

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director

DATE: September 27, 2001

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

Attached is a spreadsheet depicting existing staff tasking, divided among four categories which reflect prioritization based on legislative or judicial forces, followed by the Council's previous direction. Many of these projects are in various stages of completion, while some have not been started. The recent departure of Maria Tsu has altered our tasking, particularly for the crab rationalization project. This remains a top priority and that analysis will fully engage our new Senior Economist Mark Fina between now and February. Mark will also be involved to some degree in various other Council projects, in a coordinating and review role. Darrell Brannan will assist in the crab rationalization project along with some help from Chris Oliver. Drs. Walter Milon and Stephen Hamilton from the University of Central Florida have been hired on a short-term contract to conduct a general assessment of the different rationalization models, as they relate to the interactions between harvest and processing sectors. A summary of our analysts' tasking is provided below; Elaine Dinneford will continue to provide data support, and work with AKFIN development, and Diane Provost will also work on data support as well as maintain the Council's ever-growing computing and networking needs.

Jane DiCosimo is fully subscribed between now and February, primarily working on the halibut subsistence regulatory package (for December), the shark/skate/other species amendment package now scheduled for review in December or February, the GOA Rationalization white paper for review in December (or more likely February), and any activities related to the halibut charter IFQ action.

Nicole Kimball is also fully subscribed through February, working on the CDQ Policy amendment package, originally scheduled for review in December (see NMFS letter regarding possible revised timeline), the GCCC QS buy-in amendment package, and activities related to the observer program regulatory amendment for review in February. She also would be finalizing the Pacific cod pot split analysis (between CPs and CVs) if the Council wants to bring that to the front burner. Chris Oliver will be assisting on some of these items.

David Witherell and Cathy Coon will be working on the SSL amendment package pending Council action at this meeting. I expect them to be primarily engaged in the EFH amendment package after that, which will be a major item through 2002. In addition, Cathy is scheduled for a discussion paper in December on salmon bycatch and she will be assisting in finalizing whatever actions the Council takes regarding seabirds. David also will be assisting with the preparation of an EIS for the BSAI crab FMP, which will have to dovetail with the Council's rationalization plan next year, and other BSAI Plan Coordinator duties.

The tasking summary does not reflect the numerous Committee and other meetings which take a large amount of staff time. These will include the IFQ Committee(s), the EFH Committee, the Observer Committee, Plan Team meetings, CDQ Committee, Council meetings, and Board of Fish meetings through February. The full suite of specific projects is summarized on the attached spreadsheet, with notations on remaining work required and timelines for completion. A number of amendment packages directly or indirectly related to the AFA have also been tasked by the Council. A discussion of those measures under the C-4 agenda item will give us a better picture of how those all fit together, and when we should expect to get them done, though I expect a large part of that workload to be accommodated by outside contract help. I would expect that these amendment packages would be ready for review in mid-late 2002.

As this meeting progresses over the next six days, we just need to be aware that it is unlikely that we will be able to process any new Council actions until after the February meeting. Following this (October) meeting we will once again be advertising for a staff economist, as well as for an additional analyst to be funded for at least three years from our special NEPA compliance funding. This should bring us back up to full speed beginning in 2002 and allow us to take on additional Council projects.

Council Staff Tasking Summary (to February 2002) Updated September 25, 2001

Mandated Actions	Projected Weeks	Council/ NMFS %	Comments
FMP Updates	2	90/10	Requires Council staff work in late 2001/ early 2002 (David/Jane)
AFA EIS/Proposed Rule	1	10/90	Requires Council staff work (Darrell)
AFA Report to Congress (final)	1	100/0	Draft in October, 1 week to finalize (Darrell)
Develop RFP's/SOWs for AFA funds	2	70/30	Requires Council input in October (Chris/Darrell)
SSL Measures (Committee & Analysis)	2	40/60	Pending Council action in October (David/Cathy)
EFH EIS	?	40/60	Major project for late 2001/ 2002 (David/Cathy)

Additional Council Priorities * = Highest priority

BSAI Crab Rationalization*	30	90/10	Major project through February (Darrell, Chris, Mark + contract help)
Halibut Subsistence/LAMPs (new reg amendments/BOF mtgs)*	5	95/5	Analysis by November for action in December (Jane)
SR/RE retention*	2.5	80/20	Not started (Jane) <i>APR</i>
Community based QS (GCCC buy in proposal)*	3	90/10	Initial review in December (Nicole)
Groundfish processing s/b, IR/IU, HMAP*	3	10/90	Tasked in February - Begin work after October 2001 - Primarily Contract
CDQ Amendment (policy committee)*	5	80/20	Initial review in December (Nicole and Chris)
Halibut Charter IFQ	3	100/0	Prepare SOC Document (Pending October action) (Jane)
BSAI pot cod split	2	100/0	Final Action in December (Tentative) (Nicole) <i>Feb</i>
Observer Program (short-term changes/Committee)	2	10/90	Initial review in February (Nicole and Chris)
Other AFA related Measures - MTC proposal (Am 69)	1	90/10	Prepare for SOC review
Other Species (Shark/Skate) FMP amend. and CDQ aspect	4	90/10	Review in December (Jane) <i>Feb</i>
CDQ Regulatory Amendment (Administrative and other)	1	10/90	Initial review in October
GOA Rationalization	4	90/10	White paper in December /February (Jane)
DSR Amendment	1	40/60	Pending NMFS Processing

Other Projects Previously Tasked (In order of Priority)

P. Cod sideboards (Prichett proposal)	6	100/0	Tasked in February - Not started - Possible Contract with AFA funds
BSAI P. Cod Trawl LLP recency in BSAI	10	100/0	Tasked in February - Not started - Possible Contract with AFA funds
AFA single geographic location change	3	100/0	Tasked in June - Not started - Possible Contract with AFA funds
GOA Salmon bycatch reduction measures (Discussion Paper)	2	100/0	Review in December (Cathy) ●
HAPC Stakeholder Process	?	90/10	Part of larger EFH process
TAC Setting Process	1	10/90	Review this fall (NMFS)
Opilio VIP	2	50/50	Tasked in February - Not started
Catch/bycatch disclosure (vessel level)	1	70/30	Discussion paper in December (Elaine)
Scoping paper on fee/loan program for IFQ Charter (NMFS?)	1	10/90	

Potential New Projects

Three separate sideboard pools	4	90/10	Not started - Pending Council direction
P.cod reg. Amendments (2)	4	90/10	Not started - Pending Council direction
IFQ amendments	?	90/10	Pending Staff availability
Charter IFQ Community Set-Aside	4	90/10	Pending Council Direction