

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director



DATE: April 20, 1992

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Review staff tasking.

**BACKGROUND**

The Council has several projects in various stages of completion or, in the initial stages of analysis. Item D-3(1) provides a summary of these projects and their current status. Council and NMFS staff are available to provide the Council with further detail.

**STATUS OF COUNCIL TASKING**

**PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION OR COMPLETED**

**Plan Amendments**

Am. 15/20      Sablefish IFQs	Depends on Council action at April meeting. Analyses could be forwarded for NEPA then Secretarial Review after April meeting.
Halibut IFQs	Depends on Council action at April meeting. Analyses could be forwarded for NEPA then Secretarial Review after April meeting.
Moratorium	Council review at April meeting. Final action scheduled for June. Could be implemented for 1993.
Am. 19/24      Bycatch Amendment	Proposed rule submitted. Implementation by end of summer.
North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan	Review in April. Final action scheduled for June. Establish Oversight Committee.
Am. 21/26      Bycatch Amendment • E. Gulf trawl closure • Kodiak Crab protective zones • Pribilof bottom trawl closure • BSAI halibut PSC limits • Chinook salmon bycatch measures	Review in April. Final action scheduled for June. Could be implemented for 1993.
Am. 22/27      Trawl Test Zones	Review in April. Possible final action in April. Implement by Fall of 1992.

**Emergency Rules from September & December 1991 Meetings**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GOA Rockfish trawl season delay.</li> <li>• BSAI halibut PSC limit for trawl gear reduced from 5,333 mt to 5,033 mt</li> <li>• Revised BSAI fishery categories for PSC apportionments</li> <li>• GOA &amp; BSAI directed fishing standards reduced to 7%</li> <li>• Definition of a fishing trip revised so that trip terminates at the end of a weekly reporting period</li> </ul>	Effective March 30, 1992
Delay 2nd Quarter Gulf of Alaska pollock opening (Effective for 1992 only)	Effective now. Season will open on June 1 or upon effective implementation of Am. 18/23.
Bring "B" season pollock fishery under VIP and prohibit non-pelagic gear	Under NOAA GC review.

**STATUS OF COUNCIL TASKING**

**PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION OR COMPLETED**

<b>Regulatory Amendments and Other Action</b>	
Prohibiting Longlining of Pots (except Aleutian Islands)	Final rule submitted.
Product Recovery Rates	Proposed rule being prepared.
Allocate Halibut PSC to DSR fishery and Establish Directed Fishing Standards for DSR	Proposed rule published.
Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Catch Reporting and Estimation	Filing date pending.
Restrictions Affecting Donut Hole Operations and U.S. Landings of Russian EEZ Fish.	Final rule pending.

**UNCOMPLETED PROJECTS REQUIRING SUBSTANTIAL STAFF TIME**

Am. 18/23 Inshore/Offshore (Including Related Bycatch Amendment)	Council needs to determine and analyze options for BSAI for 1993, 1994, and 1995.
Strategic Bycatch Plan	Report from Bycatch Team.
Comprehensive Rationalization Program	Develop workplan and schedule for analysis. Coordinate planning process.
Preferential Gear Allocation of Pacific Cod	Status report in April. Draft analysis possible for June.
Delay of BSAI "B" Season: Regulatory Amendment	Initiate analysis for possible implementation in 1993. Analysis due in September 1992.
Exclusive Registration or Pre-Registration: Plan Amendment	Initiate analysis for possible implementation in 1993. Analysis due in June 1992.

**POTENTIAL NEW PROJECTS**

Changes/Improvements to existing Observer Program for 1993	Initiate regulatory amendment.
Reduce Halibut PSC Caps by 10% Per Year for 5 Years	Analyze in 1993.

STATUS OF COUNCIL TASKING  
April 26, 1992

ACTION

Status

REPORTS

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Performance-based pelagic trawl                        | -- Report at June meeting |
| 2. Necessary changes to BSAI crab FMP                     | -- Report at June meeting |
| 3. Discards by fishery                                    | -- Report at June meeting |
| 4. Necessity of placing observers on crab catcher vessels | -- Report at Sept meeting |

REGULATORY AMENDMENTS

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Pelagic trawl definition                               | -- Proposed rule to FR in June     |
| 2. 1992 Recordkeeping/reporting                           | -- Proposed rule to FR in June     |
| 3. 1993 Recordkeeping/reporting                           | -- draft proposals at June meeting |
| 4. Pollock "B" season delay                               | -- draft analysis at Sept meeting  |
| 5. BSAI salmon "hot spot closures                         | -- Draft analysis when available   |
| 6. Total weight measurements & interactive communications | -- Draft analysis at June meeting  |
| 7. DSR final rule (halibut H&L PSC)                       | -- Final rule to FR in June        |
| 8. Standard PRRs  | -- Proposed Rule to FR in June     |
| 9. Notice of 3rd & 4th qtr Bycatch rate standards         | -- Notice to FR in June            |
| 10. Observer regulations                                  | -- Draft analysis at Sept meeting  |
| 11. CDQ criteria • ?                                      | -- Draft analysis at June meeting  |
| 12. Pollock roe stripping PRR                             | -- Proposed rule to FR in Sept     |
| 13. <i>Byc Reg am. to supp. Am 18</i>                     | <i>- Draft anal an. @ Sept mtg</i> |

FMP AMENDMENTS

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Revised 18/ <del>3</del> - inshore/offshore | -- Revised analysis at June meeting   |
| 2. Exclusive Registration                      | -- Draft analysis at Aug/Sept meeting |

3. IFQ Amendment -- Proposed rule to FR in September
4. Analysis of Sitka Block prop'l and 1,000 lb 'floor' -- Draft analysis when possible
5. Amd 19/24 - bycatch -- Final rule to FR in June
6. Amd 21 - BSAI Bycatch Halibut caps & Pribilof Is. closure -- Council decision in June; -- Draft analysis at June meeting
7. Amd 26 - GOA RKC Crab & Prohibit trawling in SEO -- Council decision in June; proposed rule to FR in July
8. Amd 22/27 Trawl test sites -- Proposed rule to FR in June
9. Allocations to preferential gear -- Draft analysis at Sept meeting
10. Moratorium -- Decision in June
11. Research Plan -- Decision in June
12. Comprehensive Rationalization -- Phase I as time permits