

AGENDA ITEM D  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SALMON FMP SITUATION

Emergency regulations to implement the Salmon FMP were published in the Federal Register on May 1st and immediately rescinded by NMFS because of procedural problems within their central office. Emergency regs were again published on May 15 and will be in effect until June 29th.

The Council's amendment to the Salmon FMP and the proposed regulations to support it will probably be published in the Federal Register on May 20th with a comment period to run until July 14th. We have not received a letter from Leitzell on the amendment. We understand that it will partially disapprove the amendments by deleting the proposed ban on hand trolling and will suggest that the Council develop a federal limited entry scheme for the CFZ for both power and hand trollers. That letter is still in the process of being written. I don't expect to get it until next week.

The catch of chinook has been relatively light in the troll fishery thus far, paralleling the 1977 catches and well under those of 1978 and 1979. Both ADF&G and NMFS are following the fishery closely and will evaluate the catches in June to determine if an in-season closure will be necessary for Chinook to hold the catch within the Council's recommended OY range.

1981 SALMON PLAN PROGRESS

We have signed the contract with Natural Resources Consultants, Inc., and had a post contract briefing with them. They are actively working on the 1981 plan and the foundation for a comprehensive salmon plan. Principle investigators are Mike Fredin and Frank Fukuhara.

The Inter-council Salmon Coordinating Committee met on April 29th in Seattle. Their report is included as Attachment 3. At their request the NPFMC and PFMC Salmon Planning Development Team met in Portland on May 14th and developed a statement of common objectives and approaches for comprehensive and coordinated management of stocks of concern to both councils. The report of that meeting is attachment 4.

A second meeting of the Inter-council Salmon Coordinating Committee has been scheduled for June 24th in Anchorage, just prior to our scheduled Council meeting. If we do not have a June Council meeting the coordinating committee may wish to reschedule their meeting.

COUNCIL POLICY GROUP

The SSC intends to meet May 29th and 30th to pursue their study of the role of plan development teams, plan scheduling, and inter-relationship between the Council and agencies. The Council group for this purpose has not met as yet. I would like to recommend a June 5th meeting in Juneau for that purpose. The members of that committee are Skoog,

Harville, Bevan, Collinsworth, Jaeger, Lechner, and Miles. Subject matter is Council operation in general and scheduling and inter-agency relationships specifically.

#### STATE CONFIDENTIALITY LEGISLATION

A bill covering the confidentiality of fisheries data received by the state of Alaska is moving through the Legislature and is expected to pass before the session ends. It would allow NMFS access to raw data for the purpose of developing fishery management plans.

#### COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MEETING

The Caribbean Council, which is hosting the next Council Chairman's Meeting, has suggested July 29 - 31 in San Juan, Puerto Rico as an appropriate time and place for the next Chairman's Meeting. I have written to them, again recommending a Fall meeting preferably in October or November, with an Executive Director's meeting some time prior to that to get rid of routine administrative matters and to help development an agenda for the Chairman's Meeting. The New England Council, the Pacific Council, and the Western Pacific Council are in agreement with my recommendation. I hope that we will be able to postpone it until Fall since it is unlikely we would be able to development a agenda by the end of July substantial enough to warrant the meeting. I am concerned about asking the Chairmen to spend three days on largely routine administrative questions. There are a number of important policy and legislative considerations but most of them will not be well enough developed by July to warrant discussion.

#### FUNDING FOR HIGHSEAS TAGGING PROGRAM

The three year salmon highseas tagging program in the Japanese landbased fishing area promised by the United States at the last INPFC renegotiations starts this year. As you will recall we had difficulty getting that project funded. Its already two years late, the money for 1980 was added on to the budget by Senator Stevens. That add on for 1981 was deleted by the Office of Management and Budget without much protest from NMFS. Unless it can be reinstated there will be no tagging program in 1981 or probably in 1982.

If the United States does not live up to it's commitment to determine the continent of origin of the salmon in the landbased fishing area, that is between 175° West and 175° East south of 46° North, it is not going to have a very good argument to maintain the Abstention Line at 175° East. There is a very good possiblity that Japan, at the next round of negotiations, would be able to move it back to 175° West.

