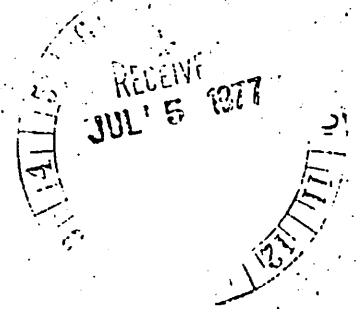


Agenda Item #15  
Aug. 1977

Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center  
2725 Montlake Blvd. East  
Seattle, WA 98112

JUL 1 1977



Robert Schoning, Director NMFS, F

Attn: F31 /s/ D. L. Alverson

D. L. Alverson, Center Director, NNAFC, F11

Revised 1978 OY and TALFF for Bering Sea herring

1. OY--1977 TAC for eastern Bering Sea herring is 21,000 mt. We have no reason to believe that the condition of the herring population will change markedly from 1977 to 1978 except to note that the 1977 TAC will be exceeded by about 2,330 mt. This overage is due to an unexpected and, under terms of the PFMP, uncontrollable development in the domestic commercial fishery. The projected U.S. catch for 1977 was 1,000 mt; actual catch is now estimated to be 3,200 mt (commercial) plus 130 mt (subsistence) = 3,330 mt. Accordingly, to preserve the resource status quo, OY for 1978 should equal the 1977 TAC less the 1977 overage:  $21,000 - 2,330 = \underline{18,670}$  mt.
2. Expected domestic harvest--rapidity with which the 1977 U.S. commercial herring fishery developed, ease of fishing (inshore gillnetting and purse seining compatible with native gear and skills), minimal processing requirements (salting), continued strengthening of an already strong export market, and expressions of avid interest by the U.S. fishing industry concerning this resource lead FAK to conclude that the 1978 domestic harvest could triple that of 1977--to 10,000 mt. The logic behind deducting current year's overage from next year's OY is valid only in making short term corrections; if done repeatedly, OY would quickly be driven to zero. Therefore, even though the projected 1978 domestic catch of 10,000 mt may appear overly optimistic, FAK believes that a catch of that magnitude is not beyond reach. Although we are not in a position to assess expected domestic harvest as well as FAK, we believe that the herring resource has declined over the past several years to the point where further OY overages should be avoided. Furthermore, we have witnessed the ability of Alaska fisheries to respond almost explosively to new opportunities, e.g. the 1977 Tanner crab and sablefish fisheries.
3. Foreign allowable catch-- $18,670 - 10,000 = \underline{8,670}$  mt.

FAK concurs with the above. Updated 1977 catch statistics and of 1978 catch projections will be sent to you as they become available.

cc: FAK

Branson

7/19/77 CC: All NPFMCouncil (50)

HALarkins:jn 6/30/77



F31/RS

TO: Chairmen, Regional Fishery Management Councils

FROM: *Robert W. Schoning*  
Robert W. Schoning, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Preliminary Estimates of Optimum Yield, U.S. Capacity,  
and Surpluses

The attached table further amends the tabular summary of the subject information which was provided to you via my transmittal memorandum of June 17. Having further discussed the preliminary estimates with our field offices, the following modifications have been made to that earlier table:

(1) New England/Mid-Atlantic Area

Butterfish and river herring have been removed from inclusion in the "other finfish" category. Butterfish is now presented as a separate species category, but with no change in any numbers (OY, U.S. Capacity or Surplus) between 1977 and 1978.

(2) Bering Sea/Aleutians/Gulf of Alaska

The preliminary 1978 estimate of Optimum Yield for Alaska pollock in the Bering Sea/Aleutians has been increased by 100,000 metric tons (from 850,000 metric tons to 950,000 metric tons) to reflect the same estimate as that of the FEIS/PMP, rather than the earlier DEIS, for 1977.

I again would welcome receipt of your comments on all of the preliminary estimates by July 15.

Attachment

CC:  
All Regional Directors  
All Center Directors  
Executive Directors of Regional Councils  
F3, F4, F5, MR, F

7/18/77 copy to all NPFMCouncil (50)

JUL 18 1977

Table 1 - 1977 and Preliminary 1978 Estimates of Optimum Yield, U.S. Capacity, and Surpluses by Ocean Areas for Certain U.S. Fishery Resources <sup>1/</sup>  
(in metric tons)

