

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

DATE: January 7, 1986

SUBJECT: King & Tanner Crab FMPs

ACTION REQUIRED

- (b) Deadline for crab FMP amendment proposals (information only).
- (c) Report on the status of King Crab FMP implementation and delegation of management authority to the State (information only).
- (d) Determine need for king crab hearing in Seattle.

BACKGROUND

(b) The annual crab FMP amendment cycle has begun and the deadline for proposals was Friday, January 10. The Plan Teams will compile the proposals and prepare draft decision documents by the end of February.

(c) A status report on the king crab FMP and delegation of management authority to the State will be presented. The FMP was implemented on December 2, 1984, but there are still no fishing regulations in place. We expect some movement on this issue by the March joint Council/Board meeting. Since inconsistencies between state regulations and the FMP have been identified it may be necessary to initiate an FMP amendment at that time.

(d) Seattle King Crab Hearing.

The FMP states that a joint hearing by the Board of Fisheries and Council will be held in Seattle each year prior to the March shellfish meeting in Alaska (usually in early March). For the past few years attendance at these hearings has been very poor, and in 1985 Barry Collier, then Executive Director of the NPFVOA, suggested that the FMP be amended to make the hearing discretionary rather than mandatory. The Board of Fisheries made the same recommendation for budget reasons. The Plan Team did not move on amending the FMP because of the uncertainty surrounding delegation of authority and the probable need for other FMP amendments during the delegation process.

The issue was raised at the NPFVOA meeting last week (January 6) and the membership was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the Seattle hearing mandatory. They would prefer that the hearing be scheduled for a weekday rather than weekend, and feel that the Board and Council don't need to send more than 1 or 2 members each. After the 1986 proposal package has been distributed to the public and the issues have been identified, NPFVOA has agreed to reassess the need for the hearing this year and notify the Council and Board as soon as possible.