

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Harold E. Lokken, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

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

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



Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 265-5435

Agenda Item 18
January 1978

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 1978

TO: Council, AP members and SSC members

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director *JHB*

SUBJECT: Revised Research Funding Proposal for Socio-Economic Study of Herring in the Bering Sea

On December 15th at the SeaTac Hilton Hotel in Seattle, a subcommittee of the Council, AP, SSC and staff met to discuss the proposals which had been submitted to study the impacts of a Commercial Herring Fishery on the Villages of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim (AYK) Area. After carefully reviewing all research proposals the subcommittee unanimously recommended the Request for Proposals (RFP) for this study be withdrawn and that no proposal be accepted. As an additional recommendation the group asked that the RFP be rewritten and expanded in scope and budget.

The attached RFP: 78-3: "For a Study of the Social and Economic Impacts of a Commercial Herring Fishery on the Villages and Residents of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim (AYK) Area in Western Alaska," includes the expanded objectives (primarily the addition of the field surveys conducted during the subsistence fishery) and budget (\$85,000 instead of \$50,000).

ACTION REQUIRED

The disposition of this RFP requires SSC approval of the substantive portions of the revised RFP; Council Financial Committee approval of the RFP in terms of budgetary and general concepts; and Council approval of the RFP in principal) and recommended mailing. Time is of the essence for this study and every effort should be made to complete the actions necessary by Friday the 27th. This, in theory, would enable the contract to be signed and work initiated by March 1st.

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 27, 1977

TO: Council

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Actions Taken Regarding Two RFP's- (1) A Joint Ventures Study and (2) A Socio-Economic Herring Study

The Council advertised two RFP's dealing with (1) a study of the impacts of the Commercial Herring Fishery on the Village Economics of the Arctic/Yukon/ Kuskokwim Area, and (2) An Investigation of Joint U.S./Foreign Ventures in the Developing Commercial Fishery off Alaska. We received five proposals in response to each RFP. Our review process involves SSC and AP review and recommendation to the Council's finance committee for their approval. The press of business at the December 1 and 2 Council meeting precluded the SSC or the AP review of the proposals and an alternative review was scheduled.

A working subcommittee of the SSC and the AP was assigned the interim task of reviewing the proposals and making a formal group recommendation to the Council's finance committee. These working subgroups consisted of Mr. Alan Otness and Mr. Robert Alverson from the Advisory Panel and Drs. George Rogers, Ed Miles, Don Bevan and Mr. Don Collinsworth from the SSC. In addition, Mr. Harold Lokken, Mr. Richard Murosko (economist NMFS, Seattle) and myself rounded out the review committee.

The committee met in Seattle on December 15th at the SeaTac Hilton Hotel with the exception of Don Collinsworth (who was weathered in Juneau) and Don Bevan (who had scheduled conflicts but participated later).

Each proposal was evaluated on the basis of cost, the soundness of approach, the capability of the staff, past performance and the pertinent experience of staff. With that in mind, the following recommendations were made on the Joint Ventures RFP. "That the Council finance committee accept as the working group's first choice the University of Alaska, Sea Grant proposal by Dr. Abby Gorham for \$36,800." The proposal was superior in every category except one where their pertinent experience ranked second. The group recommendation was presented

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to the Council finance committee by telephone and unanimously approved for funding. We are proceeding with the contract which should be finalized in the near future.

The working group's recommendations on the socioeconomic herring proposal were more complicated. The proposals were evaluated on the same criteria which brought about a ranking of Number 1- EscaTech Corporation and Number 2-Dames & Moore. The third, fourth and fifth choices were not considered for funding and the working group recommended that in the event the first two choices were unacceptable the last three choices were also not acceptable.

The working group recommended the first choice, EscaTech, not be accepted as they represented a confidentiality/conflict of interest problem with various fishing companies in the Bering Sea. The Principal Investigator of EscaTech, Mr. Steve Burgess is also the only paid employee for the fishing company and (competitor) Prospector, Inc. Both EscaTech and Prospector, Inc. are owned by Calista Corporation. We were informed that fishing companies would not cooperate with the EscaTech Corporation Survey because of the competitive nature of the information to be learned. The working group recommendation for Dames and Moore (second), was that because their price was greater than the \$50,000 ceiling, (approximately \$63,000) we should attempt to negotiate with them to bring their price to \$50,000 and award the contract to them.

The subsequent negotiation with Dames & Moore failed to lower their price. Dames & Moore told us that because of the politically sensitive and timely nature of Native herring problems in Western Alaska the scope of their proposal was conservatively represented by their \$63,000 budget and that a cut any place would result in the ultimate product not being defensible or of sufficient quality to represent either the Council or Dames & Moore.

The unanimous recommendation of this working group with this information was that the RFP be withdrawn and readvertised with (1) an expanded scope of work and (2) an expanded budget. It is thought that the expanded scope of work would involve the contractor in this year's subsistence herring fishery and would require a formal interim report on the same time scheduled as the old RFP. It is also thought the expanded budget might be up to \$85,000 (tentative).

In making this recommendation to the finance committee (individually, by telephone) they unanimously accepted this recommendation and the RFP has been formally withdrawn and is being rewritten.

Attached for your information, are the summary rankings of the proposals by the working group and a copy of the letters transmitting the Council's action.

Enclosure

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