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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

IN THIS ISSUE

WASHINGTON REPORTS

Page

--Foreign Fishing Monitored.....	1
--FCMA Reports on Violation and Administrative Processing.....	2
--Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program.....	3
--Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program Table (February 1978).....	4
--Domestic Fishing Monitored.....	5
--Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's).....	5
--Fishery Management Plans (FMP's).....	5
--Foreign Allocations and Catches in the Atlantic FCZ, 1977.....	6
--Foreign Allocations and Catches in the Pacific FCZ, 1977.....	7
--Congressional Activities	
--Aquaculture (National Aquaculture Organic Act).....	8
--FCMA Appropriation Authorization Extension.....	9
--Fishermen's Protective Act Amendment.....	9
--Fishing Gear Damage Compensation.....	9
--Regulations Providing Guidance for Council Operations.....	10
--Deferred Funding for Research Vessel Construction.....	10
--Joint Ventures.....	11
--Task Force on Legal Status of Councils.....	11
--State Directors' Meeting.....	13
--Council Chairmen's Meeting.....	13

COUNCIL REPORTS

--New England.....	14
--Mid-Atlantic. (No Report Received)	
--South Atlantic.....	15
--Caribbean.....	19
--Gulf of Mexico.....	20
--Pacific.....	23
--North Pacific.....	24
--Western Pacific.....	29
--Schedule of Upcoming Council Meetings.....	(i)



## Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement for the month of February resulted in 77 boardings, 25 citations, 8 reports of violations, and 1 seizure. The activity is summarized below:

### Number of Foreign Vessels

	<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Total</u>
Italy	0	9	9
Japan	114	5	119
Mexico	0	1	1
S. Korea	4	0	4
Spain	0	15	15
Taiwan	1	0	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>44</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>57</u>
Total	163	43	206

### Number of Boardings

Italy	0	11	11
Japan	19	4	23
Mexico	0	2	2
Spain	0	13	13
U.S.S.R.	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>28</u>
Total	37	40	77

### Number of Citations

Italy	0	4	4
Japan	8	0	8
Mexico	0	2	2
S. Korea	1	0	1
Spain	0	2	2
Taiwan	1	0	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	17	8	25

### Number of Violations

Italy	0	4	4
Japan	1	0	1
Spain	0	1	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	3	5	8

### Number of Seizures

Japan	1	0	1
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FCMA Reports of Violation and Administrative Processing

Since the effective date of the Act (through February 28, 1978) there have been 380 Reports of Violation (ROV) issued for serious infractions of the Act. This is an update to the report included in the November 1977 issue of the Council Memorandum.

Northeast Region

<u>Violation</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>Poland</u>	<u>Spain</u>	<u>USSR</u>	<u>West Germany</u>	<u>Foreign Nation Total</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>Total</u>
Check In/Out	3	1	3	4	17	1	29	-	29
Fishing in a Closed Area	3	1	-	1	2	-	7	14	21
Log Book Entry	-	1	-	11	3	-	15	25	40
Prohibited Species	1	-	1	7	5	-	14	-	14
Improper Radio Procedure	-	-	-	1	5	-	6	-	6
Enforcement/ Safety (re- sisting, no boarding ladder, etc.)	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	5	8
Fixed Gear Avoidance	-	-	-	19	-	-	19	-	19
Fishing With- out a Permit	-	-	-	1	9	-	10	25	35
No Permit Aboard	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	8	12
By-Catch Limitation	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Mesh Size	2	-	-	2	1	-	5	5	10
Excess Haddock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	60
Excess Yellowtail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Excess Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>307</b>

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Alaska Region

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	<u>Japan</u>	<u>South Korea</u>	<u>Taiwan</u>	<u>USSR</u>	<u>Total</u>
Prohibited Species	11	2	1	3	17
Check In/Out	1	2	-	1	4
Area Violation	4	-	-	-	4
Call Sign Improperly Displayed	-	-	-	1	1
Enforcement/Safety	2	-	-	2	4
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>30</u>

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Northwest Region

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	<u>Canada</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>Total</u>
Closed Season or Area	-	18	18
Barbed Hook	1	6	7
Recreational Fishing More Than 1 Line	-	12	12
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>

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Southwest Region

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	<u>Japan</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>Total</u>
Undersized Salmon	-	5	5
No Permit	1	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

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Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program

The distribution of observers by country and fishery for February is shown on the following table. An overall covered of 13 percent of the foreign fleet was achieved in February.

FOREIGN FISHING FLEET OBSERVER PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 1978

	Atlantic Fisheries (Area 3)*	Atlantic Fisheries (Area 4)*	Bering Sea Stern Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Longline Fishery	Bering Sea Crab Fishery	TOTAL
<u>ITALY</u>							
Observers	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Vessels	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
<u>JAPAN</u>							
Observers	1**	4	3	1	1	-	9
Vessels	-	10	65	11	11	-	97
<u>KOREA</u>							
Observers	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-	-	4	1	-	-	5
<u>MEXICO</u>							
Observers	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Vessels	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<u>SPAIN</u>							
Observers	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Vessels	-	21	-	-	-	-	21
<u>TAIWAN</u>							
Observers	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Vessels	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
<u>USSR</u>							
Observers	-	5	1	1	-	-	7
Vessels	-	10	33	9	-	-	52
<u>TOTALS</u>							
Observers	0	17	4	2	1	0	24
Vessels	0	54	103	21	11	0	189

\*The report for Northwest Atlantic is now tabulated by area rather than fishery.

\*\*Vessel operated in more than one area. Counted once in totals.

### Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of February resulted in 16 boardings off New England, and 2 reports of violation, also off New England.

### Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's)

During the month of February, the following action was taken on PMP's:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>Southeast</u>	Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks	Period for public comment on proposed regulations ended on 2/20/78.

### Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

During the month of February, the following actions were taken on the implementation of FMP's:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>New England</u>	Atlantic Groundfish Fishery	Emergency Regulations re-promulgated extending the FMP to 3/31/78. Council approved supplement to FEIS and amendment to FMP.
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	Atlantic Mackerel Fishery	Council working on FEIS.
	Squid Fishery	Council working on FEIS.
<u>Pacific</u>	Northern Anchovy Fishery	Council working on FEIS.
	Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries	Undergoing Secretarial (DOC) review.
<u>North Pacific</u>	Commercial Salmon Troll Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska	Council withdrew FMP for further consideration and revision.
	Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery	Undergoing Secretarial (DOC) review.
	Tanner Crab Fishery	Undergoing Secretarial (DOC) review.

