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DECEMBER 1977

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activities for the month of December resulted in 46 boardings, 6 citations, 2 reports of violation, 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>
Bulgaria	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cuba	0	0	0	2	0	2
E. Germany	0	0	0	2	0	2
Italy	0	0	0	8	0	8
Japan	79	0	0	14	0	93
Poland	2	0	0	2	0	4
S. Korea	7	0	0	0	0	7
Spain	0	0	0	31	0	31
Taiwan	1	0	0	0	0	1
U.S.S.R.	<u>38</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39</u>
	127	0	0	61	0	188

Number of Boardings

Cuba	0	0	0	1	0	1
Italy	0	0	0	2	0	2
Japan	20	2	0	3	0	25
S. Korea	1	1	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>
	37	3	0	6	0	46

Number of Citations

Italy	0	0	0	1	0	1
Japan	1	0	0	1	0	2
Spain	0	0	0	2	0	2
U.S.S.R.	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	2	0	0	4	0	6

Number of Violations

Spain	0	0	0	2	0	2
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Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program

Potential alternatives for operating the observer program are under review in NMFS. A full range of alternatives is being considered which includes contracting for observers with State agencies, universities, and other entities as well as alternatives for operating the program with Federal employees. A decision will not be made on any changes in the operation of the Northeast Region's observer program until the study is completed and NMFS has further contact with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils.

The distribution of observers by country and fishery for December is shown on the following table. An overall coverage of 11 percent of the foreign fleet was achieved in December.

Foreign Fishing Regulations

Only one comment was received on the proposed amendment of sub-paragraph (d) of Section 611.11 which would provide for arbitration as a means of settling gear conflict claims for alleged damage caused by a foreign fishing vessel to a U.S. citizen's fishing vessel, fishing gear, or catch. The amendment will not be revised as a result of that comment and will continue in effect as described in last month's Memorandum. A pamphlet is now being prepared for U.S. fishermen which will describe various options now available for settling such gear conflict claims.

Joint Ventures

A recommended interim joint ventures policy has been developed by NMFS and is now under review in NOAA. It will be published in the Federal Register and mailed to the Councils as soon as NOAA approves.

Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activities for the month of December resulted in 34 boardings, 2 citations, and 1 notice 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>
1	0	0	33	0	34
<u>Number of Citations</u>					
0	0	0	2	0	2
<u>Number of Reports of Violations</u>					
0	0	0	1	0	1

FOREIGN FISHING FLEET OBSERVER PROGRAM - DECEMBER 1977

	Atlantic Squid Fishery	Bering Sea- Aleutian Longline Fishery	Bering Sea Stern Trawl Fishery	Bering Sea Trawl Factory Ship Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Longline Fishery	T O T A L
<u>ITALY</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
<u>Vessels</u>	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
<u>JAPAN</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	24	1	10	10	45
<u>KOREA</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<u>Vessels</u>	-	1	2	-	2	-	5
<u>POLAND</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<u>SPAIN</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
<u>Vessels</u>	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
<u>TAIWAN</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	11	-	16	-	27
<u>TOTALS</u>							
<u>Observers</u>	7	0	2	1	0	0	10
<u>Vessels</u>	8	1	38	1	29	10	87

Availability of Historical Fishery Statistical Information - Several historical publications series, such as "Fishery Statistics of the United States" for the years 1939-1973, are available from the Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service, 5282 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 (phone: 703 - 557-4650). A complete listing of available publications, prices, how to order, etc., is shown on page 88 of "Fisheries of the United States, 1976," an NMFS publication which has been made available to Council headquarters.

Congressional Activities

Public Law 95-219 - On December 28, 1977, the President approved H.R. 9794 (P.L. 95-219). This law amends the Fishery Conservation Zone Transition Act (P.L. 95-6) to approve the Governing International Fishery Agreement (GIFA) with Mexico.

In addition, the law authorizes for NOAA two additional Executive Level V positions, redesignates four existing Level V Associate Administrator positions as Assistant Administrator positions, provides that the NOAA General Counsel be an Executive Level V position, and adds eight classified positions to the Civil Service Commission pool authorized by Section 5108(a) of Title 5 of the United States Code.

