

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## NEWSLETTER

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## JULY MEETING

The July meeting of the NPFMC will be held July 27-28 at the Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Council meetings for the remainder of 1978 will be held as follows:

August	24-25 (Anchorage)
September	28-29 (Sitka, Centennial Bldg.)
October-November	Nov. 2-3 (Anchorage)
December	Nov. 30-Dec. 1 (Anchorage)

All meetings of the SSC and AP are normally held the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting and both groups report on their meetings during the first-day session of each Council meeting.

## MEETING AGENDA

Although the subject matter varies from meeting to meeting, several features of each meeting remain the same. Each meeting finds a public comment period scheduled for 3:30 during the first-day session. All meetings are open to the public.

## GAO AUDIT

A three-man auditing team from the Government Accounting Office started a program audit of the Council during the second week in July by special request of the U.S. House of Representatives Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Five of the Regional Councils are scheduled for this type audit.

## LEITZELL VISIT

Terry L. Leitzell, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, was a visitor to the Council offices July 10. The visit was his first stop on a five-day tour of Alaska which included a trip to the Pribilof Islands and the Bristol Bay area.

## FMP UPDATE

Two Fishery Management Plans have been published in the Federal Register after approval by the Secretary of Commerce. They are the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish and Tanner Crab plans. They will be the first plans to be implemented as management regimes for which the Council has been responsible. The date of implementation is still unknown.

A draft revision of the Salmon Troll Plan (High Seas Salmon) is expected to be presented to the Council during the July meeting. A series of public hearings has been scheduled for September as follows:

Ketchikan	Sept. 23, Marine View Hotel (9-5:30)
Petersburg	Sept. 24, Tides Inn (1:30-5:30)
Pelican	Sept. 25, School Gym (10:15-5:00)
Sitka	Sept. 27, Centennial Bldg. (9-5:00)

A first meeting of the Halibut Plan Drafting Team was held in Seattle July 10. The break-down in negotiations between the U.S. and Canada and the expiration in April of the IPHC mandates starting this plan as soon as possible. If negotiations with Canada fail to provide a new agreement by April 1, 1979, this FMP will be needed to control the 1979 halibut fishery.

## OBSERVER PROGRAM

The NPFMC has supported the position taken by the PFMC that collected fees from foreign fishing be earmarked for strengthening the observer program and other uses under the FCMA. Observer reports from any fishery are sources of valuable information concerning the species makeup of catches, conduct of the fishery, optimum use of gear types, catch rates and other information needed to make informed decisions concerning the fishery.

## JAPANESE TANNER CRAB PROPOSALS

The Council has acted on a request by the Japanese Tanner crab industry for an amendment to the PMP for Tanner crab to allow them to fish the remainder of the season south of 58 degrees North and west of 173 degrees West (with a southern limit to 54 degrees North) for C. opilio. The request (only the mothership fishery will be allowed) was made at the June Council meeting. The Department of Commerce has amended the PMP, effective July 10, to allow the fishery as requested.

### LIMITED ENTRY CONFERENCE

A dozen Council members, SSC, AP and staff members will attend a limited entry conference to be held in Denver, Colo., July 17-19. Some time ago, the Council directed that limited entry be considered as a management tool for each FMP prepared by the Council.

### SHRIMP FMP

The lead agency task for the development of a fishery management plan for Bering Sea shrimp has been given to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### DANISH TRADE MISSION

Representatives from Denmark visited the Council office on July 13, accompanied by Dick Reynolds, fishery development specialist from the Dept. of Economic Development. The Danes are exploring the potential for the groundfish fishery in the State of Alaska waters, and the contributions they can make in the way of advice and technology for fishing and processing, both in State waters and offshore.

### BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN FMP

The FMP for the groundfish fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island area will be presented to the Council July 27th. This is the 1st draft of the plan to be submitted for Council review. Copies of the plan, with revisions based on comment from the Council, will be made available for public review and comment in mid-August.

-NPFMC-