Foreign Allocations and Catches in the Atlantic FCZ, 1977  
(Preliminary)

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>ALLOCATION</u>	<u>CATCH</u>
	- - - - metric tons - - - -	
Bulgaria	8,070	4,700
Cuba		
Whiting	8,745	300
Other	8,974	1,300
East Germany		
Herring	4,825	0
Mackerel	12,400	8,000
Other	3,000	100
European Economic Community		
-France	1,200	0
-Italy		
Squid	5,273	4,200
Other	1,600	1,200
-West Germany		
Herring	4,725	0
Other	1,800	0
Japan		
Butterfish	3,300	1,700
Squid	21,740	12,300
Other	7,000	900
Poland		
Herring	5,100	100
Mackerel	20,200	17,200
Squid	8,501	700
Other	6,200	1,900
Romania	1,400	900
Spain		
Squid	17,769	13,800
Other	5,100	800
USSR		
Red Hake	30,080	4,500
Whiting	72,150	46,300
Mackerel	22,800	22,800
Squid	9,623	6,200
Other	<u>34,500</u>	<u>11,500</u>
Total	327,175	161,400

NOTE: Does not include Canadian allocations and catches.

Foreign Allocations and Catches in the Pacific FCZ, 1977  
(Preliminary)

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>ALLOCATION</u>	<u>CATCH</u>
	- - - - metric tons - - - -	
<b>China (Taiwan)</b>		
Pollock	5,000	1,300
Other	510	200
<b>Japan</b>		
Cod	39,700	37,600
Flounder	142,300	133,600
Herring	5,800	5,600
Ocean Perch and Rockfish	31,800	28,800
Pollock	836,400	824,800
Sablefish	19,500	18,400
Snow Crab	12,500	12,500
Snail	2,700	400
Squid	10,000	8,300
Other	68,700	43,300
<b>Poland</b>		
Atka Mackerel	1,000	200
Pollock	6,000	1,300
Hake	18,000	8,200
Other	2,200	700
<b>South Korea</b>		
Pollock	75,800	75,800
Other	5,390	4,300
<b>USSR</b>		
Atka Mackerel	21,000	19,200
Cod	17,800	1,300
Flounder	83,000	7,000
Herring	13,600	13,100
Ocean Perch and Rockfish	21,500	2,700
Pollock	118,700	106,600
Hake	105,200	110,700
Other	<u>100,000</u>	<u>30,800</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,764,100</b>	<b>1,496,700</b>

NOTE: Does not include Canadian allocations and catches.



## Congressional Activities

Aquaculture - On February 15, 1978, the House passed with amendments, H.R. 9370, the proposed National Aquaculture Organic Act of 1978. The bill's principal provisions are:

The Secretary of Commerce (S/DOC) must establish within one year, a national aquaculture plan in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior (S/DOI) and the Secretary of Agriculture (S/USDA) as well as any appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council, among others. The purpose of the plan would be to coordinate domestic aquaculture programs and to increase the availability of fisheries resources.

The plan would identify those aquatic species with a high potential for commercial cultivation and set forth a development program for each species.

The S/DOC would be required to establish and maintain an Aquaculture Information Center which would function as a national clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of scientific, technological, and economic information relating to aquaculture.

The S/DOC, S/DOI, and S/USDA in carrying out their responsibilities, would be authorized to make grants to or contracts with any other Federal agency, any agency of any state or political subdivision, or any other person.

The S/DOC would be authorized to establish (1) a loan guarantee program to make development capital available for the construction and operation of aquaculture facilities and for the acquisition of stocks of aquatic species; (2) a disaster loan program to replenish stocks and reconstruct aquaculture facilities; and (3) an all-risk insurance program to cover such facilities and stocks. The bill permits up to \$500 million outstanding in the loan guarantee program and \$250 million in the disaster loan program. Coverage under the insurance program could not exceed \$1 billion.

Appropriation authorizations are:

DOC - Not to exceed \$4 million for FY 1979  
- Not to exceed \$15 million for FY 1980  
- Not to exceed \$17 million for FY 1981

DOI and USDA - Not to exceed \$2 million for FY 1979  
- Not to exceed \$7.5 million for FY 1980  
- Not to exceed \$8.5 million for FY 1981

On February 24, Senator Weicker (Connecticut) introduced S. 2582, the proposed National Aquaculture Organic Act of 1978. In remarks from the floor, he stated that S. 2582 is similar to the House-passed version of H.R. 9370. The differences in his bill are:

The S/DOC would have total responsibility for the aquaculture program; there would be no disaster loan program; and risk insurance would cover only essential stocks.

Authorizations would be lower for the loan guarantee and insurance programs. The loan guarantee program could not exceed \$100 million and the insurance program could not exceed \$250 million.

Appropriations authorization for DOC:

Not to exceed \$5 million for FY 1979  
Not to exceed \$20 million for FY 1980  
Not to exceed \$25 million for FY 1981

FCMA Appropriation Authorization Extension - On February 2, 1978, Congressman Murphy (New York) introduced bills (H.R. 10732 and H.R. 10733) to extend the authorization for appropriations for the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA). These bills would extend the appropriation authorization for three years--fiscal years 1979, 1980, and 1981. The Administration supports a two-year extension. On February 8, David Wallace (NMFS) testified in support of a two-year extension: \$20,102,000 for FY 1979, and "such sums as may be necessary" for FY 1980.

Fishermen's Protective Act Amendment (Reimbursement for Seizures by Foreign Vessels) - On February 9, 1978, Congressman Murphy (New York) introduced a bill (H.R. 10878) to extend the authorization for appropriations for Section 7(e) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended. H.R. 10878 would extend the appropriation authorization for three years--fiscal years 1979, 1980, and 1981. The Administration supports a two-year extension. On February 27, Jack Gehringer (NMFS) testified in support of a two-year extension at hearings held before the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Fishing Gear Damage Compensation - On February 28, 1978, Congressman Forsythe (New Jersey) introduced a bill (H.R. 11184) to provide for the compensation of U.S. fishermen whose vessels or gear have been damaged by foreign fishermen. In Extensions of Remarks, Congressman Forsythe gave several reasons for introducing the bill:

--Enactment of the FCMA has not established a new administrative procedure for the prompt disposition of damage claims. Instead, we have more claims boards which result in unacceptable time delays and regulations establishing arbitration procedures for gear damage claims totalling less than \$25,000.

