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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of August has resulted in 183 boardings, 36 citations, 10 reports of violations, and no seizures. They are 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 of Mexico</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Canada	0	4	0	0	0	4
E. Germany	0	0	0	19	0	19
France	0	1	0	0	0	1
Italy	0	0	0	3	0	3
Japan	338	0	1	11	2	352
Poland	0	6	0	2	0	8
S. Korea	10	0	0	0	0	10
Spain	0	0	0	21	0	21
Taiwan	2	0	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	7	47	0	12	0	66
W. Germany	0	0	0	6	0	6
	<u>357</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>482</u>

Number of Boardings

Canada	0	3	0	0	0	3
E. Germany	0	0	0	13	0	13
Italy	0	0	0	7	0	7
Japan	53	0	0	16	1	70
Poland	0	5	0	4	0	9
S. Korea	4	0	0	0	0	4
Spain	0	0	0	17	0	17
U.S.S.R.	3	44	0	7	0	54
W. Germany	0	0	0	6	0	6
	<u>60</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>183</u>

Number of Citations

E. Germany	0	0	0	3	0	3
Italy	0	0	0	3	0	3
Japan	6	0	0	0	0	6
Poland	0	0	0	1	0	1
Spain	0	0	0	13	0	13
Taiwan	2	0	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	7	0	7
W. Germany	0	0	0	1	0	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36</u>

Number of Violations

Japan	3	0	0	0	0	3
S. Korea	1	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	0	0	0	2	0	2
Taiwan	2	0	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	2	0	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>

Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of August has resulted in 105 boardings, 18 citations, and 7 reports of violation. They are 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>
47	24	0	34	0	105

<u>Number of Citations</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	0	0	18	0	18

<u>Number of Reports of Violations</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	7	0	0	0	7

Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program

Difficulties with communications concerning observer embarkings and debarkings on Soviet vessels in the Northwest Atlantic continued. Similar problems have not been encountered with agents of other countries fishing in the Northwest Atlantic. A general feeling from observers deployed to date on Spanish and Italian fishing vessels is that radio communications on the vessels are poor at best.

Training was completed for two observers who boarded Polish hake vessels on August 6 and six observers were transported to the Soviet hake fleet on August 5. Five new observers entered on duty on August 1 and began training. Two are scheduled for Soviet stern trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska and three will board Japanese stern trawlers fishing in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands area, and Gulf of Alaska. Two new observers entered on duty on August 4, and another on August 10, and began training for placement on Japanese motherships in the Bering Sea.

There were 67 observers aboard 216 foreign vessels in August. These figures reflect inclusion of Japanese land based dragnet vessels. Coverage for the month of August, after adjustments are made for vessels carrying two or more observers, was 30% with the distribution of observers shown in the table on the next page.

FOREIGN FISHING FLEET OBSERVER PROGRAM

	Atlantic Herring Fishery	Atlantic Squid Fishery	Bering Sea Tanner Crab Fishery	Bering** Sea Stern Trawler Fishery	Bering Sea Trawl Factory Ship Fishery	Calif.-Oregon-Wash. Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery	TOTALS
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>								
Observers	1	2	-	-	-	8	2	13
Vessels	1	2	-	-	-	36	3	42
<u>JAPAN</u>								
Observers	-	7	6	2	8	-	4	27
Vessels	-	8 ^{1/}	5	15	6	-	10	44
<u>POLAND</u>								
Observers	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	4
Vessels	-	2	-	-	-	6	-	8
<u>SPAIN</u>								
Observers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vessels	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>KOREA</u>								
Observers	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Vessels	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
<u>E. GERMANY</u>								
Observers	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	13
Vessels	18	18	-	-	-	-	-	36
<u>W. GERMANY</u>								
Observers	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Vessels	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
<u>ITALY</u>								
Observers	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Vessels	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>TOTALS</u>								
Observers	15	16	6	3	8	10	6	64**
Vessels	24	31	5	18	6	42	13	139**

**Does not include Japanese land based dragnet vessels (77 vessels, 3 observers)

^{1/}Provisional data (available as of 9/9/77)

Joint Ventures

Hearings on the joint venture issue were completed during the month of August. These hearings were held in:

