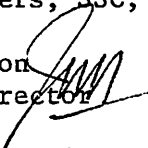


M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council Members, SSC, and AP  
FROM: Jim H. Branson   
Executive Director  
DATE: September 16, 1980  
SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

*ACTION REQUIRED* . -

*Call for proposals for 1982 amendments.*

DISCUSSION

We should request proposals for the 1982 amendments at this meeting, with a cut-off date of December 15th or January 1st. Following that cut-off date, the Plan Development Team can begin work on the amendment package with implementation scheduled for January 1, 1982.

(WORK SHEET)

Points of Interest

Proposed Amendment: No Foreign Trawling - Eastern Regulatory Area

Gulf POP stocks are considered to be at less than 20% of virgin biomass.

Foreign trawl fleets are responsible for drastic decline in POP abundance.

CPUE continues to decline within foreign fleets.

Present abundance is greatly below level needed to economically support a domestic fishery. Four U.S. vessels during last four years have attempted to target on POP in the Southeastern-Yakutat area with no success. (Competent skippers and crews on adequately rigged vessels).

F/V <u>Ocean Leader</u>	1976	120 fm, 350 lbs in 36 drags (C. Ommaney-Icy Bay)
F/V <u>California Horizon</u>	1979	Not enough for delivery (C. Scott - C. St. Elias)
F/V <u>Lone Star</u>	1979	No POP (C. Spencer-Icy Bay)
F/V <u>Irish Rover</u>	1979	111 fm, 3 wks, lost 4 nets, (C. Ommaney-C. Cleare) largest trip 12,000 lbs, lost \$62,000 for season.

NMFS 1978 and 79 rockfish surveys also found no commercial quantities. Some pre-recruits (<25 cm) found in Southeastern, none in Yakutat.

Foreign fleets can afford continued exploitation because vessels are paid for low overhead. Even this effort is seasonal and sporadic.

Within Central and Western Gulf other species (pollock, cod) have replaced POP, not so in Eastern Gulf.

If restricted from Eastern Gulf, foreign fleets would lose approximately 50,000 mt of catch. This is not significant compared with surpluses now available in the Bering Sea.

They are slow growing and of low fecundity ∴ very susceptible to overharvest.

Southern Southeastern Alaska was once the area of greatest abundance for POP in the North Pacific.

Phil Rigby  
ADF&G