

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP members
FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
DATE: May 13, 1983
SUBJECT: Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish

ACTION REQUIRED

1. *The Council is scheduled to approve Amendment #8 for Secretarial review at this meeting.*
2. *The Council should formally withdraw Amendment #5 from Secretarial review.*

BACKGROUND:

Amendment #8 sets the salmon prohibited species catch limits (PSC) for the foreign trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea at 38,441 fish in 1984 and 27,957 fish in 1985. Amendment #8 is a continuation of Amendment #3 which imposed regulations on the foreign trawl fishery to reduce their by-catch of salmon, halibut, king crab, and Tanner crab. Amendment #3 set a goal of a total salmon by-catch of 17,473 fish by 1986, which is a 75% reduction from the average salmon by-catch of 80,000 fish for the years 1977-1980.

Amendment #8 was mailed to the public on April 7. The public comment period closed on May 13. No comments have been received.

The salmon PSC numbers proposed for 1984 and 1985 were agreed to by the Western Alaska residents who depend on the salmon resource and the Japanese trawl industry, principal harvesters of groundfish in the Bering Sea. Agenda Item D-6(a) shows the complete target reduction schedule of salmon PSCs.

OTHER INFORMATION: Status of Amendments

Amendment #1 - This amendment establishes a framework management procedure for Bering Sea groundfish. The process will start in July when the PMT presents the Resource Assessment Document to the Council.

Unfortunately, NMFS, Washington D.C. has given Amendment #1 a low priority and no action has been taken to date. It was submitted for Secretarial review on December 2, 1982.

Amendment #3--the prohibited species amendment - This amendment was approved on May 12, 1983. Final regulations should be filed in the Federal Register on May 27.

Amendment #4 - This amendment raised the Pacific cod OY from 78,000 mt to 120,000 mt, increased DAH for pollock, yellowfin sole, Atka mackerel, other flatfish and "other species," and specified two additional areas in the Aleutians where foreign fishing may take place seaward of territorial waters. It became effective on May 9, 1983.

Amendment #5 - This amendment set the chinook salmon PSC for 1983 at 45,500 fish. Because Amendment #3 will be implemented in 1983, Amendment #5 is no longer required. The Council should formally withdraw Amendment #5 from Secretarial review.

Amendment #6 - This amendment will establish a domestic fishery development zone north of Unimak Pass. It was mailed to the Region on April 20, 1983 for review and will be submitted for Secretarial review when the Regional review is completed.

Amendment #7 - This amendment allows foreign longliners to fish year-round at all depths in the Winter Halibut Savings Area. It was filed with the Federal Register on May 11. The Council should be notified of approval/disapproval by July 14, 1983.

Table 1. Target reduction schedule of salmon prohibited species catches based on the average 1977-80 foreign trawl salmon incidental catch.

		<u>Salmon</u>	
		Chinook	Total Salmon ^{1/}
<u>Base Years</u>		<u>Average Incidental Catch</u>	
1977-80		74,400	80,000
<u>Reduced Catch Levels:</u>			
Year	1981	65,000	69,893
	1982	55,250	59,409
	1983	45,500	48,925
	1984	35,750	38,441
	1985	26,000	27,957
	1986	16,250	17,473

^{1/} Total salmon numbers are calculated on the assumption that 93% of incidentally-caught salmon are chinook.