

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's been an interesting summer and many things have happened in the fisheries off Alaska since we met in May. Among the highlights is the rapid expansion of the U.S. fishery for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska which attained the OY in the Central Gulf by September 11. American effort has now moved to the Western Gulf and precluded any possibility of a directed foreign fishery for sablefish this year in the Central Gulf since they not only caught the DAP but also the TALFF.

Joint venture fishermen caught 34,000 tons of Atka mackerel in the Aleutians, taking the available OY with the exception of very small amounts left for bycatch in other fisheries.

The Pacific ocean perch fishery announced at the last meeting by Ted West of Alaskan Fisheries Co. began on schedule based out of Chernofsky on Unalaska Island. It's doing well and may exceed the original 2,000 ton target figure.

And then, of course, there is the incredible shrinking halibut season.

Meetings Held and Attended

There have been a number of Council workgroup meetings this summer. The Gulf of Alaska plan team has met as has a special Gulf of Alaska halibut bycatch workgroup. A public hearing was held on the Council's comprehensive goals and objectives in Seattle on September 7 and the Council's joint venture workgroup and Advisory Panel workgroup have both met. The results of those meetings are reflected in the appropriate agenda items in your book.

The staff had an opportunity to spend an evening with Council members John Peterson and Henry Mitchell to talk about Council procedure and discuss the status of many of the Council programs.

I and Ron Miller and Council member Jeff Stephan attended the Fisheries Law Symposium in Seattle last weekend and I attended the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Ithaca, New York, where I presented a paper authored by Ron Miller, Doug Larson and myself and was a discussant on the Management panel.

Doug Larson and Ron Rogness have co-authored a paper which Ron will be giving at the Alaska Science Conference next week. It is based on the modeling work they've done for the Tanner crab agenda item at this meeting. Ron Rogness, whom you may not have had a chance to meet, is a Sea Grant intern who has been with us since last June. He is a graduate student in the natural resources economics program at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and will be with us until the end of the year. We had another Sea Grant intern with us from May through mid-August, Steve Brooks, who made a lot of progress toward updating the Gulf of Alaska groundfish plan. Both positions were funded by the Alaska Sea Grant Program and have been of real value to us. I hope we can continue the program and I still intend to see if we can't get one of the national Sea Grant intern slots which are funded for a full 12 months.

As I reported earlier in one of the Council mailings, my trip on the OSHORO MARU was a very profitable exercise in my opinion. My report of the trip is turning out to be longer than I had originally expected and while the bulk of it has been written, I have not had an opportunity to finish it since my return. I hope to get it to you in the near future.

#### Council Offices Moving

We will move our headquarters to the Sunshine Mall next week. That's the bright yellow building next to the Post Office Mall where we began our operation. This building will undergo extensive renovation which will take at least a year, but we do expect to get back in it eventually although in a different location. Our post office address will remain the same. Our street address will be 411 W. 4th Ave., Suite 2D.

#### End of Fiscal Year

Our fiscal year ends September 30. Please get your travel claims in as soon as possible after this meeting so we can clear our books before everybody in the accounting office gets excited.

#### Fisheries Debris and Entanglement Problems

We're continuing to work on the problem of discarded and lost fishing gear as time permits. We've worked with the Marine Mammal Commission to aid the NMFS Auke Bay Lab to expand their beach inventory system for debris. Ted Merrell continued the work he began on Amchitka over ten years ago by standardizing an inventory system that he and others used on beaches from Middleton Island to Dixon Entrance and that Fish & Wildlife Service field parties used in the Aleutians this summer. We're coordinating a debris and gear reporting system that will tie in Coast Guard ships, NOAA ships and, as soon as possible, vessels engaged in oil industry activities and the fishing industry. Using a standard reporting form, the information will be funneled into the NMFS Auke Bay Lab for compilation and analysis.

I attended a second and final steering committee meeting for the Workshop on the Fate and Impact of Marine Debris scheduled for November 26-29 in Honolulu.

Congress appropriated an additional \$1 million to National Marine Fisheries Service for 1985 for work on entanglement problems. We have had some input into the development of that program and expect to have more as it matures.

The Council originally became involved in this area because of their interest in understanding where the net marks on salmon taken in the Southeastern Alaska troll fishery originated. Because the problem is obviously more than just net marks on salmon, it has become necessary to get involved in trying to determine how big the problem of lost and discarded fishing gear is, both in terms of amount of gear and how and what it affects before it will be possible to decide how best to resolve that problem.

#### Insurance for U.S. Observers

At the May meeting you asked us to look into insurance coverage for observers on domestic vessels in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery. We have determined there are two ways to go: purchase an insurance policy that would cover all observers placed on domestic vessels in the Gulf, or reimburse vessel

owners for the cost of extending their P and I coverage to the observers. The latter approach appears to be the least expensive since a separate policy for observers would not have to be maintained throughout the year. This subject does not appear to require immediate Council action because the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan must be amended to allow the federal government to pay any of the expenses associated with placing an observer aboard a domestic vessel in the fishery. The FMP now states that the observer program on domestic vessels in the Gulf groundfish fishery shall be at no expense to the United States.

Another issue that arose in this regard is insurance coverage for Council staff when they are on fishing vessels. The Council could, as in the case of observers, reimburse vessel owners for extending their existing policies to cover Council staff for the length of their stay on the vessel. A contract by which the Council would reimburse the insurance and other costs associated with a staff member's stay on a vessel is included as Attachment B-1(a) to this report for your information. Action could be scheduled for our next meeting when the costs for observer/staff insurance and upkeep while on a vessel will be provided.

#### Council Committee Assignments

Attachment B-1(b) is a list of the committees of which you are currently a member. It will be useful background material when the Chairman discusses this subject with you later in this meeting.

Attachment B-1(c) is the current status of the Council's fishery management plans and their various amendments.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT  
between the  
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
and

NAME OF COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF VESSEL \_\_\_\_\_

TO COVER ALLOWABLE COSTS

TO VESSEL