

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

AGENDA B-5
SEPTEMBER 1993

POLAR RESEARCH BOARD
US National Committee for SCAR
US Committee for IASC

August 12, 1993

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Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Dr. Pautzke:

As you know, the National Research Council's Polar Research Board has formed a committee to synthesize and examine scientific and technical information on the Bering Sea ecosystem related to the nature and causes of declines of wildlife and fish in this region. (A list of committee members and the committee's statement of task are attached).

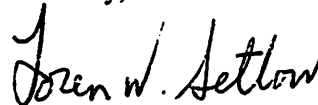
On behalf of the National Research Council's Committee on the Bering Sea Ecosystem, we are pleased to invite you or your representative to the open sessions of the committee's meeting in Anchorage, at the Hotel Captain Cook, September 22-24, 1993. The open sessions are scheduled as follows:

September 22 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
September 23 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
September 24 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The committee will also be meeting in Seattle, Washington, on December 1-3, 1993. To date, the committee has neither set the agenda nor invited guests for the Seattle meeting. If there are open sessions, you or your representative will, of course, be invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you or your representative at the September and December meetings.

Sincerely,



Loren W. Setlow
Director
Polar Research Board

Enclosure

COMMITTEE ON THE BERING SEA ECOSYSTEM

Robert C. Francis, Chairman, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Lee G. Anderson, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware
W. D. Bowen, Bedford Institute of Technology, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Steven K. Davis, LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska
Jacqueline M. Grebmeier, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Lloyd G. Lowry, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, Alaska
Ilarion (Larry) Merculieff, City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Island, Alaska
Natalia S. Mirovitskaya, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Charles H. Peterson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Morehead City, North Carolina
Caleb Pungowiyl, Arctic Marine Resources Commission, Kotzebue, Alaska
Thomas C. Royer, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska
Alan M. Springer, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska
Warren S. Wooster, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Donald B. Siniff, Polar Research Board Liaison, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota

STATEMENT OF TASK

The committee will synthesize and examine the scientific and technical information on the Bering Sea ecosystem that contributes to understanding the nature and causes of population declines of wildlife and fish. The committee would provide an assessment of each of the topics identified below with respect to: (1) the current scientific understanding; (2) the gaps in knowledge and the research needs to fill the gaps, including opportunities for interagency and international cooperation; and as appropriate, (3) the possible management alternatives or institutional arrangements. The topics to be considered include:

- Environmental factors and ecological relationships that control the Bering Sea ecosystem, including atmospheric and ocean circulation patterns, biological production pathways, and energy transfer within the food web.
- The life history, distribution, and population dynamics of commercially important species, with special emphasis on species that migrate through international waters or into the United States or Russian Exclusive Economic zones; and the probable causes and effects of their population fluctuations.
- Estimates of historical population dynamics of marine mammals, seabirds, and commercially important species of the Bering Sea, their interrelationships, their current status, and the factors contributing to their population fluctuations.
- The historical records of the commercial fisheries of the Bering Sea.
- The relationship between the biological resources of the Bering Sea and a) subsistence cultures and economies of indigenous peoples, b) commercial fisheries and other users, and c) the assemblage of organisms that constitute the biological component of the Bering Sea ecosystem.