#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The period since the last Council meeting has been hectic for all of the staff. There were only 11 working days between the time that meeting ended and this one began. We've been somewhat shorthanded. Maggie Duff left Alaska to spend the holidays in Ireland with her family, and several of the staff took short periods of annual leave to visit their families for the holidays. Most of the action taken by the Council has been acted upon and the workgroups activated by you at that meeting are at least partially organized and planning on beginning their activities in the near future.

#### FMP Development

The Tanner Crab amendment has gone to the Secretary for review. We understand that the State Department is withholding any allocation of Tanner crab until that amendment is acted upon, and that there has been no action on the permit applications for crab boats from Japan for which the Council recommended disapproval in December. More detail on plan status is under Agenda Item E-2.

#### Permit Applications from Foreign Ships

Agenda Item D-2 should be amended to allow Council review of permit applications from the Soviet joint venture processors and for some changes to the Federal Republic of Germany permits.

#### Workgroup Meetings

The Plan Development Team for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP will be meeting with the Council subgroups and the public at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle next week on January 14 beginning at 1 p.m.

The Pot Storage Workgroup, chaired by Dick Goldsmith, is planning a meeting on January 20 in the offices of the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, room 218, building C-3, Salmon Bay Terminal, at 9 a.m. That workgroup is comprised of Dick Goldsmith, Konrad Uri, Dennis Petersen, Sam Hjelle, Al Burch, Bob Alverson, and Barry Fisher. As you directed in December, they will attempt to work out a reasonable scheme for crab pot storage in the Bering Sea area.

The Fishermen's Data Group, as directed by the Council, has scheduled a meeting for January 21 in Seattle, place to be determined. That group is expected to be comprised of Barry Fisher, Konrad Uri, Al Burch, Guy Thornburgh from ADF&G, and Bob Francis from Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center.

I expect to spend enough time with John Garner during the meeting this week to start the Limited Entry Workgroup in motion again. Hopefully they will be meeting prior to the February Council meeting.

Reports from all of these workgroups, as well as the SSC's Incidental Species Group, should be available at the February Council meeting.

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