

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Management Plan Activity

One hundred copies of the new salmon troll plan, now called the Fishery Management Plan for the High Seas Salmon Fishery off the Coast of Alaska East of 175° East Longitude During 1979, were printed at the Council office and mailed to all of the Council group, development team members and NMFS, ADF&G staff for review prior to this Council meeting.

Our first two FMP's, Groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska and Tanner Crab, have finally been printed in the Federal Register, the first on April 21st, the latter on May 16th. We have duplicated 500 copies of the proposed regulations for those plans and mailed them to all of the people on the Council mailing list who have indicated interest. They are also included in your agenda book. We should comment on all of the regulations at this meeting. The review period ends June 6th for the groundfish plan regulations and June 30th for the Tanner crab regulations. FR copies of the plans are available at the Council office. Readable reprints of both will be available soon.

Plan development team meetings have been held by the PDT for Groundfish in the Bering Sea and Bering Sea Herring since the last Council meeting. The Groundfish in the Bering Sea FMP is nearing completion and drafts should be mailed to the Council early in July.

The Council Sub-committee for management plan scheduling met in Seattle on May 3rd and developed new recommendations for the scheduling of the first eight management plans to be developed by the Council, as well as recommending priorities for the next five plans that will need development.

Inter-Council Activity

Chairman Lokken and I attended the Council Chairmen's meeting in Charleston, South Carolina on March 27th and 28th. The next Council Chairmen's meeting will be hosted by the Western Pacific Council, probably in mid-October. Although there was very little definitive action developed at the meeting in Charleston, it was a useful policy session and developed some coordination and communication between the various Councils and the new NMFS hierarchy.

New charters have been filed for the Council and the Scientific and Statistical Committee. These must be refiled every two years. They are relatively unchanged, with the exception of a requirement for approval of Council sub-committees by Leitzell. We have been sent a form for listing sub-committees and members and submitting them to him, but we have been assured that approval will be pro forma and should not hamper the Council's normal mode of operation using both ad hoc permanent sub-committees.

Council Finances

The Finance Sub-Committee should meet during this Council session to develop recommendations on several subjects.

1. We have refigured the current budget (FY78) based on the money we have spent to date and our estimated schedule through the end of September. We have a surplus and I would like to identify as much of it as possible at this meeting in order to release it well before the end of the year.

We have not spent as much money as estimated for several reasons. First, there have been unforeseen delays in the development of the management plans, reducing the amount of travel and other associated expenses; (2) the original budget was estimated for some 3-day Council meetings, rather than the 2 that we have been having; (3) individual expenses by Council members have been less than anticipated; and (4) by far the largest amount, when the budget was developed for FY78, management plan development was considered a programmatic expenses. Therefore, expenses were computed for complete development of each management plan. Now that these costs are treated as administrative, for the fiscal year only, no single management plan will be completed within that time frame, therefore only a portion of those initial estimates for each of the eight plans will be necessary prior to the end of September.

2. The Council has been asked to fund \$20,000 in vessel charter time for the Bering Sea Clam Study this summer. The money is available in the budget for that management plan if the Council considers it desirable. Actually, that amount of charter time devoted exclusively to the benthic study funded by the Council is necessary if the study is to be viable.

3. The Fisheries Research Institute has asked the Council to fund half of a new scale analysis system (hardware) to be used in the study they are doing for us on the origin of salmon in the Japanese landbased fishery. The other half would be funded by NMFS, who has a contract with them for scale analysis of Bristol Bay stocks. The amount is approximately \$9,000. Again, that money is available in the FY78 budget for the high seas salmon management plan.

4. Department of Commerce auditors spent three weeks at Council headquarters since the last Council meeting doing a thorough review of Council expenditures in FY77 and ongoing Council financial and

administrative procedures. A preliminary audit review is available at this time. They will finalize that review and send final copies sometime in the next two or three months. The review revealed surprisingly few problems, those that they have identified are easily corrected.

5. We should develop Council policy on travel advances for the Council group and on the disposition of equipment purchased with Council contract funds after the contract has expired.

Council Contracts

Council Contract #78-10, "A Study to Determine the Effects of Hydraulic Clam Harvesting in the Eastern Bering Sea" has been awarded to Tetra-Tech, Inc., for \$107,550. Not as much dedicated ship time is going to be available for this contract from NOAA as we had originally hoped. However, they will have 14 days on the R/V OREGON and, if we assist in the charter of the other boat involved in this study, the F/V SEA HAWK, with \$20,000 for approximately 7 days of charter time, should be able to complete all of the field assessment work.

Three proposals were received on this RFP. They were reviewed by a multi-agency and Council review group and the winning bid coordinated with the joint NMFS/ADF&G/industry planning session for the summer's clam work.

We have \$477,085 committed in contracts from FY78 money at this time. Our estimate for this year was \$481,000. Further contract monies, if needed, may be difficult to procure.

The Coded Wire Salmon Tag Recovery Program, Contract #78-7 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, ran into some problems when hassels in State government stopped timely approval by the State Legislature of

American Fisheries Society

We have received a solicitation from the American Fisheries Society for the North Pacific Council to join that organization. Annual dues for a group such as the Council are \$100. per year.

Travel

The Export Council of Norway have invited Vice Chairman Clem Tillion and myself as part of a group of 20 to Norway from May 27th through June 4th to look at the Norwegian fishing industry and associated suppliers. An informal poll of the Council by Assistant Director Hutton in April garnered permission for me to go. Senator Tillion is unable to leave Alaska during that period and has suggested Bart Eaton go in his place. Cost to the Council per individual is \$500. The Export Council of Norway will defray all other expenses. I expect to submit a full report on the trip to the Council on my return.

Staff travel since the last meeting has been fairly restricted. Mike Hershberger has traveled to Juneau and Seattle to work with plan development teams. Mark and myself have each made a trip to Seattle, Mark to work on the clam study and coordination for the summer's program and myself to meet with the management plan scheduling group. Mark returned Monday from a short trip to Togiak to look at the fishery and make an on-site visit to the ADF&G research team working on the contract for a study of the biology of herring of the eastern Bering Sea.

additional Federal funding under this contract. Because the troll season is underway and the leader of this project for ADF&G was about to be terminated, we picked her up on contract to the Council at the same salary she had been receiving from the State. She will continue this study under the supervision of her regular supervisors in the Department. The Tag Recovery Program is active and on schedule. We don't know how long Christine V. Selin will be under contract to the Council before the State can resume paying her. All monies spent on this project will be deducted from the contract.

The current status of the other Council funded contracts is shown in Agenda Item 12.

MAFAC

Vice Chairman Clem Tillion's term will expire on MAFAC before the next meeting. He is the only Council member on that advisory council. The Council may wish to recommend the appointment of another Council member to fill that vacant seat on MAFAC.

Delegates to Limited Entry Conference

We need to confirm the Council delegates to the Limited Entry Conference to be held in Denver this July. To date, George Rogers, Don Collinworth and Don Bevan from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and Sig Jaeger from the Advisory Panel, have requested funding from the Council as delegates to that Conference. Appointment of a full slate at this meeting will enable me to make sure we have money in the budget to fund travel.