

Advisory Panels

Note: The Act only says the Council shall appoint such other panels as are necessary . . . to assist it in carrying out its functions . . .

Any such panels must be separately chartered (and comply with all other FACA requirements). Members will be reimbursed for actual expenses.

(Note memo FSW 8/20/76, Tab L-1)

Again the makeup and number and duties of panels will have to be decided by the Council. Guidelines were indicated in the report of the Joint Conference Committee on H.R. 200:

"Each Council is directed to establish scientific and statistical committees and necessary advisory panels to assist in the development or amendment of any fishery management plan. Each advisory panel shall be composed of persons who are either actually engaged in the harvest of, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of, the applicable fishery or group of fisheries. The regional Councils and their committees and panels should receive maximum public input. The provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act apply, and therefore meetings must be open to the public, with few exceptions. Each Council shall conduct all meetings and hearings within its geographical area of concern. In the case of the North Pacific Council, "in the geographical

area of concern" means within the State of Alaska."

FCMA - Sec. 302(G)(2)

(2) Each Council shall establish such other advisory panels as are necessary or appropriate to assist it in carrying out its functions under this Act.

Operations Manual II-9-(2)

(2) Fishery Advisory Panels

It is clear that the development of a successful fishery management regime will depend in large measure on the accurate assessment of the socioeconomic (community) implications of resource management activities as well as the traditional consideration of the biological impact. The intent of the Congress in this regard is indicated in the Report of the Joint Conference Committee on H.R. 200.

There the composition of advisory panels is described in terms of a particular fishery or group of fisheries and those associated with fishery activities.

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8/17/76

Thus, Fishery Advisory Panels are principally authorized to be established to obtain the pragmatic advise^e and counsel of the people most affected by the Councils' management activities on matters of Fishery management policy, on the preparation of Fishery Management Plans, on their review prior to submission to the Secretary, and on their effectiveness once in operation. These Panels aid the Council in establishing both the goals and objectives of plans as well as the criteria for judging plan effectiveness, and serve as a communication link with those who must operate under the management regime.

The Panels may be established to advised on particular fisheries or fishery management units. The members and a chairman are appointed by the Council. The membership of each such Panel shall be composed of a balanced representation of the interests of those who are either actually engaged in the harvest, processing or consumption of, or are knowledgeable and interested in the conservation and management of, the applicable fishery or fishery management unit. The size of each such Panel and the number of Panels are discretionary within the resources budgeted to the particular Council, but they must be of sufficient size and number to permit a balanced representation of interests. The Panels shall meet in the region of Council jurisdiction as deemed necessary by the Council. No staff is assigned to these Panels, but staff support may be requested from the Chairman of the Council or the Executive Director.

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Director

8/17/76

Establishment and operation of such Panels as are needed will be in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (see Appendix A-2).