I have drafted a letter to Senator Stevens asking for his help in reinstating that appropriation (approximately \$1,000,000.00 a year) and would appreciate the Council's recommendations for changes in that letter or further action I can take to obtain funding. Attachment 2.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

We have had a great deal of change in the Council staff in the last month. Florence Mynarski has resigned to resume her old job with the NMFS Auke Bay Lab in Juneau. Mike Hershberger is leaving effective the end of this month to get closer to the real fishing business.

Mark Hutton is also leaving for the working end of the fish business on June 13th. They are going to be sorely missed and its going to be a while before I can find replacements anywhere near the same calibre.

We have hired Vickie Hennion to replace Irma Nelson and I have hired a new lady to take Florence Mynarski's position effective the first of the month. I am advertising for a replacement for Mark but I do not expect that to be a quick process nor an easy one.

## STAFF TRAVEL

I and Tony Vaska testified before the Congressional Subcommittee on fisheries, wildlife and the environment in Washington D.C. on April 28th. The hearing was called for testimony on Northern Fur Seal, particularly on the Wolfe Bill which would stop the harvest of those seal. The Subcommittee was very receptive to testimony on inter-relationships between the Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. While in Washington I spent two days with NMFS staff discussing management plan development and review and the problems we are having with that process.

Maggie Duff made a field trip to Togiak for the herring fishery and arrived in time for the season closure and a good solid three day storm that kept her three days longer than planned. It was an excellent opportunity for her to see the fishery and get a feel for the problems involved in management.

I was in Seattle, May 12th, for contract briefings with Tetra Tech and National Resources Consultants, Inc., on the salmon and limited entry studies, as was Mark Hutton. I was in Portland on the 13th and 14th for state federal coordination meetings and joint salmon plan development team meetings. Mark stayed in Seattle the 13th for a planned development team meeting on the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan.

Judy Willoughby was in Tampa, Florida, April 28th through 30th for a Council Administrative Officer's meeting, working on the draft Council handbook, grant and funding procedures, and Council administrative matters.

## FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

If we can finish our work on the Gulf of Alaska FMP amendments at this meeting, there will be no FMP's scheduled for the June meeting. Because of that, and because in the change in Council staff, I would like to recommend that we skip June and hold the next Council meeting July 24th and 25th as scheduled.

TRADE OFF FOR RESEARCH

Attachment 1 is an interesting letter from Congressman Clausen, protesting a trade of Pacific Hake (as an allocation) to East Germany for the use of a GDR research trawler by the U.S. in the Gulf of Mexico. The fish and chips' theory apparently allows using other peoples' fish to trade for chips you want.

STATUS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Gulf of Alaska FMP

After a PDT review meeting with the SSC and AP subgroups and the public hearing on May 21, the final amendment package will be presented to the Council for their approval. The secretarial review is expected to begin in mid-June. If the APA cooling off period is waived and if the secretarial review is limited to 45 days it will be possible to publish final regulations on November 1, 1980.

2. Bering Sea Groundfish FMP

The environmental impact statement has been prepared and sent to the Environmental Working Group. Their review generally takes at least two weeks and must be completed before public hearings can be held. The amendment package is scheduled for SSC and AP subgroup review in mid-June and the public hearings in mid-July. The final package will be reviewed by the Council at the July meeting.

3. Troll Salmon FMP

The amendment was partially approved on April 25, 1980. On May 8 an FR notice rescinded the April 30 emergency regulations for the Troll Salmon Fishery in the FCZ due to procedure irregularities. The regulations were republished on May 15, effective till June 29th. The amendment and proposed regulations are expected to be published this week, effective around August 3, 1980.

4. Tanner Crab FMP

The comment period on Amendment 5 ends on June 14 and final regulations are expected to be promulgated June 25, 1980. Amendment 6, made up of two sets of amendments, is in the process of being forward to the Department of Commerce for their review and approval.

5. King Crab FMP

Copies of the revised draft of the king crab will be distributed at this meeting. A review of the plan will be done by the SSC and AP subgroups in mid-June with the possibility of a final draft plan being presented to the Council for their approval at the July meeting. Implementation of this plan is still expected for September, 1981.

6. Herring FMP

Following the Council's actions on the proposed options at the last meeting the plan is being revised and will be presented to the Council for a final review at the September meeting.

7. Clam FMP

The final revision to this plan has been postponed due to the volume of other business. The revisions will be completed in August and, along with the final report on leasing in the FCZ, will be available for Council review in September.

