

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman  
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

Suite 32, 333 West 4th Avenue  
Post Office Mall Building



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3136DT  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563  
FTS 271-4064

#1-82

January 14, 1982

## NEWSLETTER

### Council and Board Schedule Busy Work Session in March

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet jointly with the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the Foredeck Room of the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 1982, for a series of staff presentations, public hearings, and joint Council/Board discussions. The meeting will be devoted primarily to final action on proposed 1982 amendments to the Southeast Alaska Troll Salmon Fishery Management Plan and joint management of the king crab fishery. The Council will meet alone on Saturday, the 27th, if necessary to conclude its business.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet on Monday and Tuesday, March 22 and 23, in the Council's headquarters conference room. Further details will be released as soon as they become available.

The Advisory Panel will meet in the Adventure Room of the Hotel Captain Cook from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23.

### Council Issues Call for Advisory Panel Nominations

The Council issued a formal call for nominations for Advisory Panel members. The 25-member Advisory Panel represents major segments of the fishing industry, both catching and processing, subsistence fishermen, consumers, and sport fishermen. Advisory Panel members attend public hearings and are closely integrated into the Council's activities, usually meeting as a group one day before regular Council meetings to develop positions for Council consideration on all agenda items. AP members serve on work groups with Council members and other experts to develop all aspects of fishery management planning. While not paid for their role, all travel and other expenses are reimbursed.

Nominations should be received at the Council offices, 333 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 32, (P. O. Box 3136 DT), Anchorage, Alaska 99510, before the March meeting. Appointments will probably be made at the March meeting. For further information, please contact Judy Willoughby at (907) 274-4563.

### Council Prefers the Status Quo for 1982 Chinook Optimum Yield

The Council and Board of Fisheries met in Juneau on January 5 - 8, 1982 to hear staff reports on the Southeast Alaska troll fishery and the condition of the resource. After listening to extensive public testimony, the Council and Board discussed regulatory proposals for the 1982 season including optimum yield, gear limitations, definition of the FCZ, treble hooks, expansion of the troll fishery west of Cape Suckling, and retention of tagged, undersized salmon to facilitate data gathering.

Increased spawning escapements of chinook salmon to most Southeast Alaska streams in 1981 indicate that the measures taken by the Council and Board last year to reduce the optimum yield (OY) and shorten the troll season did accomplish what the Council intended. Escapements in other areas, particularly British Columbia and the Columbia River, are still very poor, however. The Council tentatively chose to retain the 1981 optimum yield of 243,000 to 272,000 chinook salmon and asked the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, to plan to manage the troll fishery in the FCZ to the lower end of the OY range. The Council asked the Board of Fisheries to likewise adopt the 243,000 to 272,000 chinook OY and delay their final decisions on the troll fishery until the joint meeting in March when the Council will make its final decisions. The Council felt that parity in the State and Federal OY's would indicate the cooperative spirit necessary to induce the other management agencies from areas bearing on the fishery to do likewise. The Council also hopes that its actions will convince the Federal Court that Alaska has been responsive to the needs of the resource in dealing with the problems surfaced in the Confederated Tribes v. Baldrige case.

The Board of Fisheries adopted a preliminary chinook OY of 243,000 to 288,000 fish, thus reducing the lower end of their 1981 OY range by 29,000. They may consider further reductions to the upper limit of the range after reviewing final reports from the Washington Department of Fisheries on the Columbia River resource and from the Government of Canada on rebuilding efforts undertaken in the Canadian chinook salmon resource.

The Council and Board will conduct a joint public hearing on Wednesday, March 24, at the Hotel Captain Cook before making final salmon decisions for the 1982 season.

At the Juneau meeting the Council and Board agreed that the troll fishery should not be expanded to areas west of Cape Suckling; that fishing shall be allowed with single hooks only; that tagged, undersized salmon may be retained for personal use only and heads must be submitted to ADF&G; and that the status quo for number of lines fished be maintained.

#### Herring Plan Will Go Back to Washington

By a vote of 6 to 3 the Bering-Chukchi Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan, which was withdrawn from Secretarial review by the Council in September, will resume review as soon as editorial changes are complete. These changes include calculation of biomass by standard virtual population analysis, determination of Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC) by simple formula, re-inclusion of the Nelson Island subsistence stocks in the determination of biomass and optimum yield, and a maximum exploitation rate of 20%.