Manteo, North Carolina	August 2
Petersburg, Alaska	August 3
Seattle, Washington	August 5-6
Boston, Massachusetts	August 8
Kenner, Louisiana	August 8
Brunswick, Maine	August 9
Miami, Florida	August 10
Hampton, Virginia	August 16
Pt. Pleasant, New Jersey	August 17
Southampton, Long Island, N.Y.	August 18
Newport, Rhode Island	August 19
Anchorage, Alaska	August 22
Sand Point, Alaska	August 23
Kodiak, Alaska	August 24

Many views on such business arrangements were received, principally from U.S. processors. The NMFS Regional Offices are now reviewing the records of the hearings to identify the principal recommendations made. It is anticipated that recommendations, as developed from the hearings by the Regional Offices, will reach the NMFS Central Office by September 21, at which time the recommendations will be analyzed in an attempt to develop a policy on this controversial issue.

With the exception of the hearings held in Seattle and Alaska, public participation was at times poor. Comments on the issue were often concerned with the Korea Marine Industry Development Corporation/Davenny and the Marine Resources Company proposals. Very few participants presented data to support their points of view.

Enforcement Management Information System (EMIS)

EMIS is now operational. This ADP system contains application, permit, sighting, violation, and investigation data needed for enforcement activities.

Application and permit data should be of particular interest to Councils, and NMFS will have a system in place within the next six weeks that will allow the Councils to access 1978 application and permit files. This system will enable NMFS to provide Councils with up-to-date information on applications and permits in a variety of different formats:

- (1) The status of any application or groups of applications;
- (2) The total number of applications received for a particular fishery from any one country or combination of countries;

- (3) Numbers of applications approved for each fishery;
- (4) Numbers of permits issued for each fishery.

The NMFS EMIS Project Director will be making arrangements in the next few weeks to meet with Council Executive Directors to demonstrate the system's capabilities.

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

On August 16 the Mid-Atlantic Council submitted the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan to the Secretary of Commerce for her consideration. The promulgation of emergency regulations has been requested by the Council. The FMP is presently under review. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the plan is expected to be available by mid September.

Preliminary Management Plans (PMP's)

The "Notice of Availability" of supplements to the Final Environmental Impact Statements for ten PMP's to be amended for 1978 was published in the Federal Register on September 6. The public comment period will close on October 6, 1977. The notice identifies the fisheries for which supplements were prepared, information about where to write for copies, and provides a brief summary of the proposed amendments to the PMP's. Councils will be provided copies of the notice, as well as the supplements in which they have an interest.

Environmental impact assessments were prepared on three PMP's which were not modified except to extend the effective date into 1978. Appropriate Councils were also provided copies of these documents.

Status of Suggested Amendments to the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA)

On September 2, 1977, NMFS sent Council Executive Directors a list of suggested FCMA amendments. The list was developed to summarize and consolidate suggestions received from the Councils, NOAA/NMFS staffs, and correspondence from other interested parties.

NMFS/NOAA/DOC will be analyzing the suggestions on a continuing basis, and Councils will be given an opportunity to have input in the process for developing the final amendment package to be sent for Congressional consideration.

Charters for Council Advisory Panels

A draft submitted by the Western Pacific Council is being used in an effort to develop a charter which could serve as a model for consolidation of existing panels and/or establishment of planned panels. This approach was supported in Secretary Krep's May 20 memorandum to Council Chairmen, in which she expressed her concern that steps be taken to minimize advisory committee red tape, and recommended that Councils establish one broad based Advisory Panel, with appropriate sub-panels to assure expert guidance and consideration of unique species interests.

As of August 25, only a few Councils had expressed an opinion relative to the Secretary's suggestion to establish broad based Advisory Panels. Likewise, only a few Councils had expressed views with respect to the adaptability of the Western Pacific Council's draft charter to their respective Council. Consequently, on August 25, NMFS requested Executive Directors to consider both matters and to submit Council comments to NMFS headquarters by September 26, 1977.

