


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke  
Executive Director 

DATE: January 13, 1993

SUBJECT: Staff Tasking

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Review current tasking and give staff direction

**BACKGROUND**

A summary of the current status of plan amendments, regulatory amendments, and other actions in progress is found under agenda item B-2, the NMFS Management Report. These items are in various stages of completion, with several items backlogged at the Proposed Rulemaking stage, awaiting submission to the Secretary of Commerce. Included in this list are the Moratorium and the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan. Council and Region staff are working to get these items through the system. As the Council is aware, the proposed Comprehensive Rationalization Program will consume a large amount of the available staff in the future, including Council, Region, and Center analysts. We are already working on compilation of initial data bases, some of which will be provided at this meeting. As we get further down the road on this project, the Council will need to really scrutinize its priorities for staff tasking.

GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

D-5

Name of Proposer: Midwater Trawlers Cooperative

Date: 1/16/93

Address: 4055 21<sup>st</sup> ave W Seattle, WA

Telephone: (206) 285-3480

Fishery Management Plan: BS/AL Groundfish

**Brief Statement of Proposal:**

Ban "Night" trawling for Pacific cod  
(Night needs to be defined and options for hours of closures proposed for analysis)

**Objectives of Proposal: (What is the problem?)**

stop fishing for Pacific cod during periods of time when cod are off the seabed, cod catch rates are the lowest and halibut by-catch rates per ton of cod catch are documented to be abnormally high.

**Need and Justification for Council Action: (Why can't the problem be resolved through other channels?)**

This action can reportedly occur only by plan amendment

**Foreseeable Impacts of Proposal: (Who wins, who loses?)**

will move to maximize cod catch per unit of halibut by-catch. Proposal will move to maximize net economic benefit to the nation by increasing total groundfish harvest under fixed halibut cap

**Are There Alternative Solutions? If so, what are they and why do you consider your proposal the best way of solving the problem?**

No other alternative solutions known. must be solved by regulation

**Supportive Data & Other Information: What data are available and where can they be found?**

A wealth of data exists which document the validity of this proposal. sources are the NMFS observer program and IPHC documents which have already studied this issue

**Signature:**

Stewart Hughes, Technical Advisor for MTC