

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

STATE/FEDERAL MEETING

On behalf of the Council I attended the State/Federal meeting called by NMFS in Washington, D.C. January 29-31. Attendees were the Directors of State Fisheries Departments, Marine Fisheries Commissions, Councils, NMFS Regions and Research Centers. One and a half days of the meeting were spent in regional sessions developing recommendations on priorities and funding sources for NMFS state assistance programs and direct NMFS programs.

The Pacific section, with representatives from Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, NMFS Southwest and Northwest Regions, North Pacific and Pacific Councils, PMFC, and the Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center developed a set of recommendations for NMFS that can be condensed as follows. The highest priority should go to data management and analysis, and enforcement, a slightly lower priority to management related research, Fishery Conservation Zone and Territorial Sea plan development and implementation. The third priority to marine mammal and endangered species research and habitat protection, and fourth to fisheries development.

The priorities were not necessarily in order of importance but in order of timeliness. The group felt that data management and analysis and enforcement were needed immediately, that while research related to management and the development of management plans for both the Fishery Zone and the Territorial Sea was important, that emphasis on funding should be given to the first category.

Fisheries development was not considered unimportant, but the group concluded that funding and proper attention could be given to it with existing or proposed funding and organizational structures.

The recommended areas of action were discussed in relation to several acts and programs, including the Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act, Public Law 88-309, Public Law 89-304, State/Federal Fisheries Management Planning, Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Columbia River Fisheries Development Program, NMFS Research and Management, and the Saltonstall/Kennedy or other development program acts.

It was suggested that immediate reprogramming should be done within NMFS to address the priorities identified and that those priorities should be included in regular budget cycles for future funding.

The group recommended that Marine Fishery Commissions should continue to handle funding for interstate programs, that some aid should go directly to the states from NMFS for programs such as FCMA and MMA and that the Councils should continue short term funding for research projects. Several problems were identified outside of the priority and funding categories, the primary one being the continued incompatibility of the goals of the Marine Mammal Act and the Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The group recommended that a legislative mandate should be found for funding for as many of the identified programs as possible, either through strengthening by amendment or an expression of Congressional intent of the FCMA or amendment of Public Law 88-309.

A much more complete report of both the Pacific session and the overall Conference recommendations should be available in the near future. My impression was that it was a useful meeting and considerably more productive than many of the National meetings I have attended in the past.

### INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION MEETING

I attended the IPHC meeting in Seattle on January 22nd, 23rd and 24th with Chairman Tillion and testified on several Council related matters before the Commission. I thought the Commission worked in a very statesman-like manner to solve some very knotty problems. Commissioner Michael Hunter of Canada and IPHC Staff Director Don McCaughran are both at this Council meeting and will undoubtedly report on the Commission actions so I will not elaborate on the meeting.

### JOINT PACIFIC COUNCIL- NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL SSC MEETINGS

The two Scientific & Statistical Committees met in Seattle on January 23rd and 24th to discuss the salmon problems of the West Coast. They will be reporting on that meeting before the Council later. I was unable to attend more than a short portion of the joint meeting because of the conflict with the Halibut Commission meeting.

### COUNCIL STAFF ECONOMIST

We have not made much progress in recruiting an economist for the Council staff. I have sent the seven resumes we have received to our screening committee and expect responses before the week is over. While we have received applications from what appear to be experienced and capable economists, few of them have much experience in resource or fisheries economics. If none of the current candidates are acceptable to the screening committee we will intensify our recruiting effort, but it will obviously delay hiring for several months.

### NEW COUNCIL STAFF MEMBER

Diane Martin has been hired as Bookkeeper/Secretary/Receptionist to replace Cindy Clinton. I'd like to introduce her to all of the Council family at this meeting.

### FMP STATUS

A status report on fishery management plans is under this tab in your book. The only one not listed is king crab. We hope to get that draft in March with Council review at the April meeting.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet in the Council conference room at 7 a.m. Friday morning. Admiral Duin is Chairman. Coffee, juice and rolls will be available.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

A photographer will be set up outside this room at 10:30 Thursday morning to get photographs of all of the Council members who have not previously had their pictures taken. A list has been sent to all of you. Those of you who already have pictures hanging on the Council walls need not reapply.

### CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING SCHEDULE

The House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and the Environment chaired by Congressman Breaux is scheduling a hearing on March 18th in Washington, D.C. on the conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals. I understand that they will be taking testimony on the current Convention and Act and the proposed legislation by Congressman Wolff of New York to stop the fur seal harvest entirely. The results of that Subcommittee hearing could have a great deal of impact on the management of the resources in the Bering Sea. I recommend that the Council submit testimony on their views on fur seal harvesting, their interaction with the rest of the resource, etc. It would probably be worthwhile to send someone back to testify before the Subcommittee since that always appears to be more effective than just submitting written testimony.