--It was not the intent of Congress that U.S. fishermen be forced to submit to arbitration by third party nationals and to pay the costs of such procedures. It was intended that the U.S. Government would provide a fair and prompt administrative mechanism for gear damage claims which would be available to U.S. fishermen. Thus, the FCMA has not been implemented in this instance in the manner in which it was intended by the Congress.

Congressmen Forsythe also said that any effective gear damage compensation system must take into consideration the situation of the lobsterman who leaves his fixed gear in place and returns to find it destroyed without having any idea of the cause. He feels his bill will remedy this heavy burden of proof by providing that any U.S. fisherman whose vessel or gear is damaged because of an act of God or because of the actions of a U.S. or foreign vessel be eligible for compensation. All the U.S. fisherman must prove is that the damage was not caused by his negligence. If, in fact, the damage was caused to some degree by the fisherman's negligence, the amount of his compensation would be reduced proportionately. To remove the incentive for false claims, H.R. 11184 provides that fishermen would be compensated only for the depreciated value of the vessel or gear involved.

#### Regulations Providing Guidance for Council Operations

In response to a request from one of the Councils, the public comment period for the proposed Guidelines for Regional Fishery Management Councils, Fishery Management Plans, and Confidentiality of Statistics, published in the Federal Register on January 9, 1978, has been extended to April 9, 1978. The purpose of the 30-day extension is to allow the Councils adequate time to submit their comments on the regulations.

#### Deferred Funding for Research Vessel Construction

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has released \$3,750,000 in deferred fiscal year 1977 Extended Jurisdiction (EJ) funds for the construction of a 120-foot NOAA research vessel.

These funds are the remainder of \$7,500,000 appropriated in the fiscal year 1977 supplemental appropriation for construction of two vessels. Half of the appropriated amount was reprogrammed to help support fiscal year 1977 Council operations, provide additional support for States and Territories to participate in EJ activities, and to enlarge the foreign vessel observer program.

Requests for Proposals to construct the ship have been sent to 41 shipyards nationwide. The responses will be evaluated during the month of April 1978, and a contract awarded in May 1978.

The present schedule calls for the ship to be completed by July 1, 1979, and to work out of Seattle, Washington, in support of Resource Assessment (Marine Resources, Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction (MARMAP)) activities conducted by the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center.

## Joint Ventures

On February 8, 1978, NOAA proposed an interim policy for a 15-day public comment period. The proposed interim policy would allow foreign fishing permits to purchase or receive fish from U.S. vessels in the FCZ on a case-by-case basis. Any such permits would contain appropriate conditions and restrictions and only be approved if the optimum yield for the fishing involved will not be exceeded. Additionally, there must be an excess of the fish the industry has capacity and intent to harvest over the capacity and intent of the U.S. industry to process. The relevant foreign vessel also must have capacity and intent to process the excess fish. Under the terms of the proposed interim policy, the Secretary (DOC) may also consider additional factors in evaluating proposals for such operations.

NMFS is currently reviewing comments on the proposed interim policy. Appropriate action will be taken after all comments have been evaluated carefully, and no action will be taken on applications for such permits for such operations until a policy decision has been reached.

## Task Force on Legal Status of Councils

The Task Force established to address the question of the legal status of Councils is moving ahead aggressively in their efforts aimed at developing a NOAA position on Council status. The group is chaired by Eldon V. C. Greenberg, NOAA General Counsel (Designate), and its members include other General Counsel representatives (Herbert L. Blatt and Jay S. Johnson), NMFS representatives (Joe P. Clem, Clarence P. Idyll, and William H. Stevenson), and Council representatives (Spencer Apollonio, Edwin B. Joseph, and John W. McKean).

The Task Force has identified several major problems attendant upon the operation of the Councils which derive from uncertainties in their status, including:

- The application of the public notice requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to meetings of Council subcommittees;
- The application of Federal conflict of interest statutes to Council members; and
- The availability to Council members of official immunity for their acts.

The Task Force has also identified two subsidiary problems:

- The application of the time constraints of the guidelines of of the Council on environmental quality to the preparation of environmental impact statements by Councils; and
- The determination of the Office of Management and Budget that the Councils were "advisory committees" for all purposes.

Members of the Task Force generally agree that more experience is needed to see how the many and varied problems will sort themselves out, and in this light, attempts to effect a major, legislative overhaul would be premature at this time. However, even if there is no effort to obtain a fundamental redefinition of the status of the Councils through amendments to the FCMA, it is considered highly desirable to provide to the Councils a comprehensive statement on their status as it now stands and to resolve administratively those problems that can so be resolved. Consequently, the Task Force has agreed that they will prepare a detailed memorandum to:

- Summarize current administrative interpretation with respect to the status of the Councils; specifically referencing appropriate opinions of the NOAA's General Counsel's Office and other agencies.
- Seek to clarify, to the extent possible, current ambiguities or uncertainties identified by the Task Force. In particular, the group will endeavor to provide answers with respect to (a) the immunity of Council members for actions taken in an official capacity; (b) the application of conflict of interest statutes to actions by Council members; and (c) the need for Council members to clear Congressional testimony.
- Spell out coordination necessary with other agencies to resolve current problems. In particular, two initiatives will be discussed: (a) going to the Council on Environmental Quality to work out procedures for NEPA compliance which are consistent with the constraints under which the Councils must work; and (b) going to the Office of Management and Budget to seek reversal of its opinion letter with respect to the "advisory committee" character of the Councils.

### State Directors' Meeting

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is hosting with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies the State Fish and Wildlife Directors' Meeting, April 6-7, 1978, in the Woodward Room, National Wildlife Federation Building, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Selected panels during the meeting will discuss topics related to:

- Management of recreational fisheries;
- Management of territorial sea fisheries, with particular focus on the State-Federal Fisheries Management Program, the Coastal Zone Management Program, the Fisheries Enforcement Program, and the Data Collection and Statistics Program;
- Management of fishing effort;
- Fisheries Management and Indian treaty rights; and
- Aquaculture

The meeting moderator will be Ted Bampton (Connecticut).

Richard Frank, NOAA Administrator, and Terry Leitzell, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, plan to discuss "building an organization and policies to meet new responsibilities" and "agency overview and initiatives" respectively.