1978 State Directors' Meeting

A program planning committee, consisting of five State Directors plus National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives, tentatively is scheduled to meet on January 31, 1978, to confirm suitable meeting dates and the site for convening the 1978 State Director's Meeting. In addition, the planning committee will determine the theme for the meeting and will prepare a tentative agenda.

MAFAC XIX Meeting

The nineteenth meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, February 1 and 2, 1978, in Room 4830 of the Department of Commerce Building, 14th Street between E Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., with meetings starting at 8:30 a.m. Adjournment is planned for noon Thursday.

Two Subcommittees will meet Tuesday afternoon, January 31, 1978, in the Conference Room, 4th Floor, Page Building 2, 3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W., (NMFS headquarters): the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs at 1:00 p.m., and the Subcommittee on Recreational Fisheries at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda items include: Foreign Fishing Allocations; Joint Ventures; Marine Mammal and Endangered Species Conflicts; Bowhead Whale Management Regime; Habitat Protection; Implementation of Eastland Survey; Reorganization of Fisheries Within NOAA; Summary of First Calendar Year Under Extended Jurisdiction; NMFS Budget; Status of U.S./Canada Negotiations; Environmental Considerations in Fisheries Management Decisions; and reports by the Subcommittees, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and the Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Expiration of Council and Scientific and Statistical Committee Charters

All Council and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) charters will expire on April 12, 1978. In order for the Councils and SSC's to continue operating, rechartering must occur on or before this date. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Section 14) is specific about prohibiting a committee from any activity between its scheduled charter termination date and the date a new charter is filed.

The NMFS Fisheries Management Operations Division (F31), has provided written guidance to the Regional Offices (NMFS) and the Councils regarding action needed to obtain new charters on a timely basis so as to avoid any lapse in Council activities.

Status of Regulations Providing Guidance for Council Operations

Proposed regulations will be published in the Federal Register on January 9, 1978. These regulations offer guidance with respect to Council use of funds from sources other than the Department of Commerce, procedures for carryover of administrative and programmatic funds from one fiscal year to the next; procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act in developing fishery management plans; and procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of statistics submitted pursuant to a fishery management plan.

Copies of the proposed regulations will be made available to all the Councils to maximize time for review and comment. A 60-day period which expires on March 9, 1978, will be allowed for submission of comments to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington, D.C. 20235.

DECEMBER 1977
 QUARTERLY SUMMARY - FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) STATUS

F I S H E R Y	Plan Being Developed By Council	Plan In Wash. Pipe- line	Plan Adopted	Plan Imple- mented
<u>NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL (NEFMC)</u>				
Atlantic Groundfish for 1977	-	-	-	X
Atlantic Groundfish Interim Amendment (to Emergency Regulations)	X	-	-	-
Atlantic Groundfish (Permanent) Plan for 1978	X	-	-	-
Sea Herring	X	-	-	-
Scallop	X	-	-	-
Silver Hake	X	-	-	-
<u>MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL (MAFMC)</u>				
Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries	-	-	-	X
Atlantic Mackerel	-	X	-	-
Butterfish	X	-	-	-
Squid Fishery of Northwestern Atlantic	-	X	-	-
Shark	X	-	-	-
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (SAFMC)</u>				
Billfish (SAFMC is designated as lead Council)	X	-	-	-
Snapper-Grouper Complex	X	-	-	-
King and Spanish Mackerel	X	-	-	-
<u>CARIBBEAN COUNCIL (CFMC)</u>				
Spiny Lobster	X	-	-	-
Shallow Water Reef Fish	X	-	-	-
Migratory Coastal Pelagics	X	-	-	-
<u>GULF OF MEXICO COUNCIL (GMFMC)</u>				
Groundfish	X	-	-	-
Shrimp	X	-	-	-
Reef Fishes	X	-	-	-

DECEMBER 1977
 QUARTERLY SUMMARY - FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) STATUS

