858	34,773	35,688
GS-14	32,442	33,523	34,604	35,685	36,766	37,847	38,928	40,009	41,090	42,171
GS-15	38,160	39,432	40,704	41,976	43,248	44,520	45,792	47,064	*48,336	*49,608
GS-16	44,756	46,248	*47,740	*49,232	*50,724	*52,216	*53,708	*55,200	*56,692	
GS-17	*52,429	*54,177	*55,925	*57,673	*59,421					
GS-18	*61,449									

*The asterisk shows grades and steps within grades that would not get any U.S. Civil Service Commission salary increase because Congress has frozen Federal salaries at \$47,500.

Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of September resulted in 78 boardings, 8 citations, 31 reports of violations, and no seizures. The activity is summarized below:

<u>Number of Boardings</u>					
<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
0	22	0	56	0	78
<u>Number of Citations</u>					
0	2	0	6	0	8
<u>Number of Reports of Violations</u>					
0	0	0	31	0	31

Joint Ventures

NMFS has prepared amendments to 50 CFR Part 602, Proposed Guidelines for Development of Fishery Management Plans. The amendments presently are under in-house review prior to being published in the Federal Register for a 30-day public comment period. The amendments are intended to implement provisions of P.L. 95-354 which amended the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 to require that in the case of any application for a permit by a foreign vessel which proposes to receive U.S. harvested fish from vessels of the United States, the Secretary of Commerce may approve the application unless the Secretary determines that U.S. fish processors have adequate capacity, and will utilize such capacity, to process all U.S. harvested fish from the fishery concerned. Specifically, the amendments propose to set forth the information which will be required in all FMP's regarding the capacity and extent to which U.S. fish processors, on an annual basis, will process fish covered by fishery management plans.

Amendments to 50 CFR 611, Foreign Fishing Regulations, required to implement certain provisions of P.L. 95-354 related to foreign fishing will be included in the proposed 1979 amendments of 50 CFR 611 which will be published soon.

Permits issued to foreign vessels to receive U.S. harvested Pacific hake and Alaska pollock at sea in 1978 are under review for consistency with provisions of the FCMA, as amended. The findings will be published in the Federal Register for public comment in October 1978.

Foreign Fee Technical Workshop

A report of the Foreign Fee Technical Workshop, held June 22-23, 1978, is available from the International Fisheries Development and Services Division, Office of International Fisheries Affairs, NMFS, Washington, D.C. 20235. A limited number of copies of papers presented at this workshop are also available. Topics included are:

- Fishing fees in foreign countries
- Bycatch fees
- Fees for non-fishery natural resources
- Foreign demand for U.S. fish stocks
- Costs for foreign activities relating to FCMA
- Bases for levying foreign fishing fees

NMFS will be making further studies to determine the guidelines for the foreign fee schedule in 1980 and beyond.

Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activities for the month of September resulted in 82 boardings, 17 citations, 3 reports of violations, and no seizures. The activity is summarized below:

Number of Foreign Vessels

	<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Off Gulf Mexico</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Italy	0	0	0	5	0	5
Japan	283	0	0	2	0	285
Mexico	0	0	0	5	0	5
Poland	0	7	0	0	0	7
S. Korea	16	0	0	0	0	16
Spain	0	0	0	4	0	4
Taiwan	2	0	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	42	22	0	0	0	64
TOTAL	343	29	0	16	0	388

Number of Boardings

Italy	0	0	0	2	0	2
Japan	39	0	0	1	0	40
Mexico	0	0	0	1	0	1
Poland	0	1	0	0	0	1
S. Korea	4	0	0	0	0	4
Spain	0	0	0	1	0	1
Taiwan	1	0	0	0	0	1
U.S.S.R.	26	6	0	0	0	32
TOTAL	70	7	0	5	0	82

Number of Citations

Italy	0	0	0	5	0	5
Japan	4	0	0	0	0	4
Poland	0	1	0	0	0	1
S. Korea	2	0	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	5	0	0	0	0	5
TOTAL	11	1	0	5	0	17

Number of Reports of Violations

Italy	0	0	0	1	0	1
U.S.S.R.	2	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	2	0	0	1	0	3

