

December 2, 1976

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Mr. Elmer Rasmuson, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Rasmuson:

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) unanimously requests that the following revisions be made in the draft of the Charter before adoption:

Page 2, Item 6: Delete first line and replace with the following: "The Committee shall advise the Council on the preparation of any proposed..." The SSC is an advisory body, not a drafting staff. It will advise and assist in the preparation of regulations and fishing management plans and review and comment on such regulations and plans. Its ability to function objectively in discharging these duties would be compromised if it also was the author or co-author of such measures.

Page 3 Item 8: Rewrite as follows: "The Committee shall submit to the Council such reports as the Committee deems appropriate and such reports as are requested by the Council." The SSC believes that requirement of an annual report is not appropriate to a Charter and, in any case, can be required by the Council if it deems this desirable.

Page 4, Item 4, under Section D: Amend opening to read: "The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be appointed..."

Page 4, Item 1, under Section E: Revise second line to read: "...the Chairman of the Committee, or a majority of the Committee, with the approval of the Chairman of the ..." In the event of a disagreement between the Chairman and the Committee as to the necessity for a meeting, this change would allow action by a majority of members. Revise last line of Item 1 to: "...Committee shall meet at least two times a year." The original requirement of at least six meetings could be too many. The legal requirement of specifying a minimum number of meetings would still be satisfied by this revision.

Page 5, Item 5: Delete entire section. This section is not only repugnant to the Committee, but is not required in the public interest in the light of Item 4, immediately proceeding, and would destroy the effectiveness of the SSC as an objective, professional advisory body.

Page 5, Item 9: Delete entirely. The intent of mandatory attendance of the entire SSC at all regular meetings of the Council and representation at public hearings, etc., appears to be to have the SSC function as a technical staff to the Council. Such staff assistance is available from appropriate State and Federal agencies.

Sincerely yours,

D. L. Alverson, Acting Chairman
Scientific and Statistical Committee