



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802

*Agenda 14
Dec. 11*

November 28, 1977

Mr. Harold Lokken, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Harold:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has finalized amendments to the preliminary management plans (PMP's) for 1978. The final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements, the amended PMP's and implementing regulations have been published in the Federal Register and are now in final 15 day "cooling off period". As a contingency, we have amended the PMP for the Gulf of Alaska trawl fishery so that an updated PMP will be available in case implementation of the Council's management plan is delayed. Attached is a table which compares the 1977 and 1978 OY's, U.S. capacities, TALFF's and reserves.

In addition to the changes reflected in the attached table we have made other changes as follows:

Trawl and Herring Gillnet Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

Reserves of 600 metric tons of sablefish in the Bering Sea and 1,500 metric tons of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands have been established. Foreign fishing for herring is prohibited east of 168°W longitude.

Trawl Fishery of the Gulf of Alaska

Reserves equivalent to 20 percent of OY of each species except Atka mackerel have been established.

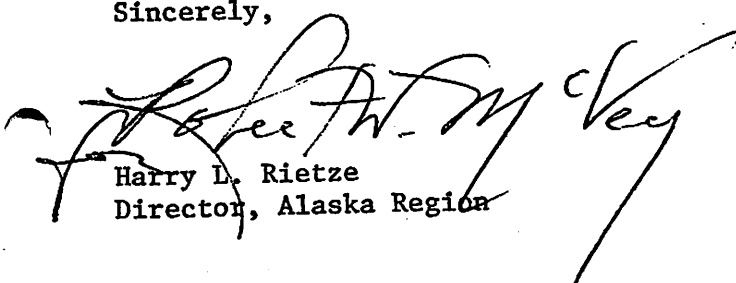
Sablefish of the Bering Sea and Northeastern Pacific Ocean

A reserve equivalent to 20 percent of the OY of sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska has been established. There is no TALFF for sablefish off southeastern Alaska (south of Cape Spencer). The prohibition against fishing longline gear shallower than 500 meters has been retained throughout the Gulf of Alaska. As mentioned above, a reserve of 600 metric tons of sablefish in the Bering Sea has been established.

NMFS will continually monitor U.S. fisheries, periodically re-evaluate U.S. processing and catching capacities, and as appropriate make changes in U.S. capacities, distribution of reserves and increases in TALFF's. Notices of the incremental apportionments of the reserve between U.S. capacities and TALLF's will be published in the Federal Register within 7 days after the end of March, June, August, and October. Those publications will provide the mechanism for the Secretary of State to allocate to foreign nations those portions of U.S. capacities and reserves surplus to U.S. needs. We will coordinate our actions in this matter with the Council.

There were no changes made to the PMP's for the shrimp of the Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska and snails of the Eastern Bering Sea. The final decision on the king and tanner crab PMP is pending and probably will not be made until after the December Council meeting.

Sincerely,



Harry L. Rietze
Director, Alaska Region

Attachment

COMPARISON OF 1977 AND 1978
PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT PLAN
OY's, U.S. CAPACITIES, TALFF's AND RESERVES
(metric tons)

Area/ Species	OY		U.S. Capacity		TALFF		Reserve ^{1/}	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Gulf of Alaska								
Pollock	150,000	168,800	1,000	17,700	149,000	117,340	-	33,760
Pacific Ocean Perch	30,000	25,000	1,000	1,100	29,000	18,900	-	5,000
Other Rockfish	5,000	7,600	1,000	2,000	4,000	4,080	-	1,520
Flounders	23,500	33,500	3,000	9,200	20,500	17,600	-	6,700
Sablefish								
Southeast	6,000	4,000	2,250	3,200	3,750	-	-	800
Central and West	16,000	11,000	250	800	15,750	8,000	-	2,200
Total	22,000	15,000	2,500	4,000	19,500	8,000	-	3,000
Atka Mackerel	22,000	24,800	-	-	22,000	24,800	-	-
Pacific Cod	6,300	40,600	4,000	15,500	2,300	16,980	-	8,120
Squid	-	2,000	-	-	-	1,600	-	400
Other Species	16,200	16,200	-	-	16,200	12,960	-	3,240
Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands								
Pollock	950,000	950,000	-	-	950,000	950,000	-	-
Yellowfin Sole	106,000	106,000	-	-	106,000	106,000	-	-
Other Flounder	100,000	139,000	-	-	100,000	139,000	-	-
Pacific Ocean								
Perch								
Bering Sea	6,500	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500	-	-
Aleutian Isl.	15,000	15,000	-	-	15,000	15,000	-	-
Total	21,500	21,500	-	-	21,500	21,500	-	-
Sablefish								
Bering Sea	5,000	3,000	-	-	5,000	2,400	-	600
Aleutian Isl.	2,400	1,500	-	-	2,400	1,500	-	-
Total	7,400	4,500	-	-	7,400	3,900	-	600
Pacific Cod	58,000	58,000	-	-	58,000	56,500	-	1,500
Herring	21,000	18,670	1,000	10,000	20,000	8,670	-	-
Squid	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Atka Mackerel	-	24,800	-	-	-	24,800	-	-
Other Species	93,600	93,600	-	-	93,600	93,600	-	-
Snails	3,000	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,000	-	-

^{1/} Reserves in the Gulf of Alaska equals 20 percent of OY