F I S H E R Y	Plan Being Developed By Council	Plan In Wash. Pipe- line	Plan Adopted	Plan Imple- mented
<u>PACIFIC COUNCIL (PFMC)</u>				
Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California (1977 Plan)	-	-	-	X
Revision to above plan	-	X	-	-
Groundfish	X	-	-	-
Dungeness Crab	X	-	-	-
Anchovy	-	X	-	-
Pink Shrimp	X	-	-	-
Jack Mackerel	X	-	-	-
Squid	X	-	-	-
Comprehensive Salmon	X	-	-	-
<u>NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL (NPFMC)</u>				
Tanner Crab	-	X	-	-
Gulf of Alaska Groundfish	-	X	-	-
Commercial Troll Fisheries off Coast of Alaska	-	X	-	-
King Crab	X	-	-	-
Bering Sea Groundfish	X	-	-	-
Bering Sea Clam	X	-	-	-
<u>WESTERN PACIFIC COUNCIL (WPFMC)</u>				
Spiny Lobster	X	-	-	-
Precious Corals	X	-	-	-
Seamount Resources	X	-	-	-
Billfish	X	-	-	-
Bottomfishes	X	-	-	-

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

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

<u>Council</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>New England</u>	Atlantic Groundfish Interim Amendment (to Emergency Regulations)	Draft SEIS undergoing public review
	Atlantic Groundfish for 1978	Council drafting plan
<u>Mid-Atlantic</u>	Atlantic Mackerel Fishery	Council working on FEIS
	Squid Fishery	Council working on FEIS
<u>Pacific</u>	Northern Anchovy Fishery	Undergoing public review
<u>North Pacific</u>	Tanner Crab Fishery	Secretarial review reinstated because of changes in plan made by Council. Action anticipated mid-January
	Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery	Action anticipated mid-January
	Commercial Troll Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska	Recommended changes by the EIS coordinator to the final EIS are being made; the printed document should be in the Washington Office in the near future.

Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's)

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

<u>Region</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>Southeast</u>	Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks	Working on changes to the plan by the Southeast Region. Will forward to the NOAA Administrator for Secretarial approval on or about January 9.

FINAL REPORT - 1977
 PERMITS ISSUED AND VESSELS PERMITTED TO FISH BY OCEAN AREA

	NORTHWEST ATLANTIC		CA/OR/WA COAST		ALASKA		WESTERN PACIFIC		TOTAL ISSUED BY TYPE OF VESSEL		ALL VESSEL
	Fishery Vessels	Support Vessels	Fishing Vessels	Support Vessels	Fishing Vessels	Support Vessels	Fishing Vessels	Support Vessels	Fishing Vessels	Support Vessels	Total
BULGARIA	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
CUBA	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
E. GERMANY	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	24
EUROPEAN ECON. COMMUNITY:											
FRANCE*	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
ITALY	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8
W. GERMANY	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	9
JAPAN*	15	62	-	-	376	92	2	10	392	92	484
POLAND*	9	2	6	3	6	3	-	-	12	3	15
S. KOREA	-	-	-	-	27	3	-	-	27	3	30
SPAIN	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	-	80
TAIWAN	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	4
U.S.S.R.*	<u>48</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>263</u>
	188	120	71	58	497	156	3	10	712	215	927

*Total permits issued is less than sum of ocean area figures due to permits issued for two or more ocean areas.

**Does not include 350 registration permits for the high seas salmon fishery issued by the Department of State.

FINAL REPORT - 1977

STATUS OF APPLICATIONS/PERMITS

<u>NATION</u>	<u>No. of Permits Requested</u>	<u>No. of Permits Approved</u>	<u>No. of Permits Issued</u>	<u>Comments</u>
BULGARIA	6	6	6	---
CUBA	116	13	2	---
E. GERMANY	33	30	24	---
EUROPEAN ECON. COMM.:				
FRANCE	2	2	2	---
IRELAND	1	0	0	No allocations for Ireland
ITALY	13	13	8	---
W. GERMANY	15	15	9	---
JAPAN	513	508	484	---
MEXICO	2	0	0	GIFA not brought into force and effect in time for 1977 fishing
POLAND	35	29	15	---
ROMANIA	13	10	0	GIFA not brought into force and effect
S. KOREA	83	32	30	---
SPAIN	91	85	80	---
TAIWAN	45	4	4	---
U.S.S.R.	<u>504</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>263</u>	---
	1,472	1,246	927	