FOREIGN FISHING FLEET OBSERVER PROGRAM - TABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 1978

N A T I O N	NW Atlantic Fish.	** Gulf of Mex. Fish.	Bering Sea Trawl Fish.	Bering Sea Long-line Fish.	Bering Sea Crab Fish.	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fish.	Gulf of Alaska Long-line Fish.	Calif. Ore. Wash. Trawl Fish.	Total
ITALY									
Observers	6		-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Vessels	5		-	-	-	-	-	-	5
JAPAN									
Observers	-		12	1	2	4	2	-	21
Vessels	-		66	4	3	8	12	-	93
MEXICO									
Observers	3		-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vessels	5		-	-	-	-	-	-	5
POLAND									
Observers	-		-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Vessels	-		-	-	-	-	-	5	5
S. KOREA									
Observers	-		1	-	-	1	0	-	2
Vessels	-		4	-	-	2	2	-	8
SPAIN									
Observers	5		-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Vessels	4		-	-	-	-	-	-	4
TAIWAN									
Observers	-		0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-		1	-	-	-	-	-	1
U.S.S.R.									
Observers	-		2	-	-	0	-	4	6
Vessels	-		17	-	-	1	-	10	28
TOTAL									
Observers	14		15	1	2	5	2	7	46
Vessels	14		88	4	3	11	14	15	149

**Information not available at printing time.

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

During the month of September the following actions were taken on FMP's:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>New England</u>	Atlantic Groundfish Fishery	Revision to landing restrictions for yellowtail flounder appeared in the <u>Federal Register</u> 9/12/78. Notice of fisheries closure of commercial cod in southern New England (including Georges Bank) for vessel class 61-125 tons appeared in the <u>Federal Register</u> 9/18/78. Amendment to regulate fishing during a fishing year beginning 10/1/78, and ending 9/30/79, undergoing NMFS review.
	Atlantic Herring Fishery	FEIS/FMP was filed with EPA; document undergoing 30-day cooling off period and Secretarial review.
	<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery
Atlantic Mackerel Fishery		Draft Supplemental EIS/FMP is undergoing public review.
Squid Fishery		Draft Supplemental EIS/FMP was filed with EPA 9/1/78 and is undergoing public review.
	Butterfish Fishery	DEIS/FMP was filed with EPA 9/1/78, and is undergoing public review.
<u>Pacific</u>	Northern Anchovy Fishery	Final regulations appeared in the <u>Federal Register</u> 9/13/78.

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's) (continued)

<u>Council</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
North Pacific	Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery	Amendment to extend fishing year to October 31, 1979; undergoing public review.
	Tanner Crab Fishery	NMFS review ongoing on amendment to extend the plan to October 31, 1979.
	High Seas Salmon Fishery	DEIS/FMP was filed with EPA 9/1/78 and is undergoing public review.
	Bering Sea Groundfish Fishery	DEIS/FMP was filed with EPA 9/1/78 and is undergoing public review.
	Halibut Fishery	Discussion paper was received and is undergoing review by EWG.

Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

During the month of September the following actions were taken on PMP's:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>Southeast</u>	Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks	Draft Supplemental EIS/PMP is under- going public review.
<u>Southwest</u>	Pacific Billfishes and Sharks	Notice of withdrawal for the plan and proposed regulations appeared in the <u>Federal Register</u> 9/14/78.
<u>Alaska</u>	Trawl Fishery Gulf of Alaska	Notice of release to foreign fishers a portion of the reserves of certain species appeared in the <u>Federal</u> <u>Register</u> 9/26/78.

QUARTERLY SUMMARY - FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) STATUS

F I S H E R Y	Identified by Council No Action to Date	Plan Being Developed by Council	DEIS Submitted to Wash. Ofc.	Plan Under Sec. Review	Plan Adopted	Plan Implemented
<u>NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL (NEFMC)</u>						
Atlantic Groundfish for 1977	-	-	-	-	-	X
Atlantic Groundfish Amendment #1	-	-	-	-	-	X
Atlantic Groundfish Amendment #2	-	-	-	-	-	X
Atlantic Groundfish for 1979	-	X	-	-	-	-
Atlantic Herring	-	-	-	X	-	-
Scallop	-	X	-	-	-	-
Red Fish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Hake (Silver)	-	X	-	-	-	-
Fluke	X	-	-	-	-	-
Other Hake	X	-	-	-	-	-
Red Crab	-	X	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrimp	X	-	-	-	-	-
<u>MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL (MAFMC)</u>						
Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries	-	-	-	-	-	X
Atlantic Mackerel*	-	-	X	-	-	-
Butterfish	-	-	X	-	-	-
Squid Fishery of NW Atlantic*	-	-	X	-	-	-
Shark	-	X	-	-	-	-
American Lobster	-	X	-	-	-	-
Fluke	-	X	-	-	-	-
Bluefish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Scup	X	-	-	-	-	-
American Shad, Hickory Shad, and Silver Herring	-	X	-	-	-	-
Sea Bass	X	-	-	-	-	-
		9				

*Plans resubmitted

(continued on next page)

QUARTERLY SUMMARY - FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) STATUS

