

Agenda Item #14  
June 28-29, 1979

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 1979

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee and  
Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Extension of the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It does not appear that the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan can be extended without changes through 1980. A preliminary review by the Management Plan Drafting Team indicates four areas may need changes.

1. The OY's, primarily for cod, other rockfishes and other species;
2. A mechanism to release unused DAH to TALFF;
3. A refined DAH concept; and
4. Restrictions on joint ventures through time/area closures.

Since TALFF is dependent on the amount of DAH and reserve it will be necessary to make adjustments to OY, DAH and reserve early enough to identify the probable level of TALFF by the end of August. At least that's what the Departments of State and Commerce want.

Regulations for the domestic ground fishery in the Gulf of Alaska (FR November 14, 1978) set dates for OY and reserve figures from December 1, 1978 to October 31, 1979. The foreign Gulf of Alaska ground fishery regulations specify TALFF and reserves from December 1978 to October 31, 1979 and November 1 to November 1 of the following year unless the plan is amended. The regulations basically provide for a "multi-year concept" but the plan does not and needs to be changed.

OY

The Drafting Team is investigating the OY for Pacific cod which may increase, for "other rockfishes" to see if adjustment is needed, and the OY for "other species" which the plan now proposes to reduce by 10 percent in 1980.

#### DAH to TALFF

The Drafting Team is also trying to develop a mechanism to release unused DAH to TALFF in a timely manner.

#### Revised DAH Concepts

The concept of DAH is being considerably refined to incorporate three components: domestic annual processing, non processed fish (the bait fishery), and joint venture processing. Defining the relationship of these three components may improve our capability to understand, predict and plan for all possible combinations of domestic catching and processing activities. A significantly different approach to the derivation of DAH is proposed.

Our problem is one of time. A possibility exists of extending the plan "as-is" until amendments discussed can be implemented.

Preliminary TALFF figures are needed by the State Department after the July Council meeting and final ones after the August Council meeting. We will probably not resolve the whole DAH issue until early August. In any case, we may need "interim-final" regulations to meet a November 1 deadline.

#### COUNCIL ACTION

1. *The Council may wish to notify the Secretary of Commerce of its intent to amend the plan in four basic areas (OY, DAH to TALFF, DAH and area closures to joint ventures). The Council then could consider the final amendment in July or August depending upon availability of the processor preference final regulations, the NMFS 1980 survey, and a resolution of the DAH issue.*

2. *To wrap up agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, the Council may wish to request an indepth study on these issues by special working group, providing them with goals and objectives and a time frame.*

DEFINITION PAGE

OY: Optimum Yield (allowable catch)

DAH: Domestic Annual Catch

DAP: Domestic Annual Processing

NPF: Non Processed fish (bait or fresh)

JVP: Joint Venture Processing

TALFF: Total Allowable Level Foreign Fishing

RES: Reserve

$$OY = DAH + TALFF + RES$$

$$DAH = DAP + NPF + JVP$$

$$JVP = DAH - DAP - NPF$$

RES: ~~Release to~~ DAH (DAP, NPF, JVP)

~~Release to~~ TALFF

DAH Release to TALFF