STATUS OF APPLICATIONS/PERMITS FOR 1978

Nation	Number of Applications					No. of Permits Issued	No. of Appr. Appls. Pending	Comments
	Submitted	Rejected	Withdrawn	Approved	Disapproved			
BULGARIA	12	0	0	7	5	0	7	Disapproved applications were for mackerel and herring
CUBA	17	0	0	16	0	0	16	Awaiting further information from Cuban Government for 1 application.
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY:								
FRANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Will submit applications later in year
FRG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Will submit applications later in year
ITALY	21	0	0	20	0	15	5	One application awaiting Council recommendation
IRELAND	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	No allocations
GDR	26	0	0	0	26	0	0	No allocations
JAPAN	470	0	0	455	0	426	29	15 applications awaiting Council recommendations
MEXICO	24	0	13	10	1	0	13	Mexican Government withdrew 13 applications. Disapproved application was for vessel permitted to Spain; both countries submitted an application for same vessel
POLAND	22	0	0	22	0	0	22	
ROMANIA	16	0	0	0	16	0	0	No allocations
SOUTH KOREA	51	0	0	51	0	0	51	
SPAIN	30	0	0	30	0	24	6	
TAIWAN	46	6	0	8	32	0	8	32 applications disapproved - no allocation, 6 rejected - no PMP/FMP
U.S.S.R.	336	0	0	299	0	182	118	37 applications awaiting Council comment
TOTAL	1,072	6	13	918	81	647	272	

FISHERY CLOSURES AND WITHDRAWALS DURING 1977

FMP/PMP	FISHERY	COUNTRY	REASON FOR CLOSURE/WITHDRAWAL	DATE OF ACTION
Trawl Fisheries of Wash., Ore., Calif.	Hake	Poland	Allocation filled	10/10
	Hake	USSR	Allocation filled	10/29
	Jack Mackerel	Poland) USSR)	Withdrew (reasons unknown)	10/29
Mackerel Fishery of the NW Atlantic	Mackerel	USSR	Allocation filled	3/1
Atlantic Herring Fishery of the NW Atlantic	Herring	E. Germany) France) Poland) USSR) W. Germany)	Withdrew (no fish) after 30-day extension	10/5
Hake Fisheries of NW Atlantic	Hake	Poland) USSR)	Season ended before allocation taken	
Squid Fisheries of NW Atlantic	Illex	Italy	Allocation taken	12/12
	Illex	Japan	Saved small part of allocation for incidental catch in loligo fishery	9/4
	Illex	Spain	Allocation taken	12/2
	Illex	USSR	Allocation taken	8/7
Trawl Fisheries and Herring Gillnet of Eastern Bering Sea and NE Pacific	Aleutian Island Trawl	USSR	Exceeded Atka Mackerel	8/15
	Pollock	Japan	Saved part of allocation for incidental catch	12/8
Trawl Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska	All Fisheries	USSR	Exceeded incidental catch of cod	12/15
King and Tanner Crab	Tanner Crab	Japan	Voluntary withdrawal - allocation nearly filled	9/11
Atlantic Groundfish	Cod, Haddock, YT	USA	Optimum yield exceeded	12/23

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Budget Summary
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The following table was developed from information received from Councils:

COUNCILS	Administrative (incl. States)		Programmatic (Contracts) [*]		TOTAL	
	FY77	FY78	FY77	FY78	FY77	FY78
NEW ENGLAND	393	636	128	600	521	1,236
MID-ATLANTIC	346	1,072	---	312	346	1,384
SOUTH ATLANTIC	382	538	100	600	482	1,138
CARIBBEAN	335	732	70	380	405	1,112
GULF OF MEXICO	486	870	200	480	686	1,350
PACIFIC	355	795	222	200	577	995
NORTH PACIFIC	471	1,027	118	481	589	1,508
WESTERN PACIFIC	<u>234</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>744</u>
	3,002	6,067	1,018	3,400	4,020	9,467

<u>Funding</u>	<u>FY77</u>	<u>FY78</u>
Sources: Base	3,065	3,065
1 - Time \$	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,150</u>
Total	4,065	6,215