F I S H E R Y	Identified by Council No. Action to Date	Plan Being Developed by Council	DEIS Submitted to Wash. Ofc.	Plan Under Sec. Review	Plan Adopted	Plan Implemented
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (SAFMC)</u>						
Billfish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Snapper-Grouper Complex	-	X	-	-	-	-
King and Spanish Mackerel	-	X	-	-	-	-
Swordfish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Precious Corals	-	X	-	-	-	-
Spiny Lobster	-	X	-	-	-	-
Calico Scallops	-	X	-	-	-	-
<u>GULF OF MEXICO COUNCIL (GMFMC)</u>						
Groundfish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Shrimp	-	X	-	-	-	-
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	-	X	-	-	-	-
Reef Fishes	-	X	-	-	-	-
Coastal Herring	-	X	-	-	-	-
Precious Corals	-	X	-	-	-	-
Gulf Swordfish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Spiny Lobster	-	X	-	-	-	-
Sharks	-	X	-	-	-	-
Squid	X	-	-	-	-	-
Stone Crab	-	X	-	-	-	-
<u>CARIBBEAN COUNCIL (CFMC)</u>						
Spiny Lobster	-	X	-	-	-	-
Shallow Water Reef Fish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Migratory Coastal Pelagics	-	X	-	-	-	-
Muskrats	-	X	-	-	-	-
Precious Corals	-	X	-	-	-	-
Deep Water Reef Fish	-	X	-	-	-	-

QUARTERLY SUMMARY - FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) STATUS

F I S H E R Y	Identified by Council No Action to Date	Plan Being Developed by Council	DEIS Submitted to Wash. Ofc.	Plan Under Sec. Review	Plan Adopted	Plan Implemented
<u>PACIFIC COUNCIL (PFMC)</u>						
Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries off the Coast of Wash., Ore., and Calif. for 1977	-	-	-	-	-	X
Revision to above plan for 1978	-	-	-	-	-	X
Anchovy	-	-	-	-	-	X
Groundfish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Dungeness Crab	-	X	-	-	-	-
Pink Shrimp	-	X	-	-	-	-
Jack Mackerel	-	X	-	-	-	-
Squid	-	X	-	-	-	-
Comprehensive Salmon	-	X	-	-	-	-
<u>NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL (NPFMC)</u>						
Tanner Crab	-	-	-	-	X	-
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish	-	-	-	-	X	-
King Crab	-	X	-	-	-	-
High Seas Salmon Fishery* (was the Commercial Troll Fisheries off Alaska)	-	-	X	-	-	-
Bering Sea Groundfish	-	-	X	-	-	-
Bering Sea Clam	-	X	-	-	-	-
Bering Sea Shrimp	-	X	-	-	-	-
Ocean Salmon	X	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	-	-	X	-	-	-
Bering Sea Herring	-	X	-	-	-	-
Corals	X	-	-	-	-	-
Snail	X	-	-	-	-	-
*Plans resubmitted						

QUARTERLY SUMMARY - FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) STATUS

F I S H E R Y	Identified by Council No Action to Date	Plan Being Developed by Council	DEIS Submitted to Wash. Ofc.	Plan Under Sec. Review	Plan Adopted	Plan Implemented
<u>NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL (NPFMC) (con't)</u>						
Shrimp (except Bering Sea)	X	-	-	-	-	-
Dungeness Crab	X	-	-	-	-	-
Scallops	X	-	-	-	-	-
<u>WESTERN PACIFIC COUNCIL (WPFMC)</u>						
Spiny Lobster	-	X	-	-	-	-
Precious Corals	-	X	-	-	-	-
Seamount Resources	-	X	-	-	-	-
Billfish	-	X	-	-	-	-
Bottomfishes	-	X	-	-	-	-

Congressional Activities

Bills Introduced

Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) Amendments of 1978 (S. 3483, Hathaway/Mass.; 9/6/78). To amend the FCMA of 1976 in order to assist and protect the domestic fishing industry.

In remarks at the time of introduction, Senator Hathaway stated that his amendments would (1) increase the authority of the Regional Fishery Management Councils over management plans and limit the role of the Commerce Department to that of oversight, (2) make one of the specific purposes of the Act the development of the fishery industry and promotion of the conversion of the industry from overutilized species to underutilized stock, and (3) limit the use of a total ban on fishing as a management tool of last resort only so that such a ban could be implemented only upon finding by both the Council and the Commerce Department that there is an imminent threat to a fishery resource without such a ban.

Committee and Floor Action

Aquaculture (H.R. 9370). On September 12, 1978, the Senate passed H.R. 9370, amended to contain language of S. 3408. This version gives the lead to the Office of Science and Technology Policy rather than to the Department of Commerce as in the House-passed version. House and Senate staffers will try to work out the differences to avert a formal conference.