Major Improvements in the Fishery Management Plan Event Schedule Process

As a result of the many comments and suggestions received on the draft event schedule for developing and implementing FMP's, and particularly for shortening the time periods involved, the following major changes are being incorporated:

1. The total elapsed time in the event schedule has been reduced from 289 days to 168 days. Of the 121 day difference, 61 days has resulted from improvements in the procedural process, while the other 60 days (described in 2 below) merely reflects a change in the starting time of the event schedule process.
2. Most Councils indicated that the 60-day period allocated for plan preparation was too brief. The schedule now starts the 168 day time processing clock with the formal submission of the DEIS/FMP by the Council.
3. The environmental assessment (EA) process has been extensively streamlined, and accounts for the major schedule compression. The approval of the Environmental Work Group (EWG) in the Secretary's office to print the DEIS and publish the "Notice of Availability" will be conducted on an early draft DEIS/FMP. This means that Councils will provide NMFS with an advance copy of the draft document as soon as practicable and before the Council's actual adoption to proceed to the public review stage. The EWG has agreed with this approach. As a result, all of the EA activities will be accomplished, in the first box of the schedule--and before the processing clock starts ticking. Almost 40 days will be saved by proceeding in this manner.
4. The Secretary's review period of an FMP, which would be shortened to approximately 45 days from 60 days, constitutes the other major processing reduction.

Administrative Operations

--Implementation of Word Processing System - NMFS is moving ahead with implementation of an advanced word processing system. Plans call for an October 1977 installation of one NBI System II text editor in each NMFS Region and Center. In addition, six machines will be installed in NMFS headquarters (Washington, D.C.), along with an optical character reader (OCR) which will insert first drafts prepared on standard selectric typewriters into the word processing equipment.

The NBI equipment is a video screen based system which provides extensive text and document editing and revision, automated letter writing, forms preparation, scientific manuscript preparation, and simple data processing tasks. In addition, it has a computer and communications interface which will transmit, between NMFS Regions, Centers, and headquarters, up to 120 characters per second.

For additional information about the NBI System II and/or NMFS plans to utilize it, contact Mr. Gordon Baskerville, Office of Executive and Administrative Support, NMFS, Washington, D.C. 20235 (202 - 634-7405).

--Accident/Death Insurance Coverage for Council Members - In response to an inquiry concerning the legality of the Councils paying for accident/death insurance for Council members, NOAA General Counsel advises that this is not permissible. Payment by Councils for such coverage would, in effect, exceed the maximum rate of compensation authorized by the Fishery Conservation Management Act (FCMA).

New England Council

- Council held its monthly meeting on August 2-3 in Brunswick, Maine.
- The Secretary of Commerce appointed Messrs. Herbert Drake (New Hampshire), Omar Allvord (Connecticut), and Robert Lowry (Rhode Island) to the Council on August 10, 1977. The Secretary reappointed Thomas A. Norris.
- Henry Lyman, Chairman, met with Dave Hart, Chairman, and Executive Director John Bryson of the Mid Atlantic Council; Robert Edwards, Director, and Richard Hennemuth, Deputy Director, Northeast Fisheries Center, NMFS; William Gordon, Director, and Robert Hanks, Deputy Director, Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, to coordinate interactions between the two Councils, the Regional Office and the Center.
- The Council actively explored the possibility of engaging independent legal assistance to pursue all means of minimizing the time restraints in plan development of the Draft Events Schedule (horseblanket).
- The Scientific and Statistical Committee met with the Council Herring Oversight Committee to review the formal outline of the development of the herring FMP, and a proposed new model of herring quota assessments by seasonal, area, and fishing effort.
- The Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed the work now in progress at the NMFS Narragansett Laboratory (New Jersey) on the development of a recreational fishery statistical program.
- The Council Scallop Oversight Committee met with representatives of the Mid-Atlantic Council to make recommendations on the objectives for the scallop FMP.
- The Council Groundfish Oversight Committee met with members of the Council's Advisory Panel to consider steps to respond appropriately to the economic consequences of the cod closure, as a result of the groundfish FMP, in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank.
- The Council's Silver Hake Oversight Committee met at the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, with NMFS biologists to review and make a recommendation on the proposed foreign allocation for silver hake for 1978.
- The Council's Statistical Areas Committee also met at the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, to review the problem of designating statistical areas appropriate for resolving species-specific management problems and for designating regional species quotas.
- The Executive Committee met to approve items of Council business associated with staff fringe benefits, accounting procedures, administrative contractual services, staff size, the budget, the agenda for the September meeting and other matters.