### Council Chairmen's Meeting

The Chairmen's Meeting will be hosted by the South Atlantic Council, March 27-28, 1978, in Council offices, 1 Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, South Carolina. NMFS participants will include Terry Leitzell and Robert Schoning.

The South Atlantic Council is preparing the meeting agenda using the broad categories listed in the Federal Register notice which publicized the meeting:

1. Establishment of administrative and programmatic policies and guidelines as they relate to the Councils.
2. Legal issues as they pertain to the Councils.
3. Establishment of communications between Councils and the new NOAA management team.

## New England Council

- o The Council conducted four public hearings on implementation and amendments to the groundfish plan, but Council recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce were significantly delayed by a blizzard that closed Massachusetts to all business during the week of February 7-13.
- o Because of the blizzard emergency, the regular Council meeting scheduled for February 8-9, was held on February 14-15 during which recommendations were made to the Secretary of Commerce on the groundfish plan.
- o Mr. Alperin represented the Council at a billfish management workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 10.
- o Members of the Council attended the inter-Council regulatory measures meeting in Arlington, Virginia, on February 16-17.
- o The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 22.
- o The Chairman met with representatives of the Japan Fisheries Association on February 24.
- o The Council's Herring Oversight Committee and Groundfish Oversight Committee met on February 3, 6, 27, and 28.
- o Staff members attended a meeting at NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, to review research priorities for sea scallops.
- o The Council received contract reports on the descriptive phases of ocean perch and pollock management plans from the Research Institute of the Gulf of Maine, and of red crab from the University of Rhode Island.
- o The staff interviewed applicants for the position of economist for the Council.
- o The staff received a preliminary demonstration of the results of a contract for herring population dynamics modeling by Harvard University.
- o Members of the Council attended a meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 20 on the U.S.-Canadian negotiations on the maritime boundary and marine resources.
- o The Council received the final report of a contractual study by Dr. David Storey, University of Massachusetts, on an econometric analysis of Atlantic scallop markets.

Mid-Atlantic Council - No report

## South Atlantic Council

- o Snapper-Grouper Plan Development Team met in Charleston, South Carolina, February 7-8, to review progress on development of the plan and to assist structuring of the Council decision process as it relates to management strategy to reach the tentative objectives and goals adopted by the Council at its January meeting.
- o Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee met in Atlanta, Georgia, February 10, to review final PMP and proposed regulations.
- o Spiny Lobster and Coral Steering Committee members attended meeting in Tampa, Florida, February 13-14, recommended goals and objectives and special considerations prerequisite to preparation of Requests for Proposals (RFP) by Gulf of Mexico Council.
- o Executive Director represented the Council at meeting of Standing Committee on Regulatory Measures in Arlington (Crystal City), Virginia, February 16-17. New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Caribbean Councils were represented. Discussion centered around (1) common needs for regulation of Atlantic coast marine fisheries, (2) common logbook and catch reporting systems, (3) common license systems, and (4) reciprocal, interstate enforcement agreements.
- o Information and Education Committee met in Atlanta, Georgia, February 16, to continue work on development of Council brochure and other educational tools.
- o Inter-Council King and Spanish Mackerel Management/Steering Committee met with selected contractor, Centaur Management Consultants, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia, February 17, to reach agreement on product to be delivered by contractor and to agree on procedures and coordination with the two Councils (Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic). Contractor agreed to minor modification (primarily an extension of time devoted to Council decision process attendant to OY determination) at no increase in cost. Completion of plan targeted in 11 months.
- o The Council sponsored Economic-Social Workshop held in Charleston, South Carolina, February 22-23, with 11 economists, 15 sociologists, and 2 representatives of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in attendance. Council staff acted as moderators. Focus of workshop: to identify decision process (including OY determination) and to specify how such information can be used by Council. At the conclusion of the meeting, drafting subcommittee were set up to put together a draft report for review by all participants. Submission of final report to Council targeted in about 2 months.
- o Chairmen, Executive Directors, Chairmen of Snapper-Grouper Management/Steering Committees, and Council liaison persons of Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Councils met in Atlanta, Georgia, February 23, to discuss mechanism for coordination of plan development activities of two Councils in preparation of separate plans for this species group and geographic coverage of respective plans. Boundary accommodation developed for consideration of both Councils.



- o The Council met in Key West, Florida, February 28 to March 2. Highlights of meeting follow:

- Chairman advised that special committee to consider legal status of Councils would meet in Washington, D.C., March 8. Council position was reviewed to guide Chairman in deliberations of committee.

- Snapper-Grouper Steering Committee considered recommendation of Plan Development Team for short-term (one month) study of South Florida headboat fishery to provide input to plan. NMFS representative advised that Southeast Fisheries Center had contracted with University of Miami (\$33K) for a socio-economic study which would partially meet this need since the South Florida area from Key West to Dade-Monroe County line was included. There is still a void from Dade-Monroe County line to Cape Canaveral and NMFS was asked by Council to consider extending contract to cover this area. In the interim, Council is considering use of plan development team member or staff member for quick and dirty survey with Florida Department of Natural Resources assistance. Steering Committee also learned of other contract studies, including \$40K contract to develop bio-economic model for South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery. Council expressed concern over apparent breakdown in communications since no one connected with South Atlantic Council had been advised of these contracts and Council had not been provided opportunity to input.

- Council considered alternative management strategies to meet snapper-grouper fishery objectives adopted by Council at its January meeting. Objectives and alternative strategies to be submitted to Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) for consideration prior to April meeting. Council will decide at April meeting which management strategies will be used and will frame management measures (proposed regulations and coordinative and monitoring mechanisms) for implementation.

- Council briefed on February 10 meeting of Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee to review final PMP and proposed regulations. Final regulations going to Federal Register on or about March 10 for immediate implementation.

Meeting with prospective contractors for development for descriptive phase swordfish FMP to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 7.

- Council agreed to lead designation of Mid-Atlantic Council for development of shark FMP. Council advised that Gulf of Mexico Council proposes development of separate plan in coordination with Mid-Atlantic Council. Chairman appointed the following members to the Shark Steering Committee to work with Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils, as appropriate:

O.B. Lee, Chairman  
Benjamin T. Hardesty  
Edgar C. Glenn, Jr.