Endangered Species Act Amendment (ESA) (H.R. 14104). Congressman Leggett (California) introduced H.R. 14104 on September 18, 1978. It replaced H.R. 13807. On September 25, the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries reported H.R. 14104, with amendments (H. Rpt. 95-1625). Briefly, the reported version of H.R. 14104 would:

- (1) extend the ESA appropriation authorizations for the Departments of the Interior and Commerce through fiscal year 1981;
- (2) revise the notice procedure in the Act to improve public notice of proposals to list species as endangered or threatened and designate critical habitat;
- (3) require public hearings in areas affected by a designation of critical habitat;
- (4) establish a procedure whereby Federal agencies can receive exemptions from the requirements of the Act through a six member cabinet level committee;
- (5) review the penalty provisions of the Act by reducing to \$500 the strict liability penalty for anyone except importers and

exporters; make criminal violations of the Act a general rather than a specific intent crime, and subject importers and exporters of fish and wildlife and plants to strict liability penalties of up to \$10,000; and

- (6) require a review of the endangered species list at least once every five years.

Fish and Wildlife Act Amendment/Law Enforcement (H.R. 2329). The Senate passed H.R. 2329, with amendments, on September 25, 1978. The House disagreed with the amendments and appointed conferees on September 29, 1978.

Enactments

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendment (S. 9). To establish a policy for the management of oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf (includes a Fishermen's Contingency Fund). Approved September 18, 1978 (Public Law 95-372).

Fishermen's Protective Act Amendments (FPA) (H.R. 10878). To extend until October 1, 1981, the voluntary insurance program (Section 7) provided by the FPA and to amend the Section 10 program to broaden its coverage. Approved September 18, 1978 (Public Law 95-376).

COUNCIL REPORTS

New England Council

- o The Council held its meeting in Peabody, Massachusetts, on September 20-21, 1978.
- o Mr. Edward MacLeod resigned from the Council at the end of the month. He had served as the second Chairman of the Council.
- o Mr. G. Paul Draheim joined the Council as Deputy Executive Director, Mrs. Judy Ring was employed as Secretary, and Mrs. Pamela Graham joined the staff as part-time bookkeeper.
- o The Council transmitted the final version of the herring management plan to the Secretary (DOC) and requested implementation as soon as possible. The staff drafted herring regulations to implement the plan.
- o The Council adopted management objectives for ocean perch and for pollock. It reviewed management objectives for red crab for further consideration at its next meeting.
- o It submitted revised groundfish trip limitations for incorporation in the groundfish management plan.
- o The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on September 26 to review the scallop research contractual proposal, and the economic and biological data needs for the new groundfish management plan.
- o The Council recommended denial of additional Japanese longline fishing permit applications on the grounds of high and wasteful mortality of tuna, unauthorized fishing for billfish, and high mortality of billfish.
- o The Council continued to review specific problems of the groundfish fishery with the intent of incorporating solutions into the groundfish plan.
- o The staff met with NMFS personnel to coordinate red crab plan preparation, agree upon silver hake research needs, coordinate multi-species management planning, and economic and biological data needs and models for development of the groundfish management plan.

Mid-Atlantic Council

The Council met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 12-14, 1978. During the meeting the Council took the following action:

- o Created a special committee to consider the matter of surf clam vessel licenses.
- o Requested that the Secretary of Commerce extend the surf clam/ocean quahog FMP through calendar year 1979 specifying that the optimum yield for calendar year 1979 remain the same as those for calendar year 1978.
- o Recommended that the Secretary of Commerce take necessary action to reduce trip limitations in the groundfish fishery to the lowest possible level with the beginning of the new fishing year to assure that the fishery does not close prior to mid-Atlantic fishers having an opportunity to participate in the fishery and suggested that if that is not possible, the fishing year begin on November 15.
- o Considered the question of a workshop on the environment of the mid-Atlantic bight relative to fisheries and requested that the Council's Environmental Committee prepare a plan and budget for such a workshop.
- o Reviewed the proposed Gear Conflict Regulations and agreed that appropriate action should be taken to implement them as soon as possible.
- o Endorsed the proposed Agreement for Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.
- o Reviewed the paper produced by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a result of the Governors Island meeting on foreign fishing regulations and endorsed the concepts in that paper subject to further review after the concepts have been put in the form of proposed regulations.

The Council will meet again in Philadelphia on October 10-12, 1978.

South Atlantic Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held September 25-28, 1978, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Summary prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o Council approved five new permits for Japanese longliner tuna vessels.
- o Council will be represented at the Tri-State Coastal Recreational Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 23-24, 1978, by Council member Edwin Joseph.
- o Council discussed the proposed sanctuary status for Looe Key and decided to continue its present policy of management through development, in cooperation with the Gulf of Mexico Council, of a coral FMP. The plan will take into consideration the broad ecological needs of Looe Key as well as other sensitive reef areas.