Mid-Atlantic Council

- ° David H. Hart, Cape May, New Jersey, and Elliot J. Goldman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were renominated by unanimous acclamation to serve another year as Council Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.
- ° Council adopted, as modified, an FMP for surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries and urged that the Secretary of Commerce place emergency regulations in force by October 1, 1977. Provisions of the plan, formulated from public meetings, deliberations with industry, and appraisal of economic impact of alternatives, include: (1) landing of quotas on both surf clam and ocean quahog, (2) additional quarterly quotas on surf clams regulated by controlling the number of days fished per week, (3) a one year moratorium on entry of new vessels into the surf clam fishery, (4) possible closure of surf clam beds to protect immature clams, and (5) mandatory record keeping and reporting requirements to document activities in both fisheries.
- ° Council acknowledged the excellent support and cooperation received from NMFS's Northeast Region, the NMFS Northeast Fishery Center, and from NOAA Legal Counsel in the preparation and public review of the Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan.
- ° Council reviewed progress on management of billfish and directed the staff to record public comments on a PMP prepared by NMFS's Southeast Region and on proposed future management strategy designed by the South Atlantic Council. Meetings to receive public views were held the week of August 15 in Montauk, New York; Asbury Park, New Jersey; Ocean City, Maryland; and Norfolk, Virginia.
- ° Council formed a committee to discuss management of sea scallops in the Mid Atlantic area and return with some suggested management objectives that can be presented to the New England Council for incorporation into the FMP. The New England Council has the lead in preparing the scallop plan with support from the Mid-Atlantic Council. The committee, composed of State Directors and key industry advisors, will meet early in September and report back to full Council at its next regular session.
- ° Council reviewed progress on mackerel plan development and formulated its objectives for the plan. The objectives are to: (1) provide the opportunity for increased recreational and commercial catch, (2) maximize the contribution of recreational fishing for mackerel to the national economy, (3) achieve efficient allocation of capital and labor in the mackerel fishery, (4) encourage harvest at maximum yield per recruit, (5) maintain spawning stock above the point where optimum yield of the fishery is assured, and (6) minimize the costs to taxpayers of development, research, management and enforcement in achieving these objectives.

- Council reaffirmed its deep concern over the effects of continued ocean and estuary dumping and discharge of sewage sludge, contaminated dredge spoils and chemical wastes on fishery resources in the Mid Atlantic Region. In an effort to maintain the continued existence of viable fisheries, the Mid-Atlantic Council has urged the Secretary of Commerce to proceed with necessary action to abate and bring about an end to the discharge of harmful wastes of any kind into the marine oceanic and estuarine environments. A pollution committee of the Council will meet on August 29 to further assess and recommend measures needed to help assure that Section 602.3(b), on habit, preservation, protection, and restoration are adequately provided for in the future.
- Council reviewed lobster gear conflicts and requested that the NMFS sponsored State-Federal Fishery Management Program prepare a lobster management plan for consideration at some later date by the Mid-Atlantic Council; a committee of Council members will be formed to review fixed vs. mobile gear problems and assess possible interim solutions.
- Dr. Eugene Cronin's (University of Maryland) appointment to the Scientific and Statistical Committee was extended for the remainder of a two-year term. Dr. Cronin, a former Council member whose term expired August 11, will continue to serve as Chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee.
- The August Council meeting was held in Hershey on August 10 and 11 and hosted by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.
- Future Council meetings are scheduled as follows:

Ocean City, Maryland	September 27-28
Woods Hole, Massachusetts (Marine Biological Laboratory)	October 19-20
Red Bank, New Jersey (Sandy Hook Laboratory)	December 14-15