*Requested by Councils

New England Council

- o Mr. Ronald W. Green was appointed to the Council to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Virgil Norton. Mr. Green's appointment brought the Council to its authorized size for the first time in its active existence.
- o The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) devoted its meeting of December 7 to a day-long first review of the herring report prepared by the staff.
- o The Council's regular meeting on December 7 and 8 was devoted to a detailed review of the 1978 Groundfish Plan and to the staff report on the development of a herring management plan.
- o The Council held four public hearings, December 1-6, on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Council's mackerel and squid plans.
- o Members of the Council attended a joint gear conflict committee meeting with members of the Mid-Atlantic Council in Newark, New Jersey.
- o Members of the Council attended a meeting with Ambassador Cutler in Boston concerning the progress of the U.S.-Canadian negotiations.
- o The Council recommended an extension of the current U.S.-Canadian Reciprocal Fishing Agreement into 1978 in the probable absence of a final treaty agreement on January 1, 1978.
- o The Council's Herring Oversight Committee met twice to review in detail the staff report on the development of a herring management plan.
- o The University of Rhode Island completed the first phase contract with the Council on a survey of "headboats" from Maine through New York, including Long Island. This contract is part of a detailed survey of the entire groundfish fleet in the Council's area.
- o The Council staff held a meeting to reach understanding of the proposed activities of various agencies, National Marine Fisheries Service, New England Council, University of Rhode Island, in carrying on recreational fishing surveys in the northeast.
- o The staff and NMFS Regional office personnel had detailed extended discussions to implement the 1978 Groundfish Plan.
- o The fishery for cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder north of Cape May was closed in its entirety from December 23 for the remainder of the year. The Chairman informed NOAA that the closure is contrary to the advice of members of the Council.

Mid-Atlantic Council

- o Council held its regular monthly meeting on December 14 and 15 at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Laboratory in Sandy Hook, New Jersey.
- o Reviewed status of advisory panel charter and learned that it was in the process of being approved. Nominees for four sub-panels (surf clam and ocean quahog, shark, Atlantic mackerel, and squid and butterfish) were selected and meetings will be called as soon as the charter is formally adopted and available for distribution.
- o Reviewed the proposed recreational fishing survey planned for 1978 by NMFS. Messrs. Stone and Wise from NMFS's Washington headquarters made the presentation.
- o Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) members met on December 13 at the Sandy Hook Laboratory, and reviewed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a marine angler survey to determine catch of Atlantic mackerel by private boats. The Committee also reviewed sea scallop objectives. Dr. Hargis, Council member, was selected by Council in November to serve as Chairman of the Committee to replace Dr. Cronin who resigned the post.
- o Reviewed Senate Bill 2265, "Marine Migratory Fish Conservation and Study Act of 1977," and elected to defer making comments on it until January.
- o Council again discussed policy on joint ventures. A motion was made but tabled. The subject will be reviewed and debated at future meetings.
- o Discussed progress on U.S.-Canadian boundary negotiations. Discussions centered around the relationship between the treaty and Council authority under FMCA, the possible representation of Councils in a bi-national organization created by treaty, and the allocation of quotas. Council moved to endorse establishment of a boundary south and west of which Canadian vessels would not fish under the provisions of any treaty with the understanding the U.S. vessels would probably not be permitted to fish north and east of the boundary. A closed meeting of the Council to further discuss the issues involved is scheduled for January 4, 1978.
- o Moved to endorse an extension for one year of the current interim agreement between Canada and the United States for fishing in the disputed boundary area. The Council also recommended that Article VII, dealing with the tuna fishery, be deleted from the agreement when it is extended.
- o Discussed the results of several public meetings to begin resolving gear conflicts between U.S. domestic fixed and mobile gear users. The Coast Guard agreed to prepare a summary of measures discussed and the enforceability of each.

- o Reviewed comments heard at ten public hearings related to draft EIS's/ FMP's on squid and Atlantic mackerel. The staff is preparing a summary of comments received for indepth review at the Council's January meeting.
- o Reviewed progress on the billfish management plan; the staff has been providing assistance to the South Atlantic Council on billfish harvest in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- o The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for January 11 and 12, 1978, at the Brandywine Hilton Inn in Claymont, Delaware.

