

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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## NEWSLETTER

### July Council Meeting Slated For Homer

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will hold its 42nd plenary session on July 23 and 24, 1981 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Elks Hall in Homer. Major action will include review of a limited entry proposal for the Southeast Alaska hand and power troll fisheries, the draft King Crab Plan for the 1982 fishery, a re-drafted version of the prohibited species amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan, and Plan Maintenance Team recommendations for possible amendments to the Tanner Crab FMP.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet at the Best Western Annex, Bidarka Inn, in Homer beginning at 1:30 p.m. on July 21 and continuing through the 22nd. The Advisory Panel will meet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 22 at the Elks Hall.

### Council Adopts Plan of Action for King Crab Fishery Management

The Council adopted the Joint Statement of Principles between NPFMC and the Alaska Board of Fisheries for management of domestic king crab fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutians (revised 3/26/81), approved the Alaska Board of Fisheries Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab Fishery Management Framework dated 4/1/81, and determined, on the basis of the Board's commitment to the Joint Statement and Management Framework, that the 1981 king crab fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutians does not require conservation and management above that currently provided by the State. Further, the Council directed the staff to prepare for review at the July meeting a draft fishery management plan to be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for the king crab fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutians for the 1982 fishery. The Council is working toward a framework plan which will maximize authority to change management measures without amending the plan. The basic policies and management standards incorporated in the plan will be based on the Alaska Board of Fisheries King Crab Framework as approved by the Council. The Council intends that the plan be implemented by delegation of Federal authority to the State of Alaska. Draft regulations to this effect will accompany the plan throughout its review.

Council Will Support Board of Fisheries on  
King Crab Opening Date

After hearing extensive public testimony on the inferior quality of crab taken in an early-opened season and upon the suggestion of the Advisory Panel, the Council told Chairman Szabo of the Board of Fisheries that if they chose to reconsider the September 15 opening date for the 1981 king crab season, the Council would support whatever decision was made. The Advisory Panel's request for reconsideration was triggered by the Dutch Harbor ADF&G Advisory Committee, a petition signed by more than 100 Bering Sea fishermen, a number of Bering Sea processors, and a fishermen's marketing association, all wanting a later season opening, preferably October 10 or 15.

Troll Salmon Limited Entry

The Council instructed the Executive Director to appoint a workgroup consisting of Council staff, NMFS and ADF&G personnel, and a representative of the Alaska Trollers Association to draft a limited entry proposal for consideration at the July meeting. They asked for as simple a proposal as possible that would allow a year-round fishery, cover both hand and power trollers, and provide for both transferable and non-transferable permits. The Workgroup hopes to have preliminary material ready for the July meeting.

Council Opposes European Economic Community's Attempt  
to Reduce Pacific Salmon Imports

The European Economic Community's proposed surcharge on imported salmon would establish a reference price and compensatory tax system to protect markets for Atlantic salmon, particularly salmon from Ireland and the United Kingdom, at the expense of Pacific salmon. The Council instructed the Executive Director to write a letter to Ted Krommiller of the State Department protesting the new trade policy and indicating that if the surcharge is enacted, the North Pacific Council will look unfavorably at future requests for allocations or joint ventures by EEC nations.

Team to Revise Bering Sea Prohibited Species Amendment

Amendment #3 to the Bering Sea/Aleutians Groundfish FMP--Reducing the Catch of Prohibited Species--has been sent back to the plan team for final drafting. Upon recommendation of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Council instructed the team to draft a modified version of the Allowable Incidental Catch (AIC) concept that would close a nation's fishery when it reaches its assigned AIC. An "initial" AIC (a percentage reduction of final AIC) would assure that the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area is closed to a nation before the final AIC is reached. The Regional Director would then be able to re-open areas to specific gear types which had demonstrated an ability to avoid prohibited species until the final AIC is reached, when the entire area would be closed to all that nation's groundfish fleets.

The Council also asked the team to explore additional incentives to minimize prohibited species catches and provide flexibility for the Regional Director to respond in emergency situations. Amendment #3 would not apply to the domestic fishery. The foreign longline fishery would be exempted for catches of crab and salmon; however, further study would be conducted to explore their impact on the catch of halibut.

The Council expressed concern over the connotation of the term "Allowable Incidental Catch" because it infers that these catches are permissible and retainable. The PDT was asked to find a term to replace AIC -- possibly PSC -- "Prohibited Species Catch", which would underscore the fact that prohibited species are to be avoided and cannot be retained.

The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan team will meet with the public on June 30, 1981 at 9 a.m. at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, 2725 Montlake Boulevard, Seattle, to discuss the final draft of Amendment #3.

#### Tanner Crab Plan May Be Revamped

The current Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan is a single-year plan requiring annual amendments. Amendments to date have failed to keep pace with the fishery because of delays in the Secretarial review and implementation procedures. The Council asked the Plan Maintenance Team to review the current plan and consider alternatives which do not require annual amendments and/or development of a management system similar to that proposed for the king crab resource. The Council will review the PMT's recommendations in July for a more responsive management approach.

