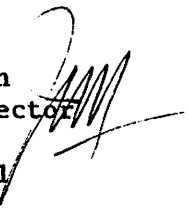


Agenda D-5
April 1981

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director 

DATE: April 21, 1981

SUBJECT: Proposed Alaska Fisheries Center

ACTION REQUIRED

No action required; for informational purposes only.

BACKGROUND

Representative Gardiner has proposed that an Alaska Fisheries Center be established to provide information and research on fishery resources. Some information on the proposed center is included in the following material. Don Rosenberg has been working with representative Gardiner and others on amendments to the Alaska Fisheries Center bill and will make a presentation to the Council on the status of the legislative activity.

JR

APR81/I



Terry Gardiner, Co-Chairman
 Fred F. Zharoff, Co-Chairman
 465-3715

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on Resources

ACTION	ROUTE TO	INITIAL
	Exec. Dir.	3
	Deputy Dir.	
	Asst. Dir.	
	Asst. Dir.	
	Asst. Dir. 1	
	Asst. Dir. 2	
	Asst. Dir. 3	
	Sec. Asst.	
	Sec./Dir.	
	Sec./Typist	
	Pouch V	
	State Capitol	
	Juneau, Alaska 99811	
	FEB 19 1981	

February 13, 1981

Clem Tillion
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council
 P.O. Box 3136 DT
 Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Clem:

Enclosed are some documents I have prepared for the creation of a fisheries center in Alaska. They are self explanatory. I would appreciate your review of the papers and your comments on them.

As you are probably aware, the University of Alaska has been pursuing a similar line of thinking and we crossed paths late last year. It was nice to know that the same set of thoughts and concerns were coming from more than one source. I have been working with the University's representatives; Mr. Hutton and Mr. Rosenberg regarding the coordination of what the University is seeking and what I think should happen. I think we can work out an agreement for a coordinated approach.

There is no question in my mind that we need to institute a fairly heavy program for the gathering and evaluation of data and knowledge regarding our fisheries resources. The solution to most if not all of the social allocation problems we are encountering with the common property resource is vitally dependant on the accurate information regarding the fishery stocks in our waters.

I am interested in a coordinated approach with the state and the federal government and the North Pacific Council's effort. I am aware that the council has recently created a scientific and statistical committee and an advisory panel to assist the council in carrying out its responsibilities. I hope that effort will be coordinated with the efforts that we plan for the state to undertake.

The basic concept is to create a fishery center which is a part of the state but separate from the Department of Fish & Game and the line agencies in the state, and also separate from the University structure. It would have the basic purposes and goals as outlined in the concept paper, which is enclosed. My tentative thoughts as this time, would be to locate the center in Anchorage, and hopefully on or near



Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

December 16, 1980

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: HONORABLE TERRY GARDINER
SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RE: SEAFOODS: ALASKAS LIVING RESOURCE

I have been increasingly concerned regarding the future of the fishery resources. We as a state have an obligation to the future generations to use the common property resources in a wise manner and not destroy or irrevocably damage them.

The pressure to harvest increasing amounts of our common property resources will continue to increase. During the next 45 years world population is expected to increase and for much of the world, fishery products are the only or major source of animal protein. In addition, real income of the world, and particularly the U.S., Europe, Japan and the communist block countries, can be expected to grow. Therefore, the demand for fishery products will continue to increase. Studies by FAO, 1979, predict that MSY's of world fishery production will be reached in the early 1980's. When this happens, aggregate supply essentially becomes fixed. The major impact of a fixed supply is accelerating price increases on the world market as demand increases. Rising demand will lead to continuing pressure to exploit the common property resource and may well threaten its very existence.

Intelligent decisions will be required. Decisions based on hard factual knowledge of the resource and the entire industry. The decisions will primarily be made in an atmosphere of demands for short term benefits, both in terms of increase production of food and crises economics for the industry. The long term survival of the species will be left up to the biologist to defend with inadequate or inconclusive information. If history is a teacher then the lesson is that the short term demands usually win. Most of the viable marine resources in the world have been decimated. Knowledge of the resources takes time to gather, organize and distribute. Although we are doing a little now it is vital that we increase our efforts immediately.

The attached proposal outlines one way a approaching the challenge that lays ahead of us. Please give it your serious consideration. Send your comments to my office in Juneau.

ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

The objective of this document is to describe in summary form, some of the primary considerations which have led to the conclusion that an Alaska Fisheries Center is critically needed in Alaska. Other factors also briefly addressed in this document include descriptions of some of the characteristics of the proposed Center.

The Need/Opportunity For an Alaska Fisheries Center

The Alaska Constitution, Article VII, Section 2, states, "The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people." The question is, what actions should the legislature take to assure this constitutional mandate is being carried out for its fisheries?

We believe the establishment of an Alaska Fisheries Center would be a major step toward meeting this constitutional obligation. In addition, we believe the establishment of such a Center would provide an effective means for carrying out Article VII, Section 5, which states, "The legislature may provide for facilities, improvements and services to...assure fuller utilization of the fisheries, wildlife and waters.

In addition to the constitutional requirements placed upon the legislature, it is also important to recognize the tremendous size and value of the Alaskan fisheries resource. In terms of value in 1979 the 900 million pounds of Alaskan commercial landings had a value of almost 600 million dollars. The value of this catch was 26.7 percent of the total U.S. harvest. By way of comparison the states with the next highest harvest values were: California \$227.5 million; Louisiana \$198.5 million; Massachusetts \$175.5 million; and Texas \$160.2 million.

If both the domestic and foreign harvest in Alaskan waters were added together, the 1.6 billion metric tons harvested in 1978 would rank Alaska 15th among the nations of the world in commercial landings.

The U.S. fishing industry employs over a quarter of a million people and provided in 1979 a \$7 billion contribution to the U.S. Gross National Product. Alaska's fishery provides a substantial contribution to this important sector of the U.S. economy.

Other countries such as Japan and the Soviet Union invest heavily in fisheries research and provide a wide variety of financial incentives to support their fisheries. In the United States a limited amount of research is provided and financial incentives are generally limited to boat and gear loans. A recent study indicates that \$24.6 million was spent in 1979 on Alaska fisheries research. Of that amount \$8.5 million was spent on research by organizations not located in Alaska.

Partly, because the fishery is a common property resource, and partly because the structure of the U.S. fishing industry does not lend itself to long-term investments in fisheries research, more knowledge and better management tools are needed, if Alaska is to provide for the effective utilization, development and conservation of its fisheries resource for the maximum benefit of its people.

The best weapon Alaska has in reducing intervention by outsiders is to know more about its resources and how they should be managed than anyone else.

Goals for the Alaska Fisheries Center

1. Gather, organize and disseminate information about Alaska fisheries which will encourage the wise utilization, development and conservation of these resources for subsistence, commercial and recreational purposes.
2. Provide for improving coordination and communication among members of the fisheries scientific and management communities, fishermen, seafood processors and the public.
3. Improve the long-term economic viability of the Alaska and U.S. seafood industry.
4. Encourage the development of Alaska's fisheries resources to help meet the world's need for protein.
5. Conduct and coordinate the research activities necessary to accomplish the above purposes.

Scope of Alaska Fisheries Center

1. The Center shall encompass the renewable marine and freshwater fishery resources including groundfish, aquatic plants, shellfish and salmon.
2. Two general types of functions would be carried out at the Center. These are:

A. Prime Functions

- Basic Research (research directed at a specific research goal)
- Applied Research (research directed at a specific resource goal)

- Stock enumerations and habitat surveys
- Management research
- Industry technology
- Fishery food sciences
- Market and economic research
- Aid to fisheries education

B. Support Functions

- Data processing center
- Library (including A/V and communications)
- Support facilities (including Center, research vessels, etc.)

Location of the Alaska Fisheries Center

The primary criteria for selecting the Center location should include the following:

1. The location must provide a pleasing professional environment which will aid in attracting highly qualified professionals.
2. It should have excellent communications and transportation facilities for domestic and international linkages and travel.
3. It should be centrally located and reasonably accessible from the various fishing areas.
4. The location should have the capacity to host state-wide, national and international fisheries meetings.

Management of the Alaska Fisheries Center

One of the following alternative forms of management could be employed in managing the Center.

1. Governance by a Board of Directors who may be composed of a majority of Alaskans with others appointed based upon their recognized expertise in the national and international fisheries scientific community. A Technical Advisory Board composed of representatives from research and management organizations (see attached list of potential sources of Advisory Board members) would be established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors. An Executive Director would be appointed by the Board of Directors to carry out the executive duties and responsibilities of the Center.

2. Governance could be provided by a User Group committee comprised of representatives from Alaska fishery research and management organizations identified in the attached list.

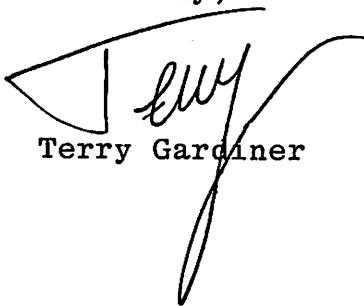
3. The Center could also be operated along the lines of a research park in which many different organizations would use the facilities. Coordination could be formally achieved through the appointment of interagency committees and informally through such shared facilities as the cafeteria, library and data center.

February 13, 1981
Page 2

the Alaska Pacific University and the University of Alaska grounds in Anchorage. The reasons for doing that are somewhat obvious but do include that it is the transportation access to the North Pacific rim and the rest of the world. Also it provides the population to support the necessary facilities to make this center successful.

Legislation is being drafted at this time to set this up and I would appreciate your comments at this time for anything we can include in it and we will keep you informed on the progress of the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Gardiner", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Terry Gardiner

TG/drz

enc: ~~Kishery~~ Center Concept Paper