Both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries urged the Council not to resubmit the Plan because they consider an offshore fishery on mixed stocks inconsistent with the State's goal of full utilization of the resource through inshore fisheries managed on a discrete stock basis. As currently written an offshore fishery would be permitted under the FMP only if a surplus is determined to exist after the inshore fishery takes place. The State contended that the existing inshore fishery is fully capable of harvesting the biological surplus and felt the FMP's definition of optimum yield and the resultant potential annual surplus for offshore TALFF or joint venture allocations are inappropriate.

### Council Sends King Crab Delegation to Washington, D.C.

The Council instructed Chairman Clem Tillion to appoint a delegation of Council members and staff, SSC members, and technical support staff to meet with the NMFS-Central Office plan review team during the week of February 8 to conduct a "walk-through" of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab Fishery Management Plan. The Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review, and Minority Report began Secretarial review on December 18. The delegation will report the results of the work session at the joint Council/Board meeting in March.

### Comment Period Extended for Gulf of Alaska Amendment #11

The Council extended the public comment period for Amendment #11 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP from February 8 to March 5, 1982. This extension, the second for Amendment #11, will allow public review of additional sablefish data being summarized by Barry Bracken of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Council also approved an addition to Amendment #11 which will give the Regional Director authority to restrict foreign fisheries for conservation reasons.

### Bering Sea Amendment #4 to be Modified Before Submission to Secretarial Review

Council staff review of Amendment #4 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP, approved by the Council at the December meeting, disclosed several minor modifications which should be made before the amendment is sent to Secretarial review. The NMFS Regional Director will be given authority to issue field orders to adjust time/area closures for conservation reasons, thus enabling immediate response to unanticipated stock conditions. This field order authority would apply to both the foreign and domestic fisheries.

Other inconsistencies to be corrected are also minor and pertain to sablefish Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and other species Allowable Catch (ABC) and Optimum Yield (OY). The amendment should begin Secretarial review by the end of January.

### Norwegians Encouraged to Develop Joint Venture Fishery

The Council will recommend that the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries deny the permit request of the Norwegian stern trawler SJOEVIKTRAAAL for a direct allocation of 4,600 mt of Pacific cod in the Bering Sea. The Council said they would, however, consider any joint ventures the Norwegians may want to propose. Norway's Governing International Fishery Agreement (GIFA) was signed last spring.

The Council approved two Japanese joint venture requests totaling 18,575 mt of pollock and 1,425 mt of other species from the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

Taiyo Fishery Co., Ltd. of Tokyo and Fishing Ventures International, Inc. of Seattle plan to employ two or three large mid-water trawlers and the Japanese factory trawler ZUIYO MARU NO. 3 to catch and process about 9,500 mt of pollock and 500 mt of Pacific cod and other by-catch species into surimi, fish meal, and fish oil. All products will be aimed for domestic consumption and marketed in Japan.

Nippon Suisan Kaisha, Ltd. of Tokyo and Universal Seafoods of Redmond, Washington plan to conduct a similar operation employing two to four large bottom/mid-water trawlers and the Japanese factory trawler KONGO MARU to catch and process about 9,075 mt of pollock and 925 mt of other species from the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The fish will be processed into surimi, frozen rounds, fillets, headed and gutted, roe, fish meal, and fish oil and marketed by Nippon Suisan.

The Council also reviewed a preliminary permit request for a joint venture involving the Polish company Rybex, Szczecin and Mrs. Paul's Kitchens of Philadelphia and granted the Executive Director authority to approve the permit when it is received from the State Department if the terms and conditions of the fishery are consistent with the preliminary request. The companies propose to take about 16,000 mt of pollock and 1,500 mt of Pacific cod from the Bering Sea and about 6,000 mt of pollock and 800 mt of Pacific cod from the Gulf of Alaska and will employ four to six U.S. catcher boats. About 50 percent of the round weight of fish is expected to be processed for American standard fillet and will be delivered to the U.S. for further processing. The rest will be marketed in Poland.

#### Council Approves ADF&G Data Enhancement Contract

Upon recommendation of the SSC the Council approved final payment on Contract 80-4, "To Expand and Enhance the Domestic Commercial Fisheries Catch Data Reporting System Off Alaska." The SSC participated in a demonstration of the data reporting system while in Juneau last week.