#### Tanner Crab Season Will Remain Open If Significant Effort Continues

To encourage full utilization of the 90 million pound C. opilio OY, the State will allow the Tanner crab season to continue as long as OY remains and legitimate effort is demonstrated, according to Council member Don Collinsworth, Deputy Commissioner of ADF&G. The 7,500 mt Japanese TALFF for C. opilio was eliminated this year.

#### The Polish and Mrs. Paul's

Upon recommendation of the Permit Review Committee, the Council approved joint venture applications from nine Polish stern trawlers currently holding directed fishery permits in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The vessels will receive pollock and Pacific cod from two U.S. fishing vessels operated by Steuart Fisheries and Sea Spray Fisheries. According to Bill Fields, representative of Mrs. Paul's Kitchens, Mrs. Paul's will purchase all of the product processed into fillets (approximately 10% of the total catch); the rest will be marketed in Poland.

## Domestic Catch Report

Forty-four million pounds of groundfish were taken from the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea during April -- more than half the total domestic groundfish catch of 84.5 million pounds this year. Four foreign processors and 54 domestic vessels participated in the groundfish fishery off Alaska in April.

This year's C. opilio Tanner crab catch has also improved over 1980, with 42 million pounds taken through April compared to 20 million pounds this time last year. Harvest guideline for opilio is 90 million pounds.

### Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska TALFFs Only 20% Spent

NMFS reported that only 40,977 mt of the 208,484 mt Gulf of Alaska TALFF had been harvested as of May 2. Poland has taken 65% of its 34,003 mt allocation; Japan 15% of its 128,748 mt allocation; and Korea less than 1% of its 44,533 mt allocation. Pollock and Pacific cod dominated the catch.

Pollock also dominated the Bering Sea catch to date, 259,484 mt of the 1,266,342 mt TALFF. Korea has taken 53% of its 115,049 mt allocation; Poland has taken 48% of its 51,421 mt allocation; and Japan has taken only 14% of its 1,070,885 mt allocation.

### Enforcement and Surveillance

Since the March meeting the U.S. Coast Guard issued five citations to one Soviet, two Polish, and two South Korean vessels. They seized two Japanese trawlers for misreporting their catch. One has paid a \$550,000 penalty; the other was released under bond until the case is settled.

### Contract to Study Marine Mammal Feeding Habits Awarded

The Council awarded a contract to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for a study of data on feeding habits and food requirements of marine mammals in the Bering Sea. The contract will be co-funded by the Marine Mammal Commission and the North Pacific Council.

### Joint Venture Updates

Fish Producers Associates, Inc. reported that the U.S./Korean joint venture has taken approximately 18,000 mt of groundfish since operations began on February 12. Fishing was very good in the Shelikof Straits area with 1,009 tons caught in one week by a single U.S. catcher vessel; one American catcher vessel took over 4,000 tons for the period February 12 to May 14; and a week's catch was 3,177 mt (seven U.S. catcher vessels participating). The fleet is now operating near Unimak Pass.

St. George Tanaq reports growing pains in its venture with Highly Enterprises of Taiwan. First quarter 1981 catches were approximately 500 mt of pollock and 314 mt of Pacific cod. Their first attempt at transferring at sea was a

Domestic Affairs

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This year's... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

Members and Officers of the Society

The list of members... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

Officers of the Society... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

Minutes of the Society

The minutes of the meeting... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

Report of the Secretary

The Secretary reports... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

Financial Statement

The financial statement... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

The meeting was... (text is mirrored and difficult to decipher)

learning experience for both the Americans and the Taiwanese. The training program for St. George residents has lost three of its four participants. The remaining participant has been transferred temporarily to an American vessel for additional experience.

John Schmeidtke of the West German company, Nordstern, A.G., reported that the FRIEDRICH BUSSE returned to Alaskan waters early last week to resume joint venture operations. Fishing is good -- 100 tons in 20 hours -- although the catch contains more Atka mackerel than they would like.

Marine Resources' AMERICA #1 grossed over \$1 million in a 90-day fishery from February through May with the Soviet mothership SULAK. Fishing 70 of the 90 days, the average daily value of the catch was \$11,230. Several smaller U.S. vessels grossed \$600,000+ each for the 90-day period. AMERICA #1's highest daily catch was 275 mt of pollock.

#### North Pacific Council to Host Council Chairmen's Meeting

Council chairmen, vice-chairmen, executive directors, and NMFS/NOAA administrators and staff will meet in Homer, Alaska from June 22 to 24. Agenda items will include amendments to the MFCMA, alternative approaches to conventional fishery management plans, FCZ boundaries, council funding and budgets, ancillary acts, council involvement in environmental affairs and fisheries development, foreign phase-out as provided in the American Fisheries Promotion Act, fish 'n chips, and joint venture and U.S. fishing industry status reports.