South Atlantic Council

- o The Council met in Savannah, Georgia, August 23-25, 1977.
- o Inter-Council Mackerel Steering Committee (South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils) met in Savannah, Georgia, August 22, to review proposal from Florida Sea Grant to develop fishery management plan for king and Spanish mackerel. Proposal was rejected and staffs of the two Councils were instructed to jointly develop and issue new Request for Proposal (RFP) for broad distribution in the South Atlantic, as well as in the Gulf of Mexico areas.
- o Dr. Edwin Joseph (South Carolina) was elected Chairman, and Mr. J. Roy Duggan (Georgia), Vice Chairman, of the Council.
- o Twenty-three hearings were held along the Atlantic seaboard, the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Caribbean to obtain public input to PMP and FMP on billfish. Summary to be presented to Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee, September 19, prior to the Council's meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Objectives and tactics also to be finalized at that time. Response Billfish Request for Proposal (RFP) found lacking. New RFP to be issued and broadly distributed.
- o State Department representative reported on imminent negotiations with Bahamian Government--Clingan heading delegation. The Council and the Gulf of Mexico Council are to be represented in an advisory role. Also reported, was the status of negotiations with Venezuela, Portugal, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Brazil.
- o Representatives of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils met in Atlanta, Georgia, August 15, to discuss boundary question. Issue not resolved. South Atlantic Council Boundary Committee, in concert with the NMFS Regional Director, recommended for consideration of both Councils that the NMFS Director delete language in Interim Regulations treating this issue and hold section in reserve until such time as appropriate information can be developed to constructively establish the inter-Council boundary.
- o Snapper-Grouper Plan Development Team met in Charleston, South Carolina, August 16-17. Council was briefed on progress at Savannah meeting. Schedule for remainder of this calendar year presented to Steering Committee/Council and approved. A joint meeting of the Snapper-Grouper Plan Development Team, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and Steering Committee is scheduled for September 8 in Charleston, South Carolina, to review progress on development of plan. The full Council will be involved in the setting of the mission, goals, and objectives for this plan over the next three months.

- o The Council's Organization and Procedures Committee is working with the Council staff in setting up a comprehensive information program for the Council. Gail Limerick, of Council staff, has been designated as the key individual responsible for Council news and information releases.
- o The Council carefully reviewed Director Schoning's proposed funding policies and procedures and a response has been forwarded. The Council endorsed the proposed partnership approach but suggested certain modifications to procedures in the interest of clarification and to avoid possible future misunderstandings.
- o NMFS Regional Director's representative presented for Council consideration, the regional FY 1980 budget priorities and advanced concept of Regional Partnership Augmentation. Council recommendations were solicited and response is forthcoming.
- o Richard Stroud, Executive Vice President, Sport Fishing Institute, presented his review of NMFS response to Council's prey-predator relationship research resolution. Consensus is that NMFS is not being responsive to legislative mandate which dictates consideration of environment in development optimum yield. Motion carried for Council to support Mr. Stroud's recommendation that NMFS include prey-predator research as initiative for FY 1980 and request that NMFS provide cost estimate for such a program. A letter to this effect to be available for Council consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Stroud briefed Council on plans for symposium covering these areas of concern, July 23-27, 1978, at the Sheraton in Atlanta, Georgia.
- o Mr. Eldridge, Acting Chairman of Scientific and Statistical Committee, presented a report on statistical, socio-economic, and data management needs for fishery management in the South Atlantic Region. The data base available to support fisheries management in the South Atlantic area was characterized as the worst in the country. The motion carried that the Council strongly urge NMFS to include TIMS (Technical Information Management System), as a major initiative for FY 1980.
- o Motion carried to authorize Council staff to proceed with implementation of deferred compensation program as outlined by Consultant Freeman.
- o Council considered New England Council's proposal to contract for professional legal review of the event schedule for FMP's. Action was deferred until after Chairmen's meeting since this would probably come up for discussion at that meeting.

- o Mr. Norman Angel presented review of 1978 Draft Fishing Regulations - Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. Comments to be forwarded to NMFS Regional Director, Northwest Region. Mr. Angel was also asked to draft a letter reflecting concern about lack of selectivity of gear being used by foreign fishermen for Council consideration at next meeting.
- o Mr. Michael Street (North Carolina) is being formally designated by the Council to work with the New England Council on development of sea scallop management plan.
- o Action on management plan development timetable deferred, pending discussion with Gulf of Mexico Council. A committee is to be established at the next meeting to work with the Gulf of Mexico Council. Resolution is targeted for consideration at November joint meeting in Orlando.
- o Mr. Allen Branch was designated as liaison with Gulf of Mexico Council until such time as George Gross is able to resume full Council activities.
- o The Executive Director was designated to represent Council at October 5-6 MAFAC (Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee) meeting.
- o Mr. Benjamin Hardesty was designated to represent Council as advisor to U.S. delegation in second round of consultations with Japan on billfish and tuna conservation to be held in Washington, D.C., September 12-15.
- o Governor's Conference on Fishery Management Under Extended Jurisdiction, October 11-12, 1977, Raleigh, North Carolina, to be attended by all Council members (no compensation authorized). Council authorized the attendance of up to three individuals from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and three from the Advisory Panel as designated by the Committee Chairman. Attendance will be at Council expense.
- o Council expressed concern about the possibility of cut backs in State support to State fishery agencies as the result of Council grants or contracts to these State fishery agencies. It was suggested that Director Schoning address this problem in his scheduled remarks to the Governor's Conference on Extended Jurisdiction.
- o Council requested a report from NMFS on the breakdown of NOAA/NMFS funds (FY 1978) for extended jurisdiction at its October meeting.
- o Chairman Joseph and Vice Chairman Duggan will attend Chairmen's meeting in Portland, Oregon, September 14-15.

