

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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November 6, 1998

## DRAFT AGENDA

**135th Plenary Session  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
November 10-12, 1998  
Anchorage Hilton Hotel  
Anchorage, Alaska**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet November 10-12, at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska to consider two agenda items:

- C-1 Senate Bill 1221: The Council will review the bill's provisions and their potential impacts on management of the groundfish and crab fisheries, the license limitation system, marine mammals, and NMFS enforcement and monitoring capabilities. The Council will consider tasking and the actions necessary to implement the bill's provisions.
- C-2 Steller Sea Lions: NMFS will report on the status of Steller sea lions and potential fisheries management implications. The Council may take emergency actions affecting the 1999 groundfish fisheries to mitigate potential fisheries impacts on sea lions.

The Advisory Panel will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 8, the Scientific and Statistical Committee at 1:00 p.m. on the 8th, and the Council will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10.

All meetings will be held at the hotel, and all meetings except Council executive sessions are open to the public.

## **INFORMATION FOR PERSONS WISHING TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sign-up sheets are available at the registration table for those wishing to provide public comments on a specific agenda item. Sign-up must be completed before public comment begins on that agenda item. Additional names are generally not accepted after public comment has begun.

Submission of Written Comments. Any written comments and materials to be included in Council meeting materials must be received at the Council office **by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4**. Written and oral comments should include a statement of the source and date of information provided as well as a brief description of the background and interests of the person(s) submitting the statement. **Material received after the deadline will be placed in a special notebook for late materials, but will not be copied or included in meeting notebooks for this meeting. It is the submitter's responsibility to provide an adequate number of copies of comments after the deadline.** Materials provided during the meeting for distribution to Council members should be provided to the Council secretary. A minimum of 18 copies is needed to ensure that Council members, the executive director, NOAA General Counsel and the official meeting record each receive a copy. If you also wish copies to be made available for the Advisory Panel (23), Scientific and Statistical Committee (12), staff (10) or the public (50) after the pre-meeting deadline, they must also be provided by the submitter.

## FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE ADVISORY PANEL

The Advisory Panel has revised its operating guidelines to incorporate a strict time management approach to its meetings. Rules for testimony before the Advisory Panel have been developed which are similar to those used by the Council. Members of the public wishing to testify before the AP **must** sign up on the list for each topic listed on the agenda. Sign-up sheets are provided in a special notebook located at the back of the room. The deadline for registering to testify is when the agenda topic comes before the AP. The time available for individual and group testimony will be based on the number registered and determined by the AP Chairman. **The AP may not take public testimony on items for which they will not be making recommendations to the Council.**

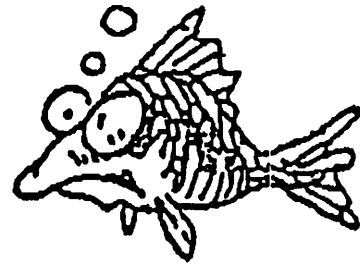
## FOR THOSE WISHING TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

The usual practice is for the SSC to call for public comment immediately following the staff presentation on each agenda item. In addition, the SSC will designate a time, normally at the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of the SSC meeting, when members of the public will have the opportunity to present testimony on any agenda item. The Committee will discourage testimony that does not directly address the technical issues of concern to the SSC, and presentations lasting more than ten minutes will require prior approval from the Chair.

## COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

<b>ABC</b>	Acceptable Biological Catch	<b>MSFCMA</b>	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
<b>AP</b>	Advisory Panel	<b>MMPA</b>	Marine Mammal Protection Act
<b>ADF&amp;G</b>	Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	<b>MRB</b>	Maximum Retainable Bycatch
<b>BSAI</b>	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands	<b>MSY</b>	Maximum Sustainable Yield
<b>CDQ</b>	Community Development Quota	<b>mt</b>	Metric tons
<b>CRP</b>	Comprehensive Rationalization Program	<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>CVOA</b>	Catcher Vessel Operational Area	<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm.
<b>EA/RIR</b>	Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review	<b>NPFMC</b>	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone	<b>OY</b>	Optimum Yield
<b>EFH</b>	Essential Fish Habitat	<b>POP</b>	Pacific ocean perch
<b>FMP</b>	Fishery Management Plan	<b>PSC</b>	Prohibited Species Catch
<b>GOA</b>	Gulf of Alaska	<b>SAFE</b>	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document
<b>HAPC</b>	Habitat Areas of Particular Concern	<b>SSC</b>	Scientific and Statistical Committee
<b>IBQ</b>	Individual Bycatch Quota	<b>TAC</b>	Total Allowable Catch
<b>IFQ</b>	Individual Fishing Quota	<b>VBA</b>	Vessel Bycatch Accounting
<b>IPHC</b>	International Pacific Halibut Commission	<b>VIP</b>	Vessel Incentive Program
<b>IRFA</b>	Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis		
<b>IRIU</b>	Improved Retention/Improved Utilization		
<b>ITAC</b>	Initial Total Allowable Catch		

**North  
Pacific  
Longline  
Association**



- VIA FAX -

October 28, 1998

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 28 1998  
N.P.F.M.C

Mr. Richard B. Lauber, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK

**RE: Industry Response to Short-tailed Albatross Takes**

Dear Rick:

As you have probably heard, two short-tailed albatrosses have been taken in hook-and line fisheries in recent weeks. The fishermen report that there are many more short-tails on the fishing grounds than ever before. This illustrates the robust recovery of the population, but obviously increases the chances of a taking.

