

Agenda 9
Sept. 1978

Recommendations Proposed for Approval by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council at its Meeting on September 29, 1978, Sitka, Alaska

1. Begin immediate renegotiations with Canada with the aim of continuing joint halibut research after April 1, 1979. In the event this is unacceptable to Canada, the following course of action is recommended:
 2. Terminate the International Pacific Halibut Commission on April 1, 1979 as scheduled.
 3. Transfer management of halibut stocks off Alaska to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the stocks off Washington, Oregon and California to the Pacific Fishery Management Council.
 4. Transfer research functions of the Halibut Commission to a new division of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
 5. Retain present quarters of the Halibut Commission for use by the new halibut division of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
 6. Continue research on the transboundary nature of all or part of the North Pacific halibut stocks through the new division of NMFS. Input from Canada as well as other governmental agencies should be sought.
 7. Transfer as many of the present staff members of the Halibut Commission as possible to the new division of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
 8. Discontinue reciprocal fishing privileges as of April 1, 1979.
 9. Seek negotiations with Canada to determine questions of management of and access and entitlements to the transboundary halibut stocks if after the transboundary study is completed, it is determined that all or part of the halibut resource is transboundary.
 10. Seek legislation immediately to transfer the functions of the U.S. part of the International Pacific Halibut Commission to the proposed new halibut division of the National Marine Fisheries Service, including sufficient additional funding to carry out the present work of the Halibut Commission and including transfer of present Commission personnel ceilings as additions to the personnel ceilings of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. Such funding and ceilings should be earmarked for halibut research. Management functions should also be transferred to the North Pacific and Pacific Councils if additional authorization is needed for this purpose.

Sullivan:

We can have reciprocal research on halibut.

Jensen: Canadians feel they have grandfather rights on Gulf of AK halibut.

NMFS will provide ongoing halibut research w/ 1 copy for US and 1 copy for Canada.

11. Make certain that copies of the two Councils' management plans for halibut are forwarded by the appropriate level of the U.S. management system to Canada for comment with Canadian views then to be given consideration during the plan review process.
12. Request Canada to forward to the U.S. its plan for halibut management and research in its offshore waters with the view of coordinating management and research in the two countries insofar as possible.
13. Attempt to the extent possible to duplicate for 1979 the halibut regulations which were in effect in 1978.
14. Begin negotiations with Canada for preservation for both countries of all the data of the Commission and for division of present facilities paid for in the past by both Canada and the United States.

September 18, 1978