George B. Gross  
Edward G. McCoy

- Council was briefed on February 17 meeting of Inter-Council Mackerel Management/Steering Committee with contractor, Centaur Management Consultants, Inc. Council decided to proceed with amendment of AP Charter to increase number of unfilled (floating) slots to permit establishment of ad hoc subcommittee for this and other fisheries. Council felt it advisable that the present AP Charter not be materially changed. Member present Panel would serve as ad hoc subcommittee chairman. Chairman authorized attendance Mackerel Steering Committee members, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) - sponsored Mackerel Colloquium in Brownsville, Texas, March 15-17.
- Council was briefed on February 13-14 Inter-Council Coral Meeting to assist preparation of RFP for this joint plan. Follow-up Inter-Council meeting probably in connection with South Atlantic Council's March meeting. Paul A. Clark, Florida Marine Life Association (organization of tropical fish wholesalers, collectors, and support industries), offered the assistance of his organization and indicated they do not agree with the development of tropical reef fish FMP.
- Council briefed on February 13-14 Inter-Council Spiny Lobster meeting to assist preparation of RFP for this joint plan.
- Calico Scallop Steering Committee reported on its organizational meeting, February 28. Inter-Council meeting to assist in preparation of RFP for this joint plan (South Atlantic Council lead) tentatively scheduled in conjunction with April Council meeting in Tallahassee, Florida. Staff instructed to arrange technical briefing for this session.
- Information and Education Committee briefed Council on February 16 work session. Brochure is in advanced stage of preparation, and it is expected that it will be available at the Fourth Annual Atlantic Coast Commercial Fishing Exposition in Charleston, South Carolina, April 14-16. South Carolina Marine Resources Department to handle distribution through its booth. Council also to participate in planned Fishermen's Seminar Series to be held in conjunction with Exposition. Meeting of Committee scheduled in Charleston, South Carolina, March 22. NMFS Regional Director was asked to explore possibility of Bob Finley (NMFS National Fishery Education Center, Chicago, Illinois) attending to provide technical assistance to Committee.
- Finance Committee reviewed first quarter FY 1978 fiscal report, expenditures to date, and projected requirements for remainder of this fiscal year. Shortage of administrative funds anticipated (plan development related). Financial status to be reviewed again at April meeting with view to adjustment between administrative and programmatic funds, if necessary.

- South Atlantic States report indicated repeat of last year's shrimp mortality in-shore waters due to prolonged cold weather. To compensate the lack of in-shore availability of shrimp, a shift to off-shore rock shrimp is expected by late spring. This may dictate a change in priority for development of a rock shrimp RFP.
- Council reviewed proposed guidelines for development of fishery management plans and confidentiality of statistics and recommended that the EIS and FMP be two separate documents bound together and cross-referenced.
- Executive Director reviewed the proposed guideline for the review of FMP's by the Department of Commerce. Major concern over protracted time frame for review--streamlining needed. Staff asked to lay out review process in more understandable form for Council review at next meeting.
- Executive Director briefed Council on February 16-17 Regulatory Measures Meeting. Concept to be advanced by NMFS Regional Director Gordon at Chairmen's meeting.
- Joint Ventures interim policy reviewed by Council. No specific comment at this time. Slated for consideration at Chairmen's meeting.
- Staff briefed Council on February 22-23 Economic-Social Workshop. Drafting subcommittee is preparing report which will be available in about 2 months.
- Council advised that technical talks with Cubans on Maximum Sustainable Yield/Optimum Yield (MSY/OY) for sharks are slated for Havana, Cuba, March 21-22. Possibility of representation of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils being explored. Council suggested Mid-Atlantic Council representation since that Council will have lead responsibility for development of a shark FMP.
- Next Council meeting will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, March 22-24, with committee meetings the first two days and a half day full Council session on March 24.

## Caribbean Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held February 14-16, 1978, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Summary prepared with Council concurrence by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o A final draft of the spiny lobster FMP was reviewed by Council and referred to Council staff for revision. Comments of the SSC, AP, and several legal points are being incorporated. The plan is scheduled for final Council review during the April meeting.
- o Legal Counsel identified the environmental assessment in the plan as being insufficient; and plans are taking place to complete an EIS (environmental impact statement).
- o Procedures were developed to facilitate future meetings of the SSC and AP including separate meetings from the Council and giving the panel chairmen flexibility in agenda development.
- o Notice of solicitation for development of a coastal pelagics FMP will be sent to public and private contractors in the Caribbean as well as to companies who responded to a Gulf Council's solicitation from the Commerce Business Daily.
- o The unsolicited proposals for a study of the Georges Bank fishery and Council evaluation were reviewed, and Council recommended not to complete the studies at this time.
- o Council adopted an estuarine resolution similar to a resolution by the Gulf Council.
- o A sportsfishing resolution to recommend foreign sportsfishing in the FCZ was adopted.
- o The billfish and shark PMP and regulations were endorsed by the Council.
- o The next Council meeting will be held March 21-23, 1978, at the Windward Passage Hotel, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

## Gulf of Mexico Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Gulf of Mexico Council meeting held February 7-8, 1978, Brownsville, Texas. Summary prepared, with Council concurrence, by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o Officials of the Mexican Government addressed the Council explaining Mexico's program for increasing development of fisheries. They stressed a strong desire to work and cooperate with the Council in international fisheries management.
- o Representatives of the American Tuna Boat Association, August Felando and Manuel Silva, presented the association's position on the international management of tuna and billfish. Council took no action.
- o Mr. Stevenson (NMFS) presented a briefing memorandum from General Counsel (NOAA) on several questions raised by the Council on ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna). The primary question was whether or not foreign catches of bluefin tuna in the FCZ are subject to ICCAT recommendation which was answered affirmatively.
- o Based on recommendations of the Personnel Committee, Council adopted a modified proposal by Lund Associates for a retirement package.
- o Council adopted the recommendations of the Administrative Policy Committee on the proposed guidelines for Fishery Management Councils and will send their comments to NMFS at a later date. Council concurred with the present language.
- o The Advisory Panel Selection Committee recommendations for new and replacement members were adopted by the Council. A status report on the AP charter was presented by the Executive Director.
- o MAFAC (Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee) representative, Ted Ford, presented a summary of the most recent meeting highlighting the committee's endorsement of an increased public awareness and education program for fisheries.
- o Council adopted the goals and objectives for the calico scallop FMP.
- o A contractor for development of a migratory coastal pelagic FMP was approved based on recommendations of the joint Gulf and South Atlantic Plan Development Committee.
- o NMFS policy on joint ventures was endorsed conditionally for case-by-case bases, underutilized species, and for a limited period of time.
- o Several factors relating to fuel efficiency and multiple trawls brought up during Council session will be considered by the shrimp FMP contractor in determination of OY.