- o Jo Ann Weaver of the General Accounting Office attended the Council meeting. She is preparing a report on Council activities with regard to consideration of NMFS/USCG enforcement procedures and needs.
- o The Council reviewed activities on the development of a snapper/grouper FMP and decided that it will be necessary to reassess decisions made to date and develop an administrative record. This will include defining the fishery, the management unit, and establishing a complete MSY (maximum sustainable yield) and OY (optimum yield). A steering committee meeting will be held, together with the task team, to determine MSY on October 4-5, 1978, in Charleston. A second meeting to determine OY and other parameters in a plan will be held in November.
- o Chairman Hardesty, upon reviewing the merits of the administrative record development process, decided there is a need to apply this procedure to the development of all plans. He is especially anxious to begin such activities on the billfish plan.
- o Discussion was held on the stone crab FMP being developed by the Gulf of Mexico Council. It was decided to convene a special group in Atlanta on October 11, 1978, to work out a schedule for public hearings on stone crab in the South Atlantic Council area. Such hearings will be held in all four States.
- o The Council endorsed a proposed Sea Grant project by East Carolina University dealing with the collection of social and economic data on the recreational boat fishing fleet.
- o The Council reviewed a request from the North Pacific Council for support on its effort to kill H.R. 39 in the U.S. Congress. It was decided to take no action on this request on the advice of Mr. Irwin Alperin (Council member representing the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) who indicated this legislation will not be approved by the Congressional Committee in its present form.
- o The Council considered the need for increased observer coverage on foreign vessels in response to a request from the Mid-Atlantic Council. Both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils have recommended foreign vessels be afforded 100 percent observer coverage. The South Atlantic Council decided that 100 percent observer coverage should not be made a mandatory requirement in all plans or for all fisheries in the South Atlantic area.
- o The Council decided to support a reduction in the incidental catch of river herring by foreign vessels operating in the silver hake fishery to 100 tons annually. The previous limitation has been 500 tons annually.
- o The Council reviewed the fiscal year 1979 budget as adjusted by NMFS. A draft letter commenting on the reduction and the philosophy behind it was approved by the Council for submission to the Regional Director.

A request was made that this letter receive high priority in the preparation of a response so it may be discussed at the next Council meeting to be held in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

- o The Council decided to contact the Gulf of Mexico Council to terminate the arbitration procedure to develop joint recommendations on a boundary between Councils. This decision was based on information that arbitrators, Bill Utz and Lawrence McHugh, had reached an impasse in selecting a third member for the arbitration team. The Council is developing an alternative approach for arriving at a solution to the boundary issue.
- o The Council set up dates for a series of committee meetings during the first three weeks of October:
 - October 4 - 11 a.m., Advisory Panel Selection Committee
Charleston, South Carolina
 - October 5 - Scientific and Statistical Committee, mackerel
FMP, New Orleans, Louisiana
 - 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Personnel Committee,
Charleston, South Carolina
 - October 5-6 - 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., Snapper/Grouper Steering
Committee with leaders of task team, Charleston,
South Carolina
 - October 10 - Joint Mackerel Management/Steering Committee,
Atlanta, Georgia
 - October 17-18 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., SOPP's (Statement of Organiza-
tion, Practices, and Procedures) Committee,
Charleston, South Carolina
- o A standing committee was established to select members for the SSC. It will be chaired by Edwin Joseph, and will include as members Harold Allen Irwin Alperin, and O. B. Lee. The SSC is authorized to have up to 16 members. Eight members have currently been appointed. Council members were asked to recommend SSC membership.
- o The Council met with Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina. The urgent need for data on which to base fishery management decisions was discussed in considerable detail. Governor Hunt indicated he will consider means to collect data such as saltwater fishing licenses with his staff and, if appropriate, with the Governors of other southern coastal states.
- o The October meeting of the Council will be held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on October 31 to November 2, 1978. Some Council members will attend the dedication of the Charleston Laboratory on October 31, 1978, prior to the Council meeting.

Caribbean Council

The Council did not meet in September. However, the staff continued to work on revisions of the spiny lobster and reef fish fishery management plans, and also worked on a RFP for migratory coastal pelagics.