FISHERY RESOURCE	NEW ENGL./MID-ATLANTIC						SO. ATL./CARIBBEAN/GULF OF MEX.						BER. SEA/ALEUTIANS/GULF OF ALASKA									
	OPT. YIELD		U.S. CAP.		SURPLUS		OPT. YIELD		U.S. CAP.		SURPLUS		OPT. YIELD		U.S. CAP.		SURPLUS					
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978				
BUTTERFISH <sup>2/</sup>	18,000	18,000	12,500	12,500	5,500	5,500																
HAKE - RED	44,000	3/	9,100	3/	34,900	3/																
HAKE - SILVER	115,000	115,000	29,500	46,600	85,500	4/68,400																
HERRING - ATLANTIC	40,000	3/	18,000	3/	22,000	3/																
MACKEREL - ATLANTIC	88,000	3/	19,000	3/	69,000	3/																
OTHER FINFISH <sup>5/</sup>	247,000	247,000	187,000	200,200	60,000	4/46,800																
SQUID - ILLEX	35,000	35,000	11,500	16,200	23,500	4/18,800	} 6/ 9,000	-	1,000	-	8,000											
- LOLIGO	44,000	44,000	25,000	28,800	19,000	4/15,200																
- PACIFIC																	10,000	10,000	0	0	10,000	10,000
SHRIMP (DEEPWATER)							6/ 1,620	-	270	-	1,350											
HERRING (ROUND)							6/ 150,000	-	0	-	150,000											
MACKERELS (SPANISH/KING)							6/ 60,000	-	>20,000	-	<40,000											
POLLOCK - ALASKA												150,000	7/168,800	1,000	8/17,700	149,000	2/151,100					
YELLOWFIN SOLE												950,000	950,000	0	0	950,000	950,000					
FLOUNDERS - OTHER												106,000	106,000	0	0	106,000	106,000					
COD - PACIFIC												23,500	10/33,500	3,000	8/9,200	20,500	24,300					
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH												124,500	124,500	0	0	124,500	124,500					
ROCKFISHES - OTHER												6,300	11/40,600	4,000	8/15,500	2,300	25,100					
SABLEFISH												58,000	58,000	0	0	58,000	58,000					
HERRING - PACIFIC												30,000	12/25,000	1,000	8/1,100	29,000	23,900					
MACKEREL - ATKA												21,500	21,500	0	0	21,500	21,500					
OTHER SPECIES												5,000	13/7,600	1,000	8/2,000	4,000	5,600					
TANNER CRAB <sup>19/</sup>												22,000	22,000	2,500	8/3,600	19,500	18,400					
SNAILS (HEATS)												7,400	14/6,500	0	0	7,400	6,500					
HAKE - PACIFIC												21,000	15/18,000	1,000	16/	20,000	16/					
MACKEREL - JACK												22,000	17/24,800	0	0	22,000	24,800					
JNT GROUND FISH												16,200	14,500	0	8/500	16,200	14,000					
TOTAL	631,000	459,000	311,600	304,300	319,400	154,700	220,620		21,270		199,350	1,687,000	1,741,000	38,400	79,100	1,649,500	1,643,900					

Table 1 - 1977 and Preliminary 1978 Estimates of Optimum Yield, U.S. Capacity, and Surpluses by Fishery Resource Area for Certain U.S. Fishery Resources (continued)  
(in metric tons)

FISHERY RESOURCE	WASHINGTON/OREGON/CALIFORNIA					WESTERN PACIFIC					ALL AREAS							
	OPT. YIELD		U.S. CAP.		SURPLUS		OPT. YIELD		U.S. CAP.		SURPLUS		OPT. YIELD		U.S. CAP.		SURPLUS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
BUTTERFISH													18,000	18,000	12,500	12,500	5,500	5,500
HAKE - RED													44,000	3/	9,100	3/	34,900	3/
HAKE - SILVER													115,000	115,000	29,500	46,600	85,500	68,400
HERRING - ATLANTIC													40,000	3/	18,000	3/	22,000	3/
MACKEREL - ATLANTIC													88,000	3/	19,000	3/	69,000	3/
OTHER FINFISH													247,000	247,000	187,000	200,200	60,000	46,800
SQUID - ILLEX													79,000	88,000	36,500	46,000	42,500	42,000
- LOLIGO																		
- PACIFIC												10,000	10,000	0	0	10,000	10,000	
SHRIMP (DEEPWATER)													-	1,620	-	270	-	1,350
HERRING (ROUND)													-	150,000	-	0	-	150,000
MACKEREL (SPANISH/KING)													-	60,000	-	20,000	-	40,000
POLLOCK - ALASKA													1,100,000	1,118,800	1,000	17,700	1,099,000	1,101,100
YELLOWFIN SOLE													106,000	106,000	0	0	106,000	106,000
FLOUNDERS - OTHER	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000		21/							159,500	169,500	34,000	40,200	125,500	129,300
COD - PACIFIC													64,300	98,600	4,000	15,500	60,300	83,100
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000	<1,000		21/							52,500	47,500	2,000	2,100	50,500	45,400
ROCKFISHES - OTHER	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000		21/							23,000	25,600	19,000	20,000	4,000	5,600
SABLEFISH	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000		21/							36,400	35,500	9,500	10,600	26,900	24,900
HERRING - PACIFIC													21,000	18,000	1,000	16/	20,000	16/
MACKEREL - ALASKA													22,000	24,800	0	0	22,000	24,800
OTHER SPECIES	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200		21/							114,000	102,900	4,200	4,700	109,800	98,200
TANNER CRAB													37,400	42,000	24,900	29,500	12,500	12,500
SNAILS (MEATS)													3,000	3,000	0	0	3,000	3,000
HAKE - PACIFIC	130,000	130,000	6,800	22/41,000	123,200	89,000							130,000	130,000	6,800	41,000	123,200	89,000
MACKEREL - JACK	55,000	55,000	51,000	51,000	4,000	23/4,000							55,000	55,000	51,000	51,000	4,000	4,000
SEAMOUNT GROUND FISH							2,000	24/3,000	0	0	2,000	3,000	2,000	3,000	0	0	2,000	3,000
TOTAL	246,200	246,200	119,000	153,200	127,200	93,000	2,000	3,000	0	0	2,000	3,000	2,567,100	2,669,820	469,000	557,870	2,098,100	2,093,950