- o Council is responding to the American Fisheries Society resolution by sending a copy of the Council's prey-predator resolution.
- o Staff economist, Gale Lyon reported on the recent meeting in Washington to establish an economic data collection plan.
- o Council recommended Looe Key Reef not be declared a marine sanctuary pending development of a coral management plan.
- o Council approved an advertisement and award schedule for the 5 additional FMP's. Notice of Availability will be sent to 71 prospective bidders who showed interest in the migratory coastal pelagic advertisements. A request for bids will be published also in the Commerce Business Daily.
- o Council deferred a decision on lead council determination for a coral management plan pending review by the SSC.
- o NOAA General Council advised Council that contaminant information must be considered in FMP development.
- o Council requested further legal research into the extent of its authority to prepare FMP's in state waters.
- o The following meeting schedule was adopted by the Council:
 

March 7-9, 1978	- Bienville House, New Orleans, Louisiana
April 11-13, 1978	- Sheraton Hotel, Panama City, Florida
May 2-4, 1978	- St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
June 6-8, 1978	- Jovann Inn, Mobile, Alabama
July 11-13, 1978	- Key Wester Hotel, Key West, Florida
August 1-3, 1978	- Sheraton of Biloxi Motor Inn, Biloxi, Mississippi
September 6-8, 1978	- Airport Hilton Inn, Corpus Christi, Texas
October 16-18, 1978	- Holiday Inn Central, Tampa, Florida
November 8-10, 1978	- New Orleans, Louisiana (site not yet decided)
December 5-7, 1978	- Galveston, Texas (site not yet decided)

The following summarizes the schedule of contract activities for the Council's next four FMP's:

Advertisement and Award Schedule for RFP's

	Date of Advertisement	Date to Send RFP's	Date Proposals Due	Date of Council Decision	
SHARKS	2/13/78	3/14/78	5/1/78	6/7/78	(38)*
SPINY LOBSTER**	2/28/78	3/30/78	5/15/78	7/12/78	(58)*
CORAL**	3/13/78	4/12/78	5/29/78	7/12/78	(44)*
COASTAL HERRING	4/3/78	5/4/78	6/20/78	8/2/78	(43)*

\*Number of days available for staff, SSC, and Management Committee review prior to next Council meeting.

\*\*Will be done jointly with the South Atlantic Council; Gulf Council acting as lead Council.

The Council, acting as lead Council, is initiating work on the coastal migratory pelagic FMP for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic area.

The Council is also participating in the development of the billfish and swordfish FMP's for which the South Atlantic Council is lead Council.

## Pacific Council

- o At its recent meeting in Portland, Oregon, the Council went on record that it would not consider any permits concerning the matter of foreign processing vessels landing and processing U.S.-caught fish within the 200-mile zone sooner than the January 1979 Council meeting. Council members felt that this delay would allow U.S. processors time to increase domestic processing capabilities.
- o The Council is expected to approve a final FMP/EIS for forwarding to the Secretary (DOC) on northern anchovy resources off the Pacific coast during its meeting in Sacramento on March 9-10, 1978.
- o The Secretary is expected to rule on the 1978 Ocean Salmon Management Plan by March 3, 1978. It will be necessary to implement emergency regulations so that the plan will be in effect prior to the beginning of the major ocean salmon fisheries.
- o The Council has appointed three Billfish Plan Development Team members to work jointly with a Western Pacific Council Team in preparation of an FMP on billfishes and related species. The Western Pacific Council has the lead responsibility for preparation of the plan.
- o A seventh permanent staff position has been added to the Council staff. The temporary staff officer position, occupied by Rodney R. McInnis, was made permanent during the Council's recent meeting in Portland.
- o The Pacific Council will be represented by the following at the Chairmen's Meeting in late March: John W. McKean, Chairman; E. Charles Fullerton, Vice Chairman; and Lorry M. Nakatsu, Executive Director.
- o Dennis Grotting, Manager, Fisherman's Marketing Association, Inc., of Eureka, California, was appointed as Chairman of the Council's Advisory Panel.



## North Pacific Council

The North Pacific Council met in regular session on February 23-24, 1978, at the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) met earlier on February 22, 1978, and then jointly with the Council.

### o Joint Venture Activity

The Council discussed the Interim Policy Guidelines on Joint Ventures published by the Secretary of Commerce in the Federal Register February 8, 1978, and recommended several modifications:

- (a) That the policy include FMP's as well as PMP's.
- (b) Recommended that U.S. industries' intent to fish, process and market products be documented, and that economic factors as they relate to price differentials between purchase of fish by foreign processors and by U.S. processors be considered.
- (c) That the main justification for developing the joint venture policy include not only the conservation issue but also recognize that economic factors need to be considered to assist the developing domestic processing sector.
- (d) Recommended that a 12th item be added to the 11 considerations (as published) used for evaluating permit issuance as follows:  
(12) Potential for detrimental effects on fish stocks due to by-catch, impact on sanctuary areas, or other factors.

Permit applications from the Republic of Korea requesting permission for two Korea Marine Industrial Development Corporation (KMIDC) ships to buy raw fish from American fishermen in the Gulf of Alaska were deferred until July 1 in keeping with established Council policy.

The Council will pursue with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State the possibility that allocations for resources to be caught by American fishermen and sold to foreign processors could come from that country's quota. Preferential treatment should be given a country when allocating its quota to provide for joint ventures.

### o Foreign Permit Application Reviews

As noted earlier, review of the two permit applications from the Republic of Korea for joint ventures was deferred until July 1, 1978. The Council recommended approval of permit applications for the Japanese longliner MATSUI MARU #72 and the EIKYU MARU #26 with the proviso that their permits include specific time/gear restrictions.

An application from the TAISAN MARU #1 was deferred until the March meeting when more information on its requested activities will be available from the Japanese Fisheries Association.

o Tanner Crab in the Bering Sea

The Council listened to a request from the Japanese Crab Industry to allow their mothership fleets to fish for C. opilio in March and April west of 171° West as far south as 56° North. After consideration of previous catch statistics, resource survey records, possible gear conflicts, C. bairdi handling mortalities and the U.S. intent to fish in that area, the Council declined the Japanese request and upheld its earlier decision, which prohibits foreign crab fishing south of 58° North and sets the total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF) at 15,000 metric tons.