Gulf of Mexico Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held September 6-8, 1978, in Corpus Christi, Texas. The summary was prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o Messrs. John Mahos and Theodore Food were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.
- o The stone crab FMP was reviewed, modified, and discussed at great length by the management committee and endorsed by the Council. The plan will be redrafted by the task team, the EIS and EIA prepared, and public hearings are rescheduled for October. Every possible effort will be made to have the plan implemented by February 15, 1979, in order to prevent conflict between stone crabbers and shrimpers in the Florida Keys.
- o NOAA's Office of Ocean Management reviewed the proposed designation of the Flower Garden Reef off Texas as a marine sanctuary. The Council did not endorse the designation.
- o The Council considered, but made no recommendation, on nine additional Japanese permit applications to longline in the Gulf.
- o Council voted to award a contract with the Center for Natural Areas of Washington, D.C., to develop a coral FMP. This plan is a joint effort with the South Atlantic Council. Scheduled date of completion is July 31, 1979.
- o All proposals to develop an FMP for coastal herrings were rejected. NMFS has been asked and will prepare a profile of the fishery. The method of further development of the FMP will be decided after the profile is completed.
- o The draft reef fish plan was reviewed, and the contract for the plan will be extended up to 3 months to allow for modification of the objectives and plan format and preparation of an EIS.
- o Ms. Bethyln McClosky, new Council member from Louisiana, was appointed chairwoman of the Public Information Committee. Additional committee reassignments were made by the Chairman.

- o The Regulatory Measures Committee passed a motion which Council approved to use the state boating registration system as the primary means for enumerating the number of vessels fishing in the FCZ.
 - o Council deferred any action on the billfish FMP until November because ICATT (International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) is in the process of revising the MSY for billfish in the northwest Atlantic and the Southeast Fisheries Center, NMFS, is conducting a billfish survey which will be available in November.
 - o Action on approval of phase one of the mackerel FMP was postponed because of the delay in obtaining comments from the SSC.
 - o The Council approved a meeting schedule for 1979. The next Council meeting will be October 16-18, 1978, at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Tampa, Florida. This will be in conjunction with meetings of the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions.
 - o Future meetings are scheduled in New Orleans on November 14-16, and December 5-7 in Galveston, Texas.
- Pacific Council
- o The Council did not meet in September. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for October 11-13, 1978, in Los Angeles, California. Among items on the October meeting agenda are considerations of the first draft of the groundfish management plan and two requests for permits to harvest coral.
 - o Public meetings on a proposed salmon moratorium were held along the Oregon coast during the week of September 25. The "town hall" meetings, sponsored by the Oregon commercial fishing industry, were to solicit input into draft State legislation to limit access in the ocean salmon troll and charter fisheries commencing in 1980. The Council has deferred consideration of a Federal moratorium on new entrants into the ocean commercial salmon fisheries to allow the States an opportunity to institute their own systems.
 - o Council Chairman Martins, Council member McKean and several Council staff members reviewed the draft GAO (General Accounting Office) audit report with GAO personnel in Portland, Oregon. Response to the report was generally good.
 - o A meeting was held August 31 in Sacramento to consider curtailing the ocean chinook salmon fishery of the Klamath River in California. The request by the Secretary of Interior for an emergency closure by the Secretary of Commerce was the result of a threatening situation which developed when the Indian commercial and the river sport fisheries were closed to meet escapement goals. Since most of the Klamath chinook salmon had returned to the immediate vicinity of the river and most of the ocean fleet had left for Alacore, no change was recommended in the offshore regulations.

- o Requests for nominations to replace current salmon advisors have been sent to Pacific Coast fishery organizations. The two-year terms of the advisors will expire this fall. The Council has recommended that the present membership serve until completion of the comprehensive salmon management plan to maintain continuity but because of internal changes in some organizations, the Council asked appropriate groups if they desired any change of representation.
- o The Council has instituted a public comment period in conjunction with its monthly meetings. Members of the public may address the Council after registering on sign-up cards. The subjects of testimony need not necessarily pertain to agenda items.
- o Halibut regulations for 1979 will be the subject of some discussion during the October meeting of the Council, since it presently appears that the U.S.-Canada Halibut Convention will be abrogated in April 1979. Also under discussion will be the suggestion that Congress appropriate money to establish a Halibut Division within the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center of NMFS to carry on the work now being done by the Halibut Commission.
- o Council Chairman Martinis, Vice Chairman Fullerton, and Executive Director Nakatsu are expected to attend the annual Council Chairmen's meeting in Kona, Hawaii, October 24-25, 1978.

North Pacific Council

The regular meeting of the North Pacific Council was held at the Centennial Building, Sitka, Alaska, on September 28 and 29, 1978. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) also met in the Centennial Building on September 27 and 28, 1978. These groups also met concurrently with the Council during the meeting.