Footnotes:

- 1/ Includes only those fishery resources for which foreign nations are likely to apply to harvest in 1978 and for which surpluses are available.
- 2/ Butterfish were included in the "other finfish" category last year. That species is shown separately for 1978, but the numbers are the same as in 1977. Butterfish will be made available to foreign nations only as a by-catch.
- 3/ Assessment awaits foreign statistics (will be available shortly).
- 4/ Surpluses were decreased 20 percent to compensate for subjective perception that U.S. capacity will increase a proportionate amount in 1978.
- 5/ Does not include river herring and prohibited species.
- 6/ No estimates made for 1977.
- 7/ Increased because of reassessment based on existing biological survey data.
- 8/ U.S. capacity changed as a result of new data obtained from industry surveys conducted within the past 2 months.
- 9/ Could be reduced by as much as 130,000 m.t. if sale by U.S. fishermen to South Korean factory ships is approved.
- 10/ Original PMP estimate was set conservatively at low end of MSY. OY elevated for 1978 based on reassessment of existing data, but still set conservatively to keep halibut by-catch to a minimum.
- 11/ Original 1977 estimate not based on firm biological information but rather on records of most recent catches. 1978 estimate based on current biomass data from trawl surveys.
- 12/ Decreased to permit increased recovery rate of stocks.
- 13/ Reassessment of existing data.
- 14/ Continued downward trend in C.P.U.E.
- 15/ Based on additional information on status of stocks.
- 16/ Evaluation of 1977 fishing is required to determine U.S. capacity and surplus.
- 17/ Based on results of recent Soviet survey data.
- 18/ Intent of original PMP to reduce this category by 10 percent annually. Desire to eventually eliminate this general category into specific species allocations.

- 19/ In 1978 all C. bairdi (29,500 m.t.) to be taken by U.S. fishermen; all C. opilio (12,500 m.t.) is surplus.
- 20/ Based on reassessment of existing biological, economic and social data by Council management planning team.
- 21/ No surplus available but some incidental catch allowed in the Pacific hake fishery, not to exceed: flounder - 0.1%; Pacific Ocean Perch - 1.3%; other rockfishes - 1.3%; sable fish - 0.2%; other species - 0.5% of the hake surplus.
- 22/ Contingent upon approval of U.S. fishermen - foreign processor joint venture and issuance of permits to the foreign processor.
- 23/ North of 39°N. latitude.
- 24/ 1977 OY estimate of 2,000 m.t. only for Hancock Seamount. 1978 OY preliminary estimate of 3,000 m.t. includes Midway Island and Guam/Marianas, in addition to the Hancock Seamount.

LEGEND: G = Gulf of Alaska  
B/A = Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

15?

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Southpark Building, Suite 306  
1 Southpark Circle  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407  
(803) 571-4366

July 29, 1977

Mr. Robert W. Schoning, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Washington, D.C. 20235

Dear Mr. Schoning:

This is in further response to your memorandum of June 17 relative to request for comments on preliminary estimates of optimum yield, which we acknowledged on July 8.

The presentation by the Southeast Fisheries Center at our July Council meeting confirmed that the figures presented for South Atlantic/Caribbean/Gulf of Mexico species were indeed gross approximations. In fact, the figure for mackerels (Spanish/king), which concerned us most, was a somewhat questionable MSY figure rather than OY. We were advised by your representative that a decision has been reached to indicate that there is no surplus of mackerels, ostensibly as a result of considering relevant economic and social data to which we are still not privy.

In the case of deepwater shrimp (royal reds only, according to your representative), round herring and squid, we regret that we have still not been provided a sound basis for evaluating the surplus figures presented in your memorandum. We are, however, concerned that figures based on such obviously gross approximations are being used to guide foreign fisheries entry to the United States Fishery Conservation Zone. If our data base is not adequate to the task, why don't we admit it?

I have one further concern. You recall, in our July 8 letter, we strongly urged that these questionable estimates be kept on a close hold basis. I was chagrined when these figures were openly discussed with the Japanese at the State Department sponsored meeting in Washington last week.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Lentz  
Chairman

cc: Members, SAFMC  
Regional Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, St. Petersburg, Florida  
Southeast Fisheries Center, NMFS, Miami, Florida  
Executive Directors, Regional Fishery Management Councils

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AUG 4 1977