Agenda Item D-4  
att 1

LEITZELL, TERRY L.  
NMFS  
FISH ALLOCATIONS

May 7, 1980

MAY 12 1980

Hon. Terry L. Leitzell  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
F, N.M.F.F.  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Page Building No. 2  
Room 400  
Washington, D.C. 20235

Dear Mr. Leitzell:

I have just learned that negotiations are underway between your agency and the East German Government to trade 80,000 metric tons of Pacific hake for the rights to use an East German vessel for research and development purposes in the Gulf of Mexico. This disturbs me for two reasons:

First, these negotiations circumvent and possibly violate the intent of the President's recently imposed sanctions limiting Soviet fishing off our coasts. This action by the President was in response to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. As political and economic allies of the Soviet Union, it would not be at all surprising to see the East Germans sell this fish resource to the Russians to replace the hake they had been catching off our Pacific Coast.

Second, the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fisheries Management Councils, the organizations initiating the negotiations with East Germany, have no authority to allocate fish from areas outside their jurisdiction. All allocations of any fish off the Pacific Coast of the United States should be made only by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council after public hearings and full consultation with the fishermen and citizens of the area affected.

Hon. Terry L. Leitzell  
Page 2  
May 6, 1980

Regardless of the merits of the vessel in question, these two fisheries management councils are attempting to give away something that isn't theirs to barter, and in the process, they are circumventing the intent of the President's current sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Therefore, I ask for your direct intervention to stop these negotiations and further provide me with an immediate response to this request. West Coast fishermen are very disturbed and are demanding specific action by their governments to comply with the President's sanction and instructions.

Sincerely,

DON H. CLAUSEN  
Representative in Congress

DHC:d



Agenda Item D  
Attach #2

May 20, 1980

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
Attn: Mr. Steve Perles  
260 Russel Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Steve,

I am again asking you for your help in obtaining funding for the study to determine the continent of origin of salmon taken by the landbased Japanese salmon driftnet fishery. As you recall, the United States made a committment when we renegotiated the North Pacific Fisheries Convention with Canada and Japan to conduct a three year study to get better information on the continent of origin of sockeye, coho, and chinook salmon in the area of the Japanese landbased fishery between 175° East and 175° West south of 46° North latitude.

You were instrumental in getting funding for the first year of that work which will begin this May and extend through the 1980 season.

Unfortunately, the funding for the 1981 work has been deleted from the budget by the Office of Management and Budget. We are again going to have to ask for your help to get that money reinstated. The 1980 work will be conducted by two U.S. ships, a chartered seine vessel and the R/V Alaska belonging to the University of Washington. They will be working with Japanese research vessels and a Soviet seine boat. We don't expect this year's effort to do much more than locate the areas

where fish can be taken by seiners and perfect the operating methods. They will tag some fish but we're just starting the learning curve and it will take the full three years of research to give us the data we need.

If the United States does not live up to its commitment to conduct this research we're going to be in a very weak position when Japan tries to move the Abstention Line back to 175° West longitude. The greatly increased western Alaska red salmon runs of the last two years are probably due to a number of causes, including very good natural conditions, but we know that if the Japanese fishery was still operating as far east as it did prior to 1978 they would have probably have taken twenty-five to thirty percent of those runs. While red salmon runs are good now, we can expect natural fluctuations downward in the future that will certainly leave no spare fish for a foreign highseas fishery.

Just as important as the information on red salmon stocks is the need to determine whether the coho and chinook salmon in the area are of U.S. origin. There is a possibility that the highseas driftnet fishery adversely impacts depressed coho and chinook stocks involved in the troll fishery of in Southeastern Alaska and perhaps of Washington and Oregon. It is very important that we do everything we can to discourage the Japanese highseas salmon fishery. Without the three years of research we have promised our present position on the Japanese highseas salmon fishery is going to be greatly weakened and our ability to hold the present Abstention Line, which is without question of great benefit to western Alaska salmon stocks, seriously impaired.

An appropriation of approximately \$1,047,000.00 is needed for 1981. Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-two costs should be similiar with inflation and increased fuel costs added.

The attached status report on INPFC research by Dr. Robert L. Burgner summarizes progress and future plans for this program. As the statements (also included) from the last INPFC meeting on this subject indicate the need for the research is critical.