The Council approved a new Appendix (11.6) to its Tanner crab FMP which summarizes the Council record of its decision on both the aforementioned plan provisions.

o The Commercial Troll Salmon Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska

Recognizing a number of deficiencies in the FMP submitted December 22, 1977, as Council recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce, the Council moved to withdraw the plan, redraft it, and submit it again in time for the 1979 season. Although it is not expected that the management objectives or provisions will be greatly changed, if at all, the Council intends to hold public hearings on the redrafted plan before final adoption and resubmission to the Secretary. Hearings will probably be in late September after the close of the salmon troll fishery.

The redraft will be aimed specifically at:

1. A precise definition of the fishery management unit considered in the plan;
2. Specification of MSY and OY for all species involved; and
3. An indepth review of the Alaska Limited Entry Law as it will apply to the fishery management plan.

Recognizing the possibility of problems with enforcing State regulations outside three-miles in the absence of a fishery management plan in 1978; the Council requested assistance from the Departments of Fisheries for Oregon and Washington, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the Alaska Department of Public Safety, as well as NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard in monitoring fishing activity and landings.

o FMP for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery During 1978

This FMP is expected to be approved within the next few days, with implementing regulations published in the Federal Register around March 1. The plan should be in effect by the middle of April.

o Policy on Foreign Allocations of Fisheries Resources from the FCZ

The Council passed a resolution requesting the U.S. Department of State to develop a policy restricting allocations of resource surpluses to nations that prohibit imports of those same resources by American fishermen. The Council feels that import quotas, restrictions, or unreasonable tariffs should be taken into account when allocating resources to a nation since it prohibits a competitive position for the American fishing industry. In passing the resolution, the Council recognized the similar position taken by Governor Hammond in his letter to the Department of State in early February.

o Fishery Management Unit for Shrimp

Upon the recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Council designated shrimp in the eastern Bering Sea as a separate fisheries management unit. Ninety-nine percent of the shrimp harvest off Alaska occurs within State waters. The only known resource that will be harvested primarily in the FCZ is in the eastern Bering Sea. The Council gave a low priority to the development of a fishery management plan for shrimp outside the Bering Sea, but intends to move ahead as rapidly as possible with the development of a plan for the Bering Sea resource.

o Coordination with the Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Mr. Nick Szabo, discussed ways and means of coordinating development of Council management plans, revisions, and regulations with the activities of the Board of Fisheries. The Council suggested a Memorandum of Agreement between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service and instructed the staff to develop plan revision schedules that would mesh with normal Board of Fisheries activity.

o FMP for Bering Sea Herring

The Council appointed the following scientists to serve on the management plan development team for this resource: Lewis Barton, Irving Warner, Rich Randall, Pete Jackson, and Ron Regnart of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Vidar Westpestad of the National Marine Fisheries Service. They were asked to have a first draft ready for the Council in early fall so that it can be in place for the spring 1979 fishery.

o FMP on Bering Sea Clams

The development team for this fishery plan gave a one hour presentation to the Council outlining the past fishery and the proposed research/developmental fishery for the coming season. Based on the development team's recommendation, the Council is going to advertise for a funding proposal to do a major ecological study of the clam area in the Bering Sea, to be tied in with NMFS, ADF&G, and industry programs this summer. The proposed study, to be used in the development of the fishery management plan and the accompanying environmental impact statement,

will consider a wide variety of effects of a clam fishery, including such things as the effect of suspended solids, survival rates of organisms in the dredge track, predator/prey feeding relationships and changes, development of a species index of diversification, etc. The Council hopes to have a solicitation out for RFP's before the end of March.

o Advisory Panel

Joe DeMantle, Jr. of Tuluksak was appointed to the Advisory Panel to replace Paul Guy, and Emil Berikoff from the Aleutian-Pribilof Island Association in Unalaska, was appointed to replace Bob Starck. Both Bob Starck and Paul Guy resigned recently because of other heavy commitments on their time.

Sidney C. Huntington was dropped from the Advisory Panel and replaced by John Hanson of Alukanuk.

The Council adopted a new policy that drops Advisory Panel members from that group if they have not attended a Council function for six months without notifying the Council of their reasons for not being able to attend. In developing the policy the Council recognized the demands that the Advisory Panel makes on its members' time and energy and noted that they could not expect Advisory Panel members to always attend Council meetings, public hearings, and work sessions, realizing that at times other commitments would prevent participation. They felt the new policy was not unreasonable since it provided for absences for cause. Because the Council depends on Advisory Panel members so heavily for advice and participation in working groups, that the Panel should be maintained as a group of active participants.

o National Limited Entry Conference

The Council agreed to try and develop a list of participants from the Alaska area who will be attending the National Limited Entry Conference sponsored by NOAA July 17th - 19th in Denver. The steering committee for this conference, led by Professor Donald McKernan, has asked the Council to estimate the attendance from the Region in addition to encouraging the largest feasible attendance by the Council and technical support staff. It is expected that 20 to 30 individuals from each of the Council areas will attend this conference.

o Contractual and Finance Matters

1. Authorized a sole-source contract to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for an analysis and summary of the 1977 troll salmon logbook data for \$10,668.
2. Agreed to allow the Council Finance Committee to award the contract for a study on the effects of a commercial herring fishery on the subsistence lifestyles in Western Alaska. Recommendations on that contract award will be made to the Finance Committee by a technical review subcommittee of Scientific and Statistical Committee, Advisory Panel members, and outside consultants during a review in Juneau on March 3. The expected cost of this study is \$85,000.
3. Recommended that the troll salmon observer program contract be scaled down to a modest pilot study for 1978, bringing the cost down from the earlier approximation of \$85,000 to \$20,000.
4. In commenting on the latest proposed regulations for Council operation, recommended that administrative as well as programmatic funds be allowed to be carried over from one fiscal year to the next.
5. Postponed a decision on the staff salary study until further analysis can be made of the cost factors.

o Miscellaneous

The Council moved to support a resolution from the Gulf of Mexico Council asking for support from the Governors of coastal States in the protection of marine estuaries.

Noted that Council member Rear Admiral J. B. Hayes had been nominated by President Carter as the next Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and congratulated him on that appointment.

Heard a great deal of public testimony pro and con on joint ventures and foreign restrictions in the Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery.

Delayed final comments on procedural guidelines for determining and reevaluating optimum yield and the review procedure for fishery management plans within NMFS and NOAA.

Moved to hold a one day meeting (if possible) in March, with the date tentatively set for March 24th in Anchorage.