o Future meetings of the South Atlantic Council:

September 23-25	Charleston, South Carolina
October 13-14	Raleigh, North Carolina
November 15-17	Orlando, Florida (joint meeting with the Gulf and Caribbean Councils)
December	No meeting unless absolutely essential

Caribbean Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held August 16-18, 1977, in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Summary prepared, with Council concurrence, by Council Coordinator Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o Council staff chief scientist, Dr. Jack Dammann, entered on duty August 15, 1977. The Executive Director is currently interviewing candidates for position of fishery economist.
- o The Executive Director is investigating fringe benefits packages through private firms and the Federal system. Council is currently paying 10 percent to staff in lieu of complete fringe benefits package.
- o Council staff is preparing for a Commerce Department audit during August. Current job descriptions of staff are being clarified and finalized. NMFS will provide recommendations and comments regarding responsibilities and salary range.
- o Council approved a private certified public accounting firm to certify accounting system and practices on a yearly basis.
- o Staff is investigating costs of bonding employees.
- o Council requested Regional NOAA General Counsel and NMFS Council Coordinator to conduct seminar for staff on operations, practices, and procedures.
- o Council reviewed and commented on the NMFS Director's memorandum regarding funding policies. A formal response is being prepared.
- o Council heard presentation of Curacao Pioneering Company, St. Maartens, which is a Dutch company operating tuna longliners. Vessels are Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, and Panamanian flag vessels. Company representative indicated information from vessel logs, tour of land facilities, and at sea boardings would be available to Council members.

- ° State Department informed Council of Japanese Billfish Negotiations, September 7-9, 1977, negotiations with the Dominican Republic scheduled in November-December 1977, and Bahamas negotiations. Council members may be included in negotiations.
- ° Council adopted a motion to exclude swordfish from the Billfish FMP and to treat swordfish in a separate plan.
- ° Council received a report from the Honorable Felix Prieto, Under Secretary of Puerto Rico's Department of Natural Resources, explaining the Department's involvement in fisheries and position of single agency responsibility for fisheries.
- ° Council accepted the NMFS estimates of optimum yield, domestic capacity, and possible surplus.
- ° Council endorsed NMFS fee schedule and recommended that amounts of fees continue at present level. Council favors no retention rather than high fees for incidental catch of non-surplus species.
- ° Council endorsed NMFS Southeast Region's 1980 budget and program emphasis and recommended no changes.
- ° Council established and appointed members to a Grievance Committee and a Finance Committee.
- ° The Scientific and Statistical Committee was charged with defining the goals and objectives for FMP's on: (1) migratory coastal pelagics, (2) mollusks, (3) corals, and (4) deepwater reef fish. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Advisory Panel recommended the above priority for preparation of future FMP's. Council should initiate development of at least two FMP's during CY 1978.
- ° A Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP's) for the Scientific and Statistical Committee was adopted by the Council.
- ° Council endorsed the proposed rulemaking on authority to modify permits by the NMFS Director.
- ° Council gave the Executive Director authority to secure acceptable office space in St. Thomas for the chief scientist.
- ° The Council Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel submitted comments on the Billfish and Sharks PMP.
- ° The next Council meeting is scheduled for San Juan, September 20-22, at the Hotel Pierre.

Gulf of Mexico Council

The summary of the August Council meeting (August 2-4, Tarpon Springs, Florida), was reported in last month's Council Memorandum (Vol. 1, No. 7).