Why NMFS did not object to OMB's deletion of your "add on" I've been unable to determine. They apparently don't appreciate the continuing importance of the Pacific salmon fishery to the United States - its still the bread and butter and a lot of the jam to the Alaska and west coast fisheries.

I'm sending similiar requests for help to the Congressional delegations from Washington, Oregon, and California in hopes they will actively support the needed funding - recognizing that fishermen and industry from their areas are also dependent on the salmon fisheries of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Branson  
Executive Director

Enclosures

## INTERCOUNCIL SALMON COORDINATING COMMITTEE

April 29, 1980

Present

Co-chairpersons: John R. Donaldson, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Ronald O. Skoog, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
John Martinis, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Herman J. McDevitt, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Gordon Jensen, North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Donald Bevan, North Pacific Fishery Management Council

The meeting was convened at 2:25 p.m. at the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, and the committee drafted the following:

PURPOSE

To insure and facilitate the coordinated planning, development and implementation of salmon management plans and activities of concern to both Councils, and to insure full and complete communication between the two Councils.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a common data base.
2. Identify and consider specific legal obligations.
3. Coordinate the development and implementation of management plans.
4. Coordinate the development and implementation of regulations.
5. Evaluate periodically the effectiveness of management plans and regulations.
6. Identify common research needs and seek approval, funding and execution of identified research projects.
7. Develop supportive positions on fisheries issues with the intent to influence other entities whose activities affect salmon.
8. Identify and seek solutions to management and socioeconomic problems that may affect salmon fisheries.
9. Share methods to create better public understanding of Council actions.
10. Provide a forum for discussion and resolution of other matters of mutual concern.
11. Other.

ACTION

This draft of the purpose and objectives for the committee is recommended for review at a joint session of the PFMC/NPFMC Salmon Plan Development Teams and their comments to be reported back to this committee before June 10, 1980.

This committee will meet in Anchorage on June 24, 1980 to prepare a final draft for presentation to the NPFMC on June 25 or 26 and the PFMC on July 9 or 10.

NPFMC/PFMC SALMON PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAMS' JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMON OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES FOR COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS OF CONCERN TO BOTH COUNCILS

Portland - May 14, 1980

In response to the April 29, 1980 request of Intercouncil Salmon Coordinating Committee the Teams met in Portland on May 14 (attendance list attached) and prepared the following statement of purpose and objectives for intercouncil coordination. These objectives are listed in order of priority. For comparison purposes the Committee report of April 29, 1980 is attached.

Purpose

To insure and facilitate the comprehensive management of the chinook and coho salmon stocks throughout their ocean distribution by development of coordinated management objectives, plans and activities of concern to both Councils.

Objectives

1. Assure reaching optimum spawning escapement goals for all viable salmon stocks as defined by the Councils.
2. Identify and resolve specific requirements relative to Indian treaty obligations.
3. Identify and resolve specific resource sharing obligations relative to all other user groups, including Canadian.
4. Minimize catch transfers to Canadian fisheries.
5. Develop, on a timely basis, a compatible data base including effort, catch, and stock identification (e.g. tag recovery) and stock status data.

6. Identify common research needs and seek approval, funding and execution of same.
7. Insure full and complete communications between the two Councils at all levels of functions.
8. Develop supportive positions on fisheries issues with the intent to influence other entities whose activities affect salmon.
9. Identify and seek solutions to management and socio-economic problems that may affect salmon fisheries.

ATTENDANCE

May 14, 1980    Portland

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Ted Perry	PFMC - Portland
Gerald E. Davis	USFWS, Portland
Patrick O'Brien	Calif. Dept. Fish & Game
Steve Lewis	ODFW - Newport
Paul R. Larson	ADF&G - Juneau
John H. Helle	NMFS - Auke Bay Lab. - Juneau
Bill Robinson	NMFS - Juneau
George Utermohle	ADF&G - Juneau
Mike Fredin	Conslt./NRC - Seattle
Guy Thornburgh	ADFG - Juneau
Frank Fukuhara	NRC/Seattle
Dennis Austin	WDF/Olympia
Jim H. Branson	NPFMC - Anchorage
Ken Henry	NMFS - Seattle
Kirk Beiningen	ODFW - Portland



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