



National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

MAY 21 1990

May 14, 1990

Dr. Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

ACTION	ROUTE TO	INITIAL
	Exec. Dir.	
	Deputy Dir.	
	Admin. Off.	ST
	Exec. Sec.	
	Staff Asst. 1	
	Staff Asst. 2	
	Staff Asst. 3	
	Economist	
	Sec. Mgr.	
	Sec./Typist	

Dear Clarence:

The 1988 Amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act created a new Section 114, which included guidelines for a 5-year interim exemption program for commercial fisheries. The NMFS has begun to develop guidelines for a permanent regime to govern the taking of marine mammals by commercial fisheries. The Secretary of Commerce will present the final recommendations to Congress in January 1991.

As part of the development process, the NMFS will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS will present alternative regimes and discuss the environmental impacts of each. The initial agency action for this program is to hold scoping meetings in various parts of the nation. The first scoping meeting will be in Silver Spring on May 31. The Northwest Region tentatively set June 12 as a date for a meeting in Seattle. The Alaska Region wishes to hold a scoping meeting in conjunction with the June Council meeting. This should be preceded by a brief presentation to the Council to explain the process and how it affects commercial fisheries in Alaska. Steve Davis have tentatively "penciled in" a presentation to the Council on the schedule for Monday, June 25, to be followed by a scoping meeting at 7:00 that evening.

If any arrangements need to be made to expedite scheduling, please contact Dr. Steven Zimmerman (586-7235) or John Sease (586-7510) of my staff in Juneau.

Sincerely,

Steven Pennoyer
Director, Alaska Region

