

23 December 1976

Mr. Robert W. Schoning, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
3300 Whitehaven Street  
Washington, D.C. 20235

Dear Mr. Schoning:

Alaska fishermen, many of whom have the vessel capacity for fishing bottomfish, have expressed their frustration at the lack of markets (processors) for catches they could produce. Processors state their reluctance to process bottomfish because of high capital outlays required for automated equipment and expanded facilities in the face of an array of unknown technological, economic and marketing factors.

As a result, the North Pacific Fishery Council requests that \$670,000.00 be transferred in FY77 and FY78 from the national extended jurisdiction budget to the NPFMC for programs to work with industry and State of Alaska agencies to help develop Alaska groundfishes for production by U.S. fisheries. Congress stipulated that one of the purposes of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976, Section 2 (b) (3) is "to encourage the development of fisheries which are currently underutilized or not utilized by United States fishermen, including bottomfish off Alaska."

These funds are requested on the behalf of the Alaska fishing industry who have expressed their desire and intent to eventually harvest, process and market bottomfish which are not taken by foreign fleets off Alaska. These resources have a current estimated first wholesale value of \$500 million.

These funds will be used to initiate and conduct studies which will help industry evaluate some of the economic risk under actual commercial production conditions.

Fisheries development programs from these funds will be planned by a fisheries development steering committee composed of industry members, NOAA/NMFS and State agencies staff appointed by the chairman of the NPFMC. The steering committee will coordinate their planning with the State of Alaska's bottomfish development program (funded for \$300,000.00 in FY77) so that the maximum benefit will result to industry. Industry's contribution in equipment, plant space, manpower, utilities and vessel time to the projects will equal or exceed \$300,000.00.

We anticipate that the initial target species will be Alaska pollack since it is most abundant, but, the more valuable sablefish, cod, and flatfish species will demand attention also. Coordination with the State's bottomfish program and the availability of processing facilities will dictate that initial development projects be conducted in S.E. Alaska and/or Kodiak.

Future bottomfish development effort should be directed toward the exceedingly abundant resources in the Western Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea where the major bottomfish fishery will occur.

Attached are preliminary estimates of allocation of the requested funds subject to modification as appropriate by the steering committee.

We urge your immediate affirmative action on this request.

Sincerely,

Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Enclosures

DLMcKernan: from 12/23/76

*DLMcKernan*  
*DLMcKernan*

ALASKA BOTTOMFISH DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET SUMMARY - FY77

Resource assessment (NMFS-ADF&G)	]	
Production Trial fishing (commercial charter)	]	
Gear development (U of A - NMFS)	]	\$250,000.00
Preservation of Catch (NMFS -	]	
Harvesting Efficiency Improvement (NMFS-U of A)	]	
Maximum Utilization of Catch	]	
Product Development	]	
Process Engineering Research	]	
Commercial production trials	]	\$250,000.00
Quality preservation studies	]	
Processing waste/utilization/disposal	]	
Packaging/shipping/warehousing	]	
Market Research and Analysis	]	
Market Development/Consumer Education	]	\$150,000.00
Economic Feasibility Evaluation	]	
Travel for NMFS and Steering Committee		\$ 20,000.00
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	TOTAL	\$670,000.00

DRAFT

December 10, 1976

Mr. Robert Schoning, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1300 Whitehaven Street  
Washington, D.C. 20852

Re: Development of Alaska Groundfisheries

Dear Mr. Schoning:

Alaska fishermen, many of whom have the vessel capacity for fishing bottomfish, have expressed their frustration at the lack of markets (processors) for catches they could produce. Processors state their reluctance to process bottomfish because of high capital outlays required for automated equipment and expanded facilities in the face of an array of unknown technological, economic and marketing factors.

As a result, the North Pacific Fishery Council requests that \$670,000.00 be transferred in FY77 and FY78 from the national extended jurisdiction budget to the NPFMC for programs to work with industry and State of Alaska agencies to help develop Alaska groundfishes for production by U.S. fisheries. Congress stipulated that one of the purposes of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976, Section 2 (b) (6) is "to encourage the development of fisheries which are currently underutilized or not utilized by United States fishermen, including bottomfish off Alaska."

These funds are requested on the behalf of the Alaska fishing industry who have expressed their desire and intent to eventually harvest, process and market bottomfish which are not taken by foreign fleets off Alaska. These resources have a current estimated first wholesale value of \$500 million.

Mr. Robert Schoning

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Future bottomfish development effort should be directed toward the exceedingly abundant resources in the Western Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea where the major bottomfish fishery will occur.

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We urge your immediate affirmative action on this request.

Sincerely,

Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery  
Management Council