Tentatively scheduled the September Council meeting for Sitka in conjunction with troll salmon plan hearings.

## Western Pacific Council

- o The Billfish Advisory Sub-Panel and the Planning Team held their first joint meeting on February 7 at the NMFS Laboratory in Honolulu to discuss FMP objectives and management options and critique the latest available draft (November 1977) of the PMP. The meeting, jointly chaired by Sub-Panel Chairman James W. Sutherland and SSC Deputy Chairman Richard Shomura, was well attended, with members coming from as far away as Guam and American Samoa. The Sub-Panel expressed strong dissatisfaction with the non-retention zones for billfishes proposed in the NMFS preliminary management plan draft, and in view of the overfished condition of the Pacific blue marlin stock as reported by a recent international stock assessment workshop, the Sub-Panel recommended that the Council declare that there is no surplus of blue marlin available for foreign fishermen in the FCZ. Pacific Council Executive Director Lorry M. Nakatsu and biologists Gary Sakagawa (NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla) and Robert Bell (California Department of Fish and Game) attended to coordinate their contribution to the joint billfish FMP for the Western Pacific and Pacific regions.
- o A proposal was received on February 6 from the University of Hawaii for a sole source contract to make a comparative analysis of biological data on three species of spiny lobster from Hawaiian and western Pacific waters. The proposed study having previously received the approval of the SSC and the Council, the contract proposal was forwarded to the NMFS Southwest Region and NOAA Grants Office for approval.
- o A contract was signed with the Government of Guam on February 13 for administrative support to Guam's ex officio member on the Council.
- o The Council was notified by the Department of State that the surplus of 2,000 metric tons of seamount groundfish available for foreign fishing in 1978 has again been allocated equally between Japan and the Soviet Union. Considerable interest had been shown by Taiwan fishing companies in entering the seamount fishery, and the Chinese Government was told that if Japan and the USSR again fail to use their allocations, as they did in 1977, allocations for other countries may be considered in 1979.
- o Comments received from members on the Commerce Department's proposed joint venture policy were transmitted to NMFS on February 23. Members who commented had no particular problem with the policy.
- o Chairman Wadsworth Yee and Honolulu members met with Acting Assistant NOAA Administrator for Fisheries David Wallace at the Hawaii State Capitol on February 24 for wide-ranging informal discussions of subjects of concern to the Council, including the proposed South Pacific Fishery Agency, assistance for fishery development in the region, billfish management, and Federal encroachment on the fishing grounds of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

- o Several Hawaii members and associates of the Council were active around the State Capitol during the month, as committees of the Legislature held hearings on a large number of varied bills and resolutions relating to the management and development of Hawaii's fisheries. Subjects of bills of direct or indirect interest to the Council are precious coral research, purchase of the island of Palmyra by the State, fishing vessel loans, redefinition of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and management of foreign billfish harvesting in the 200-mile zone.
- o Three Coast Guard vessels were on patrol during the month checking out Japanese longliners in Northwestern Hawaiian Islands waters. Eleven of the Japanese boats were boarded and their catches were inspected. Those fishing off the northern part of the chain appeared to have been after albacore, while those boarded south of French Frigate Shoals had more yellowfin. Billfishes were fewer and sharks more numerous than expected in the catches examined.
- o Council staff and members received inquiries from the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation concerning the Council's funding needs and a wide range of questions aimed at evaluating Council effectiveness.
- o The Council submitted its final financial report to NOAA for FY 1977, showing total administrative outlays of \$175,180, exclusive of obligations incurred by NMFS before the Council began to handle its own finances.

# Meetings of Regional Fishery Management Councils

Month	New England	Mid Atlantic	South Atlantic	Caribbean	Gulf of Mexico	Pacific	North Pacific	Western Pacific
FEBRUARY 1978	● 2/7-9 Peabody, MA Council ● 2/22 Boston, MA SSC	● 2/7-9 Hunt Valley, MD Council; AP ● 2/16-17 Arlington, VA ● 2/24 Arlington, VA SSC	● 2/28-3/2 Key West, FL Council	● 2/14-16 San Juan, PR Council; SSC; AP	● 2/7-9 Brownsville, TX Council ● 2/13-14 Tampa, FL Subpanels ● 2/28 Tampa, FL Subpanel	● 2/15-17 Portland, OR Council	● 2/22-24 Anchorage, AK Council; SSC; AP	No Meeting
	----- Four Councils Standing Regulatory Measures Committee -----							
MARCH 1978	● 3/7-9 Peabody, MA Council ● 3/15 Boston, MA BGC ● 3/22-23 Peabody, MA Council	● 3/8-9 Philadelphia, PA Council	● 3/23-24 Charleston, SC Council ● 3/27-28 Charleston, SC CHAIRMAN'S MEETING	● 3/21-23 St. Thomas, VI Council	● 3/7-9 New Orleans, LA Council; SSC; AP	● 3/8-10 Sacramento, CA Council; AP	● 3/23-24 Anchorage, AK Council; SSC; AP	● 3/15/16 Kaula, HI Council
APRIL 1978	● 4/12 Kingston, RI SSC ● 4/19-20 Peabody, MA Council	● 4/7 Dover, Delaware AP ● 4/12-13 Williamsburg, VA Council	● 4/25-27 Tallahassee, FL Council	● 4/3 Roto Roy, PR AP	● 4/7 Tampa, FL Reef Fish AP ● 4/11-13 Panama City Beach, FL Council	● 4/3-4 Portland, OR AP & Plan Team ● 4/13-14 Portland, OR AP & Plan Team NO COUNCIL MEETING	● 4/26-28 Anchorage, AK Council; SSC; AP	● 4/10-11 Honolulu, HI SSC NO COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 1978	● 6/17-18 Peabody, MA Council		● 6/23-25 Columbia, SC Council		● 5/2-4 San Antonio, TX Council	● 5/11-12 Boise, Idaho Council	● 6/24-26 Anchorage, AK Council; SSC; AP	
JUNE 1978			● 6/27-29 Atlanta, GA Council		● 6/6-8 Mobile, AL Council	● 6/8-9 Eureka, CA Council		● 5/30 Pago Pago, AS Council

SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee  
 AP - Advisory Panel  
 ● - PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER  
 ○ - Partially Closed Session  
 ▲ - PENDING--Council referral to NWS  
 ▼ - PENDING--NWS referral to Fed. Reg.

(7)