

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council Members, SSC, and AP
FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
DATE: September 16, 1980
SUBJECT: King Crab Fishery Management Plan

ACTION REQUIRED

Set hearing dates and locations and assign Council members to chair the hearings.

DISCUSSION

A summary of the Draft King Crab Fishery Management Plan was mailed to ADF&G stations in Kodiak, Sand Point, and Dutch Harbor to distribute during tank inspections at the beginning of the king crab season.

The Plan has been printed and will be distributed starting September 30th. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Regulatory Analysis are still incomplete, our first cut at the DEIS having been refused by NOAA General Counsel, Pat Travers. That DEIS is now being re-written.

The first hearings in October will be on the Draft FMP only. The EIS should catch up with the process so that hearings in early December will be on both the DEIS and the FMP.

We should be able to take testimony on four plans at any of the hearings held in October, November, and December: that is, King Crab, Tanner Crab, Bering Sea/Aleutian Groundfish, and Salmon FMP's.

In order to catch as much of the crab fleet in port as possible, we have scheduled the first hearing for Dutch Harbor on October 21st. I hope that we will be able to get Bart Eaton to chair the hearing since he should be in that area at the time. I recommend we schedule a hearing for Nome on October 21st or 22nd, for Seattle and Kodiak on or near December 4th, the week before the joint Council/Board meeting. One day of the December Council meeting should be devoted to joint public hearings with the Board of Fisheries, which will take care of the Anchorage hearing.

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We need a Council member to chair public hearings in:

Nome
Seattle
Kodiak

I intend to send not more than two staff people to each hearing, with appropriate PDI members.