In response to this circumstance our association has sent several messages to the freezer-longliner fleet, encouraging vessels to carefully employ the seabird avoidance devices and techniques outlined in the regulations. Radio WBH29 (Peggy Dyson, Kodiak) is broadcasting the same message after her weather reports, at our request. Finally Janet Smoker of Fisheries Information services now has full observer data on her vessel clients, and is informing each in confidence of its seabird bycatch.

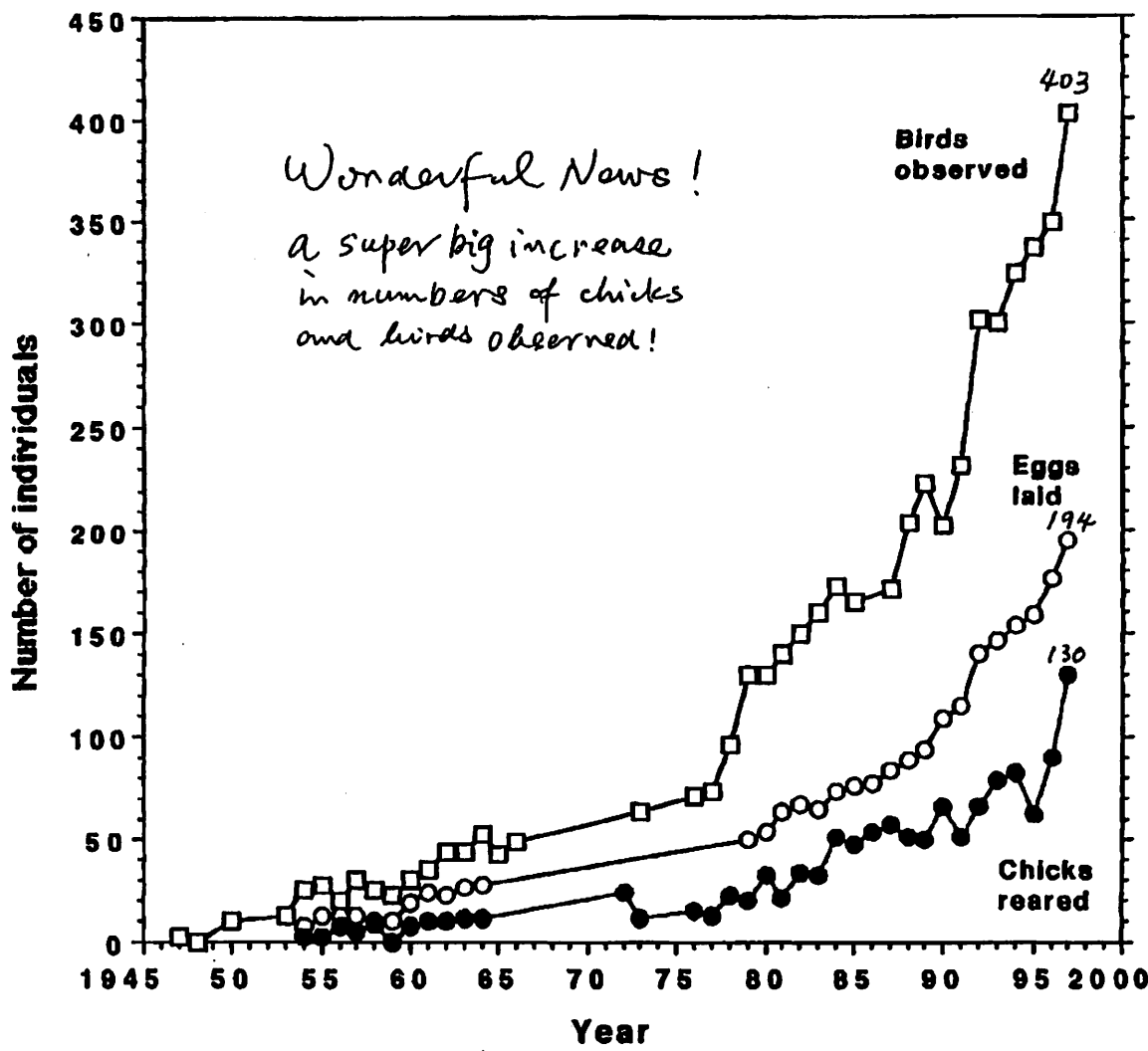
The taking of the short-tails is a serious matter, and we are doing everything we can to reach out to the fleet to encourage seabird avoidance.

See you soon in Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Thorn Smith

THORN SMITH



Population growth of the Short-tailed Albatrosses on Torishima, Japan (compiled by Hiroshi Hasegawa)

Hiroshi Hasegawa