South Atlantic Council

- o Council did not meet in December.
- o Chairmen and Executive Directors of South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils met in Atlantic, Georgia, November 30, to discuss boundary and joint plan development related issues.
- o Public hearing on Squid FMP being developed by Mid-Atlantic Council, was held in Manteo, North Carolina, December 6, and chaired by Norman Angel of South Atlantic Council.
- o Snapper-Grouper Plan Development Team met in Charleston, South Carolina, December 6-7, to finalize descriptive phase of FMP as basis of Council decisions related to plan objectives and optimum yield (OY) determination during January and February Council meetings.
- o Information and Education Committee met in Charleston, South Carolina, December 8-9, to begin development of (1) briefing folder for use of Council members, (2) procedures and format for news media releases, (3) mailing list for Council information and education releases, and (4) Council brochure.
- o Staffs of South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils met in Tampa, Florida, December 12-14, to (1) finalize evaluation sheet for use of reviewers of mackerel proposals and (2) develop event flow chart for both a contractual and task team approach to joint plan development.
- o Billfish Steering Committee Chairman Hardesty attended meeting of National Coalition for Marine Conservation in Washington, D.C., to brief the group on status of Billfish FMP.
- o Staff member Dr. Davis represented the Council at a meeting of United States and Japanese scientists in Honolulu, Hawaii, December 12-15, to discuss means of improving acquisition of scientific information related to billfish.

- o The Executive Director attended bid opening for mackerel proposal at Gulf of Mexico Council headquarters in Tampa, Florida, December 19. Five (5) proposals were received and are being reviewed by South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Councils. Inter-Council Steering Committee action targeted by January 18, with full Council action at South Atlantic Council's January meeting and Gulf of Mexico Council's February meeting. Issuance of contract for development of joint King and Spanish Mackerel FMP about mid-February.
- o Next Council meeting will be held January 24-26, 1978, Charleston, South Carolina.

Caribbean Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held December 6-8, 1977, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Summary prepared with Council concurrence, by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- o An amendment to the Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures (SOPP's) was approved providing for sick leave at the same rate used by Federal Government.
- o A health insurance plan through Aetna was secured for Council staff jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Council.
- o A motion was passed to ratify Council's actions during the recent joint Council meeting in Orlando, Florida.
- o Fernando Castillia, Staff Economist, presented a review of the "Economic and Allied Data Needs for Fisheries Management" and the NMFS Recreational Fisheries Survey. Council tentatively endorsed the survey pending review by its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP). Council urged no cutbacks in the survey.
- o Council approved printing of the report, "Review of the Status of Fishery Resources of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council Area," by Dr. Jack Dammann and Mr. Rolf Juhl.
- o A Committee was established to formulate a definition for Artisanal Fisheries as follow-up to the Dominican Republic negotiations. The Dominicans are in favor of Artisanal Fisheries, but there is confusion on the meaning.
- o A resolution was drafted for discussion at the next meeting recommending an amendment to the Act regarding foreign sports fishing in U.S.-sponsored tournaments.

- o Council reviewed a summary of Puerto Rico's Coastal Zone Management Plan.
- o Management options for the Spiny Lobster FMP were finalized, and a final draft is scheduled for completion for the next Council meeting, February 14. The first draft of the Shallow-water Reef Fish Plan is scheduled for March.
- o Council visited the Coast Guard facilities at San Juan.
- o The Budget Committee scheduled a meeting for December 14 in San Juan to develop the 1980 budget. NMFS will provide budget representation as requested.
- o Selection problems of the Advisory Panel were noted, and procedures for selecting and maintaining the Panel are scheduled for the next meeting.
- o NOAA General Counsel explained the Federal Employee Compensation Act and applicability of coverage to Council members and staff.
- o Council was briefed on status of DEIS/PMP Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks.
- o Computer services became available in October. These services include monthly accounting information within 10 days of the end of the preceding accounting period.
- o The Chairman will appoint representatives to MAFAC (Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee) and to participate in the workshops to develop standardized regulatory measures for fishery management plans.
- o Change of address - The Council moved to Suite 1108 in the Banco de Ponce Building, December 12, 1977.
- o Next Council meeting is scheduled for San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the Hotel Pierre, February 14-16, 1978.
- o Council will be developing the next FMP for migratory coastal pelagics. SSC and AP will be meeting to establish goals and objectives for this and other FMP's.

Gulf of Mexico Council

No report received.

