


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, AP, and SSC Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke 
Executive Director

DATE: April 7, 1989

SUBJECT: Salmon Fishery Management Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

Review draft FMP and approve for public review.

BACKGROUND

NOAA Fisheries and the Salmon Plan Team have completed a revised management plan for salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska. This process began in June 1986 when the Council reviewed several options for continued involvement in salmon management ranging from a complete withdrawal from management to a major overhaul of the plan to increase the Council's flexibility in managing the fishery. The Council chose to take the middle ground and begin work on an amendment to the plan which would set annual catch levels based on Pacific Salmon Commission recommendations and seasons and inseason management measures compatible with the state's. The Council also desired to bring all of the biological material and catch statistics in the plan up to date.

In June 1988 the Council reviewed a preliminary revision of the plan and directed the team to continue to revise the plan to conform with the Pacific Salmon Treaty and management of inshore salmon fisheries by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. They also asked the team to revise objectives as appropriate and the definitions of MSY, ABC, and OY, include a radio broadcast option for notifying the fleet of regulations, and an extension of the plan to cover the EEZ west of 175° East longitude. The draft document includes these revisions and an Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review, a section on habitat, and the proposed implementing regulations. The package, collectively making up Amendment 3 to the plan, was sent to the Council family in late March.

The plan provides two major options for management: (1) defer regulations to the State of Alaska, or (2) retain status quo with Council and NOAA Fisheries management in the EEZ under Federal regulations. It also requires the Council to decide whether to extend jurisdiction of the plan west of 175° East longitude.

The Council is scheduled to approve the release of this draft plan for public review. After a minimum 30-day comment period the Council could give final approval in June. After Secretarial review the plan could be implemented by late fall. Bumping the final decision to September would still allow the plan to be implemented before the 1990 salmon season.