

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## NEWSLETTER

### Next Council Meeting Postponed to Late March

The regular March meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has been postponed until March 29, 1983. The Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 29 and 30, in the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel. On Thursday and Friday, the Council will meet alone in the Courtroom of the Old Federal Building at 605 W. 4th Avenue. If necessary, the Council meeting may continue through Saturday. The Council's Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet on Monday and Tuesday, March 28 and 29.

An agenda for the meeting will be mailed to the public about March 15. Topics will include a review of the proposed U.S./Canada salmon interception treaty and final action on setting the optimum yield and dates for the 1983 salmon season off Southeastern Alaska. The Council will review its herring plan prior to resubmitting the plan to the Secretary of Commerce. Proposals to the Board of Fisheries concerning king and Tanner crab management will be discussed by the Board and Council. On Thursday and Friday, the Council will meet alone to discuss the proposed halibut moratorium and to review a draft final report on the Council's halibut limited entry study.

### Council/Board King Crab Public Hearing Set

The Alaska Board of Fisheries will hold a public hearing on Alaska king crab management on Tuesday, March 8, 1983, in Seattle. In accordance with the provisions of the Joint Statement of Principles between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries for management of domestic king crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutians, the Council and Board will hold their annual public hearing in the State of Washington at which interested persons and agencies may comment on management of the king crab fishery. In addition, any comments concerning regulatory proposals for the Tanner crab fisheries off Alaska will be accepted. The hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle.

The Council and Board will take testimony on regulatory proposals for the 1983 king crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, including alternatives for seasons, harvest and size limits, closed waters, vessel and gear restrictions, gear storage, exclusive and non-exclusive registration areas, registration requirements, changes in area, district, and section boundaries, and additional reporting requirements for catcher/processor vessels.

Copies of the proposal package that will be considered by the Board of Fisheries may be obtained from the Alaska Board of Fisheries, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, Alaska 99802, phone (907) 465-4108, or in the Seattle area from the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association, Room 218 in Building C-3 at the Fishermen's Terminal.

Proposed Rule on Halibut Moratorium Published in Federal Register

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Council's proposed halibut moratorium for Alaska was published in the Federal Register on February 3, 1983. The 45-day public comment period will end on March 19.

All Comments will be distributed to the North Pacific Council prior to their late March meeting at which the moratorium will be a major discussion item. The Council's final recommendations will then be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce as a comment on the Proposed Rule. If the Council decides to recommend a moratorium they will draft a Final Rulemaking to aid the Secretary in implementing a moratorium prior to the opening of halibut season on June 16.

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