

NPFC/SSC/AP#3  
January 27, 1977

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN TO COUNCIL

The Chairman noted that several items had been discussed by the SSC on the afternoon of Jan. 26 including (1) definitions of key terms to be used in management plans (2) the biological basis for setting a size limit on Bering Sea tanner crab and (3) the Pacific Council management plan for ocean salmon.

(1) A set of definitions dealing with key terms used in management plans is being developed for use by the Council and its Advisory Panel or working groups. Certain differences in the definitions suggested by the NPFC/SSC and PC/SSC still prevail and the subcommittee will attempt to resolve these prior to the next session of the Council.

(2) The Committee examined two papers (NPFC/SSC/WP#1 and WP#5) concerned with the biological basis for establishing a size limit on the Bering sea tanner crab (*C. bairdi*). It was noted that the paper came to several common observations, e.g., both papers suggested a size at maturity of about 112 mm and an age at maturity of 8.5 years, a need to protect maturing males and similar growth features to age at maturity. The two papers however suggested significant differences in subsequent growth features and hence came to divergent conclusions regarding an appropriate minimum size. The Committee recommended that the MPDT take into account the different views and bring the

appropriate scientists together to attempt to resolve the disparate conclusions so that the best available data could be used in the MP development.

(3) The Chairman noted that the group had reviewed the PFC Ocean Salmon Management Plan and reminded the Council Chairman of the need to act on its earlier recommendation concerning the need for a MPDT in salmon for the NPFC.

The Chairman concluded his remarks by noting that certain studies carried out by the State of Alaska pertinent to ocean salmon management were to be terminated due to a lack of funds and suggested Council help in acquiring funds to continue this project from State or Federal sources or from the concerned Councils.

The Chairman also asked that the Council provide funds for the travel costs of several consultants required to work on OY concepts.