A public hearing was held Thursday, September 28, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting.

o SSC Membership

The Council unanimously approved reappointing members Messrs. Alan Milliken, Ed Miles, George Rogers, Jack Robinson, Donald Bevan, and Donald Rosenberg, with Jack Robinson as Vice-Chairman, and approved the appointment of Jack Lechner to replace Carl Rosier on the SSC. They discussed revising the SSC Charter to include eleven members, but upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee left the number at ten with the tenth position to be filled with a marine mammal specialist.

o Public Hearing Cancelled

Due to the good attendance at the public hearings held on the troll salmon fishery management plan in Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Pelican, and Sitka between September 22 and 27, the public hearing scheduled for October 5, 1978, in Ketchikan, Alaska, was cancelled. Mr. Scott Stafne, attorney for the Alaska Trollers Association concurred with this action.

o Halibut Working Group

The Council reviewed 14 recommendations drawn up by the Halibut Working Group at their meeting in Seattle on September 18. These included beginning immediate negotiations with Canada with the aim of continuing joint research after April 1, 1979; in the event this is unacceptable to Canada, 13 other recommendations were made which included terminating the IPHC on April 1, 1979, as scheduled; transfer management of halibut stocks off Alaska to the North Pacific Council and the stocks off Washington, Oregon and California to the Pacific Council; transfer the staff of the Halibut Commission, through legislation if necessary, to a special division of NMFS to continue their current research function; and others.

Congressman Don Young of Alaska attended the meeting briefly on September 28 and asked the Council to draft these recommendations in the form of legislation and forward them to him in Washington, D.C.

The Council unanimously adopted the 14 recommendations as their policy and action was initiated to implement them.

o Election of Chairman for 1979

The Council unanimously elected Mr. Clement V. Tillion as the new Council Chairman for 1979, and Mr. Harold Lokken as Vice-Chairmen, effective October 1, 1978.

o Herring FMP (Fishery Management Plan) Steering Group Appointed

A Council steering group consisting of Dr. John Harville, Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, Dr. Ronald Skoog, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Mr. Jim Campbell, Anchorage, Alaska, was appointed by the Council to work with the Management Plan Development Team on the herring fishery management plan.

o SSC Meeting for October

The SSC will meet on October 25-26, 1978, at the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle in advance of the November 2-3 Council meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts there will be no formal SSC meeting on November 2 and 3; however members of the SSC will be present at that meeting to present their report to the Council.

o INPFC (International North Pacific Fisheries Commission) Confirmation

The Council approved Council members Harold Lokken and Clement V. Tillion to continue as Council representatives on the INPFC.

o Finance Committee Report

Mr. Jim Campbell, Acting Chairman of the Finance Subcommittee reported the Finance Committee met on September 28 and reviewed the joint venture study contract with the University of Alaska. They recommended approving payment of the contract. They also reviewed the Dames & Moore Report (herring socio-economic studies) and approved final payment of the contract. They discussed the reduction in the fiscal year 79 administrative budget but took no action at this time. They heard a report from the SSC on the cost of the Shrimp Workshop which is projected to cost \$14,000.00. The subcommittee recommended the Council fund \$3,500 of that amount. The University of Alaska Sea Grant program has already committed \$4,000 and it is expected that ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) and NMFS will fund the remainder. The Finance Committee recommended not increasing the SSC from 10 to 11 members at this time. For reasons of economy they feel the membership should remain at 10. If at some future date an increase is needed, the Finance Committee asked for a cost estimate before they reviewed the matter. The Council unanimously approved the Finance Committee recommendations.

o Tanner Crab FMP for 1979

The Council heard testimony from Mr. Jay Hastings, representing the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry, regarding the amendments to the tanner crab fishery management plan the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry had asked for during the August meeting. Mr. Hastings asked the Council to postpone considering those requests until the November 2 and 3 meeting after meeting with the U.S. crab industry to get comments on the proposals.

The revisions to the tanner crab fishery management plan for 1979 were deferred until the November 2 and 3 meeting.

o Miscellaneous

During the meeting the Council heard reports on several research contracts: (1) coded wire tag recovery program on chinook and coho salmon; (2) pilot observer program for troll salmon fishery off Alaska; (3) study of the socio-economic impacts of a commercial herring fishery in western Alaska; (4) study to determine the effects of hydraulic clam harvesting in eastern Bering Sea; (5) assessment of spawning herring and capelin stocks at selected coastal areas in the eastern Bering Sea; (6) investigation of joint U.S./foreign ventures, and (7) investigation of the continent of origin of sockeye and coho salmon.

The Council also heard reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Coast Guard on current foreign fishing activity off Alaska.

g. Incidental Species Group Report

The Council's working group on "incidental" species met September 28 to revise a first draft of a position paper on this problem. They expect to have a report for the Council at the November meeting.

o November Meeting

The next meeting of the North Pacific Council will be November 2-3 at the Westward Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska.