A few of matters discussed at the Council's September 7-9 meeting in Dallas, Texas, are reported below:

- o The Council passed a resolution recommending that the Atlantic plan for billfishes and sharks include a no hooking provision in place of the present no retention provision.
- o The Council awarded contracts for development of a shrimp FMP and a reef fish FMP. The Council also formerly requested NMFS to develop a groundfish FMP.
- o The Council reordered its priorities for FMP's to be developed in FY 1978 as follows:
 1. Swordfish
 2. Coastal Herrings
 3. Spiny Lobster
 4. Sharks
 5. Coral

Pacific Council

- o The Council did not meet in August.
- o Mr. Herman J. McDevitt, Idaho, and Mr. Vernon J. Smith, California, have been reappointed to the Council for three-year terms.
- o A limited duration appointment as Staff Officer has been filled by Rodney R. McInnis, effective August 1, 1977. Mr. McInnis will help coordinate preparation of FMP's on squid, Dungeness crab, and pink shrimp. This brings the total number of Council employees to six.
- o The Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Salmon Advisory Sub-panel have met to review the working draft of the 1978 ocean salmon management plan. The management plan development team will incorporate their comments into the first draft, which will be presented to the Council for its review at the September 15-16 meeting in Portland, Oregon.
- o The Council Chairman testified at a Senate Committee on Commerce hearing, chaired by Senator Packwood (R-Oregon), on August 20, 1977, in Newport, Oregon, on changes in the Fishery Conservation Management Act (FCMA) proposed by the Council.

- o The Council is moving forward on the development of the following fishery management plans:

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Year of Implementation</u>
Salmon	For 1978 fishery, "fine tune" 1977 plan, comprehensive salmon plan - 1979.
Anchovy	1978
Groundfish	1980
Dungeness Crab) Pink Shrimp) Squid)	Organizational meetings of the management teams were held in August. The teams are scheduled to develop proposals for implementation for Council approval.

North Pacific Council

- o The North Pacific Council, its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) met concurrently on August 25-26 at the Elks Club, Kodiak, Alaska. The SSC and AP also met separately one day earlier and at other announced times during the Council meeting dates. A public hearing was conducted on August 24 and public comment was also heard during the course of the August 26 meeting. No closed session was held during the Kodiak meeting.
- o Council accepted the Executive Director's report and FY 78 budget totaling \$1,446,517.
- o Council heard extended comment on the Bering Sea herring fishery. Reports indicate a potential for a fast development effort on herring stocks by U.S. fishermen with no surplus available for foreign allocation for 1978. Council recommended re-activation of U.S Corps of Engineers study of St. Paul Island small boat harbor. Potential of the herring fishery and others in that area may change the previous unfavorable cost-benefit ratio as shown in the original plan.
- o U.S. Canadian salmon negotiations were described to Council as "very cooperative." Council chairman stated his optimism concerning solving the problem of Canadian troll fishery intercepts of Alaska salmon. Common goal is stock enhancement.
- o Council approved four permit applications for Japanese fishing vessels consisting of two refrigerated transports (no fishing capability) and two stern trawlers.

- o Council discussed and heard comment concerning the Tanner Crab Management Plan: major considerations are size, fishing areas and pot limits, with C. bairdi stocks reserved to U.S.
- o Council heard comment that emergency field announcements should be a part of management plan; question is to adopt State regulations or specifying procedures in the plan. A task force was appointed.
- o Council heard a report on the experimental clam fishery in the Bering Sea and directed a management plan be started to cover that fishery. Work this summer indicates a good potential and a production fishery may develop next season.
- o Council directed that a working group be formed to develop regulations for the tanner crab and Gulf trawl plans.
- o Council heard a report about patrol and surveillance. Since July 1, USCG (U.S. Coast Guard) logged 13 infractions (4 violations and 9 citations). Majority appear to be technical in nature and to stem from misunderstanding/misinterpretation of regulations.
- o Council heard a report of the Kodiak City Council which passed a resolution to deny foreign processing of fish caught by U.S. fishermen.
- o Council accepted report of the Halibut Working Group. There is no Council view at present. Members Lokken and Jensen were directed to participate in forthcoming renegotiation talks.
- o Council heard a report on status of black cod fishery. A decline in catch rates of 50 percent for period 1971-76 indicate TAC (Total Allowable Catch) should be reduced considerably.
- o Council delayed submission of the king crab plan from September 1977 until February 1978.
- o Council heard report on Interim Regulations, Part VI, and will delay comment until Scientific and Statistical Committee develops procedures in light of Council experience in management plan development.
- o Council hired Michael Hershberger as a consultant with responsibilities for writing and editing Environmental Impact Statements, summaries for management plans, and editing drafts and other writing requirements.