STAFF TRAVEL

Staff travel was fairly extensive during the month. I attended the IPHC and joint SSC meetings in Seattle, the State/Federal meeting in Washington, D.C., and spent an additional day in Washington going over management plan problems with NMFS.

Mike Hershberger was in Seattle for the joint SSC meeting and the following week for joint PDT meetings between the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Team and the Gulf of Alaska Team.

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STATUS REPORT ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Amendment 7 (Secretarial Amendment) was approved by the Secretary on November 1, 1979. The amendment package has been compiled and sent out to all those who have the plan.

The Plan Drafting Team met in Seattle on January 29th, 30th and 31st, 1980 to review the list of amendments for both groundfish plans and to make assignments for the preparation of proposals. We expect the Council to review and approve the proposals in April, 1980.

2. Bering Sea Groundfish FMP

The Secretary approved the plan on October 27, 1979 and the plan and proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register on November 19, 1979. The Council comments on the regulations in relation to the halibut savings area were sent to Washington on January 18, 1980, the same day the comment period on the regulations closed. If National Marine Fisheries Service takes another 20 to 30 days to review these comments, we don't expect to see the plan implemented before the end of March, 1980. As I have already outlined for the Gulf of Alaska annual amendments, the proposed Bering Sea Groundfish amendments were also discussed by the Plan Drafting Team at the same meeting. Council approval is also expected in April.

3. Tanner Crab FMP

Amendment 5 was forwarded to Washington on November 11th, 1979 and Central Office Review started on November 13th, 1979. We received notification from the Alaska Region on January 17, 1980 of comments raised by Central Office (62 days after the package had been sent in). This issue is discussed in more detail under tab G-4. We responded to their comments and this response and issue is discussed in more detail under tab G-4.

Based on the most optimistic predications, the amendment is not likely to be in place before the end of April, 1980.

4. Troll Salmon FMP

Amendment #1 was approved by the Council at their December/January meeting. This package is being prepared and will be forwarded to Washington around mid-February. We expect implementation of this amendment in time for the fishing season opening date on April 15 by the Secretarial Amendment process.

5. Herring FMP

We still have four more public hearings on the Herring Fishery Management Plan scheduled for February the 9th and 10th in Bethel, Tooksook and Hooper Bays and Togiak. The public comment period closes on February 15, 1980. The comments will be reviewed by the PDT in early March and the revised draft will be discussed by the Council at the March meeting. If the plan is approved in March, the optimistic date of implementation is November 1, 1980. If the plan is approved at the April meeting, the implementation date would be December 1, 1980.

6. Clam Draft FMP

The Clam Plan was revised in December, 1979, after a joint meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee Subgroup and the Plan Drafting Team. Another review is scheduled with the SSC and PDT for the end of February. They will discuss the reports on leasing harvesting rights and PSP costs which should be available at that time. We expect the draft to come before the Council at the April meeting. As there are four plans scheduled to come before the Council at the March meeting, this plan was deferred because of its low priority.

MD

IPHC ACTIONS 1/22-24/80 FOR 1980 SEASON

AREA 2 QUOTA 9.3 million pounds

off British Columbia - 6.1 million pounds

off S.E. Alaska - 3.2 million pounds

Canadians agree not to fish in Area 2 off S.E. Alaska

AREA 3 QUOTA 9.0 million pounds

Canadian ships (only 22 expected) will fish 1.0 million pounds of this.

Area 3 has been reduced in size - now runs from 150° to 170° W. longitude. Aleutians and Bering Sea.

*63 copies*

SEASONS:

AREA 2

CANADA	5/20 - 6/3	7/15-29	8/12-26	9/7-23
U. S.	5/20 - 5/30	7/15-29	8/12-26	-----

AREA 3

CANADA	5/19 - 6/4	7/15-31	8/12-26
U. S.	5/19 - 6/4	7/15-31	8/12-26

AREA 4

U.S. (ONLY) 4/10-30 20 days after AREA 3 closes.

NEW REGULATIONS & POLICIES:

60:40 split of Area 2 will be considered on one-year basis in future. No attempt to make up for over/under from unforeseen causes in future years.

Prohibit any halibut boat with gear in water 72 hours prior to opening from fishing halibut in that opening (to make the "I'm fishing for blackcod" excuse invalid).