Western Pacific Council

- o On September 2, the Council's office was moved to larger quarters. The address remains the same, 1164 Bishop Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813; only the room number has been changed to 1608. An open house was held on September 29 to introduce the new office to local Council members, advisers and friends.
- o On September 19, Mr. William Bodde, Director of the Pacific Islands Affairs Office in the Department of State visited Chairman Wadsworth Yee to consult concerning negotiations with the United Kingdom over islands of disputed sovereignty in the central and South Pacific and United States participation in a proposed South Pacific Fishery Management Agency.
- o A joint meeting of the Spiny Lobster Planning Team and the Hawaii members of the Spiny Lobster Advisory Sub-Panel was held on September 25 at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center Laboratory in Honolulu. The discussion centered around the minimum size limit for spiny lobster recommended in the Council's draft FMP for the lobster fishery of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. A new firm which plans to begin shortly to produce frozen lobster tails from that area testified that the proposed size limit would adversely affect this new venture in two ways: (1) by reducing the catch rate to an uneconomic level and (2) by limiting their production to a range of lobster tail weights that would be difficult to market.
- o Because of the change in the channel for financial support for the State and Territories, from the Council to the NMFS Region, arrangements were made to place administrative personnel in Hawaii and American Samoa temporarily on the Council's staff, in order to provide time for the local Governments to pick them up under their own hiring procedures.

- o On September 21, the Executive Director participated in a meeting with the Pacific Council, NMFS, NOAA, Department of State, and Coast Guard officials at the Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, California, to consider amendments to the draft preliminary management plan for pacific billfishes and sharks. It was decided to modify the plan to provide separate optimum yield figures for each of the major geographical areas of the region, to include the Northern Marianas and to provide OY levels for wahoo and mahimahi. It is hoped that the amended plan will be ready for implementation around the first of the year.
- o The Council established a retirement plan for its permanent employees, to become effective October 1, 1978. After considering a number of alternatives, the decision was for a Group Individual Retirement Account Program.
- o Approval was received from NMFS-NOAA for addition of an economist, Grade GS-12 equivalent, to the Council's regular staff, and preparations were made to begin recruiting for that position.
- o No meetings of the Council or the SSC were held during the month. The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Kona Hilton Hotel in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on October 23, to be followed at the same location by meetings of the eight Council Chairmen, and a meeting of MAFAC (Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee). The next meeting of the SSC will be at the Maui Surf Hotel on November 21-22, 1978.

Meetings of Regional Fishery Management Councils

MONTH	New England	Mid Atlantic	South Atlantic	Caribbean	Gulf of Mexico	Pacific	North Pacific	Western Pacific
AUGUST 1978	● 8/9-10 Kingston, R.I. Council	● 8/3 Riverhead, N.Y. Emerg. Grdfish Council	● 8/22-24 Charleston, SC Council	● 8/14 Hato Rey, P.R. SSC; AP	● 8/7-8 Tampa, FL. AP	● 8/8-9 Renton, WA Groundfish AP	● 8/22-25 Anchorage, AK SSC; AP; Council	● 8/2-5 Kailua-Kona, HI Council
	● 8/30-31 Peabody, MA. Council	● 8/9-10 Hershey, PA. Council		● 8/22-24 San Juan, P.R. Council; SSC; AP	● 8/15-17 Tampa, FL. AP	● 8/9-11 Renton, WA Council; SSC		
SEPTEMBER 1978	● 9/26 Woods Hole, MA SSC	● 9/12-14 Phila, Pa. Council			● 8/28-31 Tampa, FL. AP; Council	● 8/21 LaJolla, CA Billfish AP		● 8/29-30 Kailua-Kona, HI SSC; Council
		● 9/22 Dover, DE AP			● 9/1 Tampa, FL, AP; Council			
OCTOBER 1978	● 10/23-24 Falmouth, Council MA	● 10/10-12 Phila, Pa. Council	● 10/10 Atlanta, GA. AP; Gulf AP		● 9/29 Kenner, LA SSC	● 10/10-12 Los Angeles SSC; Council	● 9/27-29 Sitka, AK Council; AP; SSC	● 9/25 Honolulu, HI AP
		● 10/6 Claymont, DE SSC	● 10/31-11/2 So. Carolina Council	No Meetings	● 10/3-5 Kenner, LA SSC	● 10/10-11, Los Angeles AP/PDT	No Meetings	● 10/23 Kailua-Kona Council, HI
NOVEMBER 1978		● 11/15-17 Phila. PA		● 11/14-16 Puerto Rico St. Thomas	● 11/2-3 Metairie	● 11/7-9 Renton, Wn. Council	● 11/1-3 Anchorage,	● 11/14-15 Maui, HA
				● 11/2 Puerto Rico SSC/AP	● 11/4-17 Metairie Louisiana	● 11/3 California	● 11/15-16 Anchorage, Oregon	● 10/24-25 WPRFMC Nono, HI
				SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee				
				AP - Advisory Panel / Subpanel		● 11/3 Long Beach CA		
				● - PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER				
				▲ - Partially Closed Session				
				▼ - PENDING/Council referral to NMFS				
				▲ - PENDING/NMFS referral to Federal Register				

(1)