- o Council will contract with the Fishery Research Institute, University of Washington, for information concerning incidence of North American salmon in the Japanese land based fishery (\$44,500); with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for Gulf of Alaska ground-fish information (\$50,000/2 yrs.); and with Alaska Department of Fish and Game for fisheries statistics furthering management plan development (197,600/26 mo.) All contracts previously approved.
- o Council heard Requests for Proposal (RFP) on the relative merits of various types of joint ventures in developing commercial fisheries off Alaska, and impact of a commercial herring fishery on the economy and villages of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim. Council will conduct further discussion on RFP calling for a study of eastern Bering Sea herring populations.
- o Council directed Scientific and Statistical Committee to prepare comments on Stoker/MMC report for the September meeting.
- o Council discussed PMP and optimum yield changes for 1978. It will delay (until further study) the reports available on some stocks (September meeting). Council is strongly in favor of 30 percent (withholding on initial allocations).
- o Council received draft of management plan on the salmon troll fisheries off Alaska and circulated them internally for review.
- o Council accepted two resignations from Advisory Panel.
- o Council discussed foreign fee schedules and again recommended use of most current ex-vessel prices as fee base.
- o Council discussed Economic Impact Statements and thought they had little application to management plans.
- o Council seated new member Gordon Jensen (Chairman, Alaska Board of Fish). Clem Tillion (State of Alaska, Senate) was re-appointed.
- o Public hearings to date have been held in Petersburg, Seattle; and Anchorage, Sand Point, and Kodiak, Alaska.
- o Council approved meeting date for next meeting, September 22-23 in Anchorage.

The next Council meeting will be held September 22-23 in Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet on September 20, and the Advisory Panel will meet on September 21.

Western Pacific Council

- The Council held its Sixth Meeting at Kailua-Mona, on the Island of Hawaii, August 10-14. The main subject of discussion at the meeting was the management of fisheries for billfish and other large pelagic species. Discussions centered around the new draft of a Preliminary Management Plan for Pacific Billfishes and Sharks, which had just been released by NMFS, and a background document on billfish management measures prepared by the Council's Billfish Planning Team. Since the time and place of the meeting coincided with the interval between several local big-game fishing tournaments and the opening of the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, it provided an excellent opportunity for input from the interested public. Statements on billfishery management were presented to the Council by Elwood Harry of the International Game Fish Association, Christopher Weld of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, and Gilbert Radonski of the Sport Fishing Institute, and informal testimony was received from recreational fishery spokesmen from Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and the Philippines.
- On administrative matters, the Council approved the staff's estimates for the FY 1978 administrative and programmatic budgets and a Statement of Procurement Policies and Procedures. The Council also approved hiring of a clerk-typist as the fourth member of the permanent staff.
- Guam Council members presented statements on the Pacific Billfish PMP at a public hearing held by NMFS Western Pacific Program Office personnel at Agana on August 30. Members and the interested public in Hawaii will have their innings on September 7 in Honolulu and September 10 in Kailua-Kona. Members of the Billfish Advisory Sub-Panel have been reminded of these opportunities to make known their views on the Government's proposed management measures.
- In mid-August, Council staff produced by crash methods a bulky document representing the first draft of a fishery management plan written by the Council's Spiny Lobster Planning Team. The draft was discussed on August 17 by the Planning Team and an informal gathering of local members of the Advisory Panel, a formal meeting of the Spiny Lobster Sub-Panel being precluded by continued delays in securing Government approval of the Panel's charter.
- The Scientific and Statistical Committee is scheduled to meet at the NMFS Laboratory in Honolulu on September 14 and 15, and the seventh meeting of the Council has been set for September 29-30, at Lahina Maui. The main item before each meeting will be the draft spiny lobster management plan, which is considered of urgent priority in view of the rapid recent development of that fishery in the Leeward Hawaiian Islands.

