


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: September 28, 1998

SUBJECT: Social and Economic Data

ESTIMATED TIME 1 HOUR
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**ACTION REQUIRED**

- (a) NMFS initiative on data collection: status report.
- (b) Social and Economic Data Committee report.
- (c) Proposed plan amendment for data collection: discussion and direction.

**BACKGROUND**

In June 1997 the Council passed a motion to establish a committee that would be tasked with determining social and economic data needs and to develop a process to routinely collect the information. Then, in February 1998, the Council passed a motion to initiate an amendment calling for collection of socioeconomic data such as cost and price information. The Social and Economic Data Committee held their first meeting during the week of the April 1998 Council meeting and decided that more progress was needed in developing the models, and the data that those models require, before decisions could be made on how to best collect that information. The goal of these efforts is to build a database that we can draw on to perform more quantitative cost-benefit analyses, rather than always coming up short on data when we need to analyze very contentious allocational issues such as I/O3.

Since the Council last considered this issue almost six months have passed. The Center now has two economists that are primarily tasked with developing survey instruments and models. Doug Larson, from the University of California Davis (and a member of the Council's SSC), has also continued his work on related issues under a Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission contract. NMFS will present a white paper on the progress of these efforts. That paper will be made available at the Council meeting.