Pacific Council

- o During its December 15-16, 1977, meeting in Seattle, the Pacific Council approved a final "Fishery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978" for submission to the Secretary.
- o In the ocean salmon FMP, the Council declared its intent to place a moratorium on new participation in the commercial troll and charterboat ocean salmon fisheries. It took action to control speculation in the purchasing of licenses prior to implementation of the moratorium, and stated it would look to participation in the 1975-1977 years to determine qualifications for future participation in the fishery. Access would also be permitted to those vessels purchased or actually under construction prior to December 16, 1977, in good faith anticipation of participating in the commercial troll salmon fishery or charterboat fishery in the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ) in 1978 as determined by the Council. The system would be instituted in 1979.
- o The Council plans to address the contents of a comprehensive salmon plan to be implemented in 1979 at its next meeting scheduled in San Diego, California, January 12-13, 1978.
- o Public hearings on a draft anchovy management plan have been scheduled for January 14, 1978, in Long Beach and on January 16, 1978, in Monterey.
- o The Council has deferred the target implementation date of a Dungeness crab FMP until the 1979-80 fishing season.
- o The Council unanimously approved a proposed budget for 1979-80 as submitted by Council staff, totaling \$1,192,000 for FY 1979 and \$1,240,000 for FY 1980. The proposal for programmatic funds was increased by \$130,000 over FY 1978 to provide funds to complete the comprehensive salmon plan, develop a management information system to tie into NMFS efforts for a timely data reporting system on Council FMPs, and contract studies on limited entry into some of the fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction.
- o The Council has agreed that the Western Pacific Council will be the lead Council in development of a joint plan for billfish.
- o The Council agreed to communicate with the Food and Drug Administration indicating its support for a proposed change in the marketing name of Pacific hake to "Pacific whiting."

North Pacific Council

- o Council met December 1-2, 1977, in Anchorage, Alaska. A public hearing was held during the December 1 session.
- o Amended and approved the Salmon Troll Plan, adopting a 28-inch legal length limit for chinook salmon, requiring fin-clipped (indicating tagged) fish to be landed head-on, endorsed an observer program and approved limited entry in the power troll fishery based on the State of Alaska model in use in State waters.
- o The date of December 1, 1977, was set as the date beyond which no fisherman can accrue points toward permit eligibility for entering the fishery on the Fairweather Grounds in the event limiting entry into that fishery becomes necessary. Council also closed offshore waters west of Cape Suckling, extending a closure to offshore waters in effect in State waters since 1973. A proposed closure north and west of Cape Spencer was not adopted.
- o The dividing line between foreign and domestic crab fisheries in the Bering Sea was reaffirmed at 58 degrees N. latitude, effectively separating the fleets and reserving catches of C. bairdi to the U.S. Optimum yield of 10,000 metric tons was set for C. opilio south of that line. Foreign allocation to the north was left at 15,000 metric tons. Optimum yield for C. bairdi south of 58 north is 89 million pounds.
- o Permits were issued to 18 South Korean longliners with proviso that only half could be on grounds at one time. Permits are for sablefish. The 10,000 metric ton quota for sablefish was retained and a foreign fishery for Pacific cod was directed as a longline fishery inside the 500 meter isobath. No effort is allowed during halibut season.
- o A clam test fishery shows commercial possibilities with an estimated 236,000 metric tons of whole clams available in the Ugashik Bay-Port Moller test area of Bristol Bay. Best results were from test drags in 13-18 fathoms which yielded 40-60 bushels of surf clams per hour. Surf clams tested for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) revealed no toxin present. Other species tested indicated toxin had been present at one time.
- o Council issued a warning to foreign governments whose ships apply for fishery permits in the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ). Design features which allow for return of prohibited species with a minimum of handling and greater chances for survival will be a factor in the issuance of future permits. Advisory Panel (AP) report indicates mortality rates for prohibited species is unacceptably high.
- o Coast Guard reports it is close to achieving goal of 90% probability of detecting an individual ship on fishing grounds in any 2-week period.
- o Meeting days for 1978 have been set as fourth Thursday and Friday. Next meeting is January 26-27, Hill Building, Anchorage, Alaska.

Western Pacific Council

- o The Council and its committees and panels held no meetings during the month of December. The major interim activities and actions included:
- o In relation to the application of the Republic of China for permits for four longliners to fish for seamount groundfish in 1978, Chairman Wadsworth Yee asked the Secretary of Commerce to obtain more information on the intentions of Japan and the USSR to engage in the fishery in 1978 and more precise indications of the target species of the proposed Taiwanese effort. A response from the NOAA Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries indicated that this information is being sought through diplomatic channels.
- o As proposed at the Council's Eighth Meeting, there was an exchange of correspondence between the Chairmen of the Western Pacific and Pacific Councils resulting in agreement to a coordinated effort to develop a single FMP for the billfish and related fisheries of both regions, with the Western Pacific Council to seek the Secretary of Commerce's designation as the lead Council in that effort.
- o In response to a request from House Fisheries Committee Chairman Robert L. Leggett, the Chairman supplied comments on a press statement in which the Japan Fisheries Association made a general attack on Regional Council management of fisheries for poor conservation and unfairness to foreign interests.
- o On December 22, several Hawaii members met with Mr. Robert Ogawa of Congressman Daniel Akaka's staff for a general discussion of the Council's work and fishery development and management problems of the Hawaii area.
- o An international workshop on billfish data resources and stock assessment was held at the NMFS laboratory in Honolulu, December 5-15, with the Council providing financial support for the participation of two scientists from Japan and one from Taiwan. Both Pacific and Atlantic billfish were covered.
- o Mr. Robert T. C. Hsiao visited the Council during the week of December 12 as the last stage of a familiarization tour of Regional Councils funded by the U.S. Government. Mr. Hsiao is an official of the Republic of China Fisheries Bureau in charge of administering foreign-based tuna fishing. With the help of local NMFS and Hawaii Fish and Game staffs, Mr. Hsiao was shown a number of fishery activities and facilities in Honolulu, and was briefed on the Council's work by Chairman Yee.
- o Council member Michio Takata retired as head of Hawaii Fish and Game at the end of December. No successor has been announced. Governor Bordallo has informed the Council of his appointment of Mr. Rufo Lujan as Acting Director of the Guam Department of Agriculture, and it is expected that Mr. Lujan will occupy the Council seat left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Frank Aguon until further notice.
- o The State of Hawaii obligated the remainder of the funds made available through the Council for administrative support of its ex officio member by hiring a secretary on a half-time basis.

Meetings of Regional Fishery Management Councils

Month	New England	Mid Atlantic	South Atlantic	Caribbean	Gulf of Mexico	Pacific	North Pacific	Western Pacific
DECEMBER 1977	● 12/7-8 Peabody, MA Council;SSC		No Meeting	● 12/6-8 San Juan, PR Council	No Meeting		● 11/29-12/2 Anchorage, AK Council;SSC;AP	No Meeting
		● 12/13-15 Highlands, NJ Council;SSC				● 12/14-16 Seattle, WA Council;SSC		
JANUARY 1978	● 1/17-19 Peabody, MA Council;SSC	● 1/4 Arlington, VA Council		No Meeting	● 1/10-12 Biloxi, MS Council;SSC	● 1/11-13 San Diego, CA Council;SSC		● 1/5 Honolulu, HI Advisory Sub-Pan el
		● 1/11-12 Claymont, DE Council;SSC	● 1/24-26 Charleston, SC Council				● 1/24-27 Anchorage, AK Council;SSC;AP	● 1/10-11 Saipan, NMI Council
FEBRUARY 1978	● 2/8-9 Peabody, MA Council	● 2/8-9 Hunt Valley, MD Council		● 2/14-16 San Juan, PR Council;SSC;AP	● 2/7-9 Brownsville, TX Council	● 2/15-17 Portland, OR Council;SSC		● 1/24-25 Honolulu, HI SSC
			● 2/28-3/2 Key West, FL Council				● 2/22-24 Anchorage, AK Council;SSC;AP	
MARCH 1978	▶ 3/1-2 Council							
	▶ 3/22-23 Council		● 3/23-24 Charleston, SC Council				▶ 3/22-24 Anchorage, AK Council;SSC;AP	
APRIL 1978	▶ 4/19-20 Council		▶ 4/25-27 Tallahassee, FL Council				▶ 4/26-28 Anchorage, AK Council;SSC;AP	

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

(1)