

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members
FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
DATE: September 10, 1986
SUBJECT: Bering Sea/Aleutians FMP

ACTION REQUIRED

1. Review status of trawl bycatch restrictions (information only)
2. Report on halibut stock status
3. Final Approval of Amendment 10
4. Review status of stocks (RAD) and approve preliminary TACs
5. Approve provisional DAP and JVP estimates

BACKGROUND

Status of 1986 trawl bycatch restrictions [D-3(a)]. The emergency rule has been extended through December 2, 1986. An update on catches and bycatches will be provided. This information will be useful in the review of Amendment 10.

Halibut [D-3(b)]. Under Agenda Item B-6 you received a report on the 1986 Bering Sea crab survey and status of king and Tanner crab stocks. In order to address the domestic bycatch restriction proposals in Amendment 10 you will also need information on halibut stock status, which will be presented by IPHC at this time.

Amendment 10 [D-3(c)]. Final action on Amendment 10 is scheduled for this meeting. We have tried to arrange the schedule so that this can be accomplished in three steps:

- (a) Review Amendment 10 package and identify preferred alternatives.
- (b) Plan Team analyzes chosen alternatives, prepares draft regulations and changes to the FMP.
- (c) Final Council approval of Amendment 10 for Secretarial review.

While the Team is working on their drafting assignments you will have time to take up other agenda items.

Status of stocks [D-3(d)]. The NWAFC has again taken the lead role in preparation of the annual Resource Assessment Document (RAD), which provides the status of stocks data used in the determination of catch limits for the upcoming year. The Plan Team chairman, Dr. Loh-Lee Low, will present the stock status information and walk you through the document. You may choose to adjust any Plan Team recommendations for biological or socioeconomic reasons. Particular attention should be focused on POP, sablefish, turbot/arrowtooth flounder, and Pacific cod. Your recommended TACs will be forwarded to the Regional Director for publication in the Federal Register and public review.

Provisional DAP and JVP estimates for 1987 [D-3(e)]. You need to recommend DAP and JVP estimates at this time as well. The DAP and JVP surveys will not be conducted until later in the year, so you should consider approval of the NMFS estimate of 1986 total DAP and JVP catches as the provisional 1987 numbers, recognizing that these values will probably underestimate 1987 demand.