

#8  
DEC 1977

November 22, 1977

Mr. Harry L. Rietze, Regional Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P. O. Box 1668  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Harry,

Enclosed is a copy of the Request For Council Proposal 78-1 entitled AN INVESTIGATION OF JOINT U.S./FOREIGN VENTURES IN THE DEVELOPING COMMERCIAL FISHERY OFF ALASKA. The RFP and this letter are being sent to you for your review for contract funding.

The Council is aware that National policy regarding joint ventures will be forthcoming soon. Based on the recent MAFAC recommendation that joint ventures should be handled on a region-by-region and a case-by-case study and the public hearings on joint ventures held in Alaska it appears unlikely that NMFS policy will completely prohibit joint ventures, it is very probable that Council consideration of this very complex matter will continue and become even more important than it has in the past.

In early anticipation of this requirement, the Council sent out for contract proposals the RFP enclosed. In summary, the RFP is designed to give the Council background information on the following eight items which are necessary to assist them in their policy making role for acting on joint ventures in the North Pacific Council area.

1. An analysis of the present fisheries off Alaska in terms of product, employment and income coming from foreign and domestic and primary processing, final processing and shipping and marketing.
2. A projection of these outputs as domestic allocations for 1978/79 and 1979/80.
3. By identifying proposed joint ventures which may operate in the FCZ off Alaska in 1978/79 and others which might be considered in the future.

4. To assess the impacts of the various types and levels of joint ventures on the domestic commercial fishing industry and on consumers.
5. By analyzing modifications the identified ventures would make in the allocation of products, employment and income of the groundfish fisheries described in the above paragraph 1.
6. By estimating the new capital investment in boats, gear and plans needed to develop a domestic groundfish fishery and processing facilities.
7. To analyze the relative merits of each type of joint venture in terms of the current resources and the development of currently underutilized (by U.S. fishermen) species, i.e., Tanner crab (C. opilio) and groundfish (cod, sablefish, pollock and herring).
8. By identifying allocation schemes for catches as a result of joint venture operations and to suggest methods of reduction in foreign allocations.

A national policy cannot provide the voting Council members with that kind of a background information from which to make intelligent decisions. Unless national policy is a blanket prohibition of all joint ventures this information is going to be needed. You'll recall this was the first priority by the Council when it considered RFP's this summer. If they are to have the information in time for use in 1978 we must proceed with the study without delay.

We are submitting a Grant request for programmatic funding for FY 78 (copy attached) and request your review of it and this particular RFP as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: All Council (50)

MH:in