


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director 

DATE: April 14, 1993

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

ACTION REQUIRED

Review current tasking and give staff direction.

BACKGROUND

A summary of the current status of plan amendments, regulatory amendments, and other actions in progress is found under Item D-6(a) as well as under B-3, the NMFS management report. These items are in various stages of completion, with several items still backlogged at the Proposed Rulemaking stage. Included in this list are the Moratorium and the Research Plan, though they are expected to be published as Proposed Rules by the end of this month. Council and Region staff are working to get these and other items through the system. The Comprehensive Planning Program will take up a lot of available staff time in the next 12 months, including Council, Region, and Center analysts.

STATUS OF COUNCIL TASKING

April 11, 1993

	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TASKING</u>
REPORTS:			
1	Scallop Management	Report in Apr	ADFG/Council
2	Crab Management	Report in Apr	Region/ADFG/Council
REGULATORY AMENDMENTS:			
1	Trawl Mesh Regulations	Initial review in Apr	Council/Region
2	Insh/Offsh/CDQ Bycatch	Passed by Council Review in Apr	Council/Region
3	Performance Pelagic Trawls	PR published Apr 1 Comments until Apr 30	Region
4	1993 Rept/Record Requirements	Being developed by NMFS	Region
5	Observer Requirements 1993	PR in Preparation	Region/Council
6	Require Offloading of PSC Species Caught Beyond EEZ	PR in WDC	Region/Center
7	Standard PRRs	PR in WDC	Region
8	Pollock Roe-Stripping PRR	PR in WDC	Region
9	Gangion-Cutting/Careful Release	PR published in FR Comments until Apr 20	Region
10	Hook & Line Fair Start	PR published Apr 1 Comments until Apr 28	Region
11	Define Legal Gear Types	Final action in Apr	Region
12	Rockfish Directed Fishing Standards	Report in Apr	Region/Council
13	Prohibit Landing of Undersized Halibut from beyond EEZ	Dropped for legal reasons	

	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TASKING</u>
REGULATORY AMENDMENTS: (continued)			
14	Delay 2nd Quarter GOA Pollock Season (Reg. Amdt.)	Final Rule on Mar 31	Region
15	'A' Season Framework	Report in Apr	Council
PLAN AMENDMENTS:			
1	Moratorium	Submit to SOC Review in Apr	Council/Region
2	Exclusive Registration	Passed by Council Review in Apr	Council/Region
3	Sablefish/Halibut IFQs	Final Rule pending	Council/Region
4	NPFR Plan	Submit to SOC Review in April	Council/Region/Center
5	GOA - 26 King Crab Closures	Final rule effective Dec 17	Council/Region/Center
	GOA - 26(a) King Crab Closures Extended to Pelagic Gear	Initial review in Apr	Council
6	Trawl Test Zones A 22/27	Final rule in effect	Region
7	Pref Season Allocations of Cod	Initial review in Apr	Center
8	Pribilof Closures	Report in Apr	ADFG
9	Salmon Bycatch	Final decision in Apr	ADFG
10	Salmon VIP	Initial review in Apr	Region
11	'B' Season Delay	PR on Apr 1 Comments by Apr 16	Council/Region
12	Sitka Block/Hegge Block 1000 Pd Floor	Initial Review in Jun	State/Council
13	Comprehensive Rational Plan	Report in Apr	Council

	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TASKING</u>
PLAN AMENDMENTS: (cont'd)			
14	Subdivide Aleutians Mgmt Area	Under SOC review Day <u>95</u> is Jul 6	Center/Council
15	Establish Atka Mackerel as Separate Species in GOA	Initial review in Apr	Center/Region/Council
16	Total Weight Measurement	Initial review in Apr	Region
17	Ban Night Trawling	Report in Apr	Council
18	Rockfish Rebuilding Amendment	Initial review in Apr	Center/Region/Council
OTHER ACTIONS:			
1	June 24, 1992 Control Date	FR Notice in WDC	Region
2	Final Groundfish Specs for 1993 (including EA)	File in March	Region
3	Review GOA Pacific Ocean Perch Specs	Apr	Region

Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Amendment Proposal
North Pacific Fishery Management Council**Date:** April 13, 1993**Name of Proposer:** Mary Standaert / Ak. Sablefish, Inc.
Address: Box 319 Homer, Ak. 99603
Telephone: (503) 929-4511 Fax: (503) 929-4513**Fishery Management Plan:** Directed Fishing Standards for POP fishery in Aleutian Is.**Brief Statement of Proposal:** To change the bycatch rate of Shortraker/Rougeye allowed in the POP fishery in the Aleutian Is. The rate should reflect natural bycatch levels only and should not provide incentive to "top off". The present rate of 10% is artificially high and should be lowered to somewhere between 2 - 5%.**Objectives of Proposal:(What is the problem?)** The POP fishery has the potential to harvest nearly the whole SR/RE quota (1,000 of the 1,100mt) as bycatch in their fishery, leaving little quota for the bycatch and discard needs of the other fisheries in the Aleutians.**Need and Justification for Council Action: (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?)** Even if NMFS were to put SR/RE on permanent "bycatch only" status, that action alone is not sufficient to protect this small quota, in light of the high bycatch allowances. The Council needs to address this situation now, at the April meetings, so that final action can be taken in June enabling the new regulations to be in place for the 1994 season.**Forseeable Impacts of Proposal: (Who wins, who loses?)** All fisheries in the Aleutians win because they won't be shut down prematurely. The POP fishery wins, as well, because if they had lower bycatch rates, NMFS could afford to keep SR/RE on bycatch status during their fishery instead of the existing prohibited status. Those fish could then be marketed instead of discarded.**Are There Alternative Solution?** There are additional solutions that need to be implemented to make this a comprehensive management plan. 1) Council

needs to recommend to NMFS to put SR/RE in Aleutians on permanent "Bycatch Only" status. 2) TAC needs to be lowered to enable NMFS to quickly put SR/RE on prohibited status in case catch levels do get out of control.

Supportive Data: What data is available and where can it be found? Since the POP fishery will be operating with SR/RE prohibited this year, NMFS should get some very accurate figures on what their natural bycatch rate is. The directed fishing standards for POP need to be changed to reflect that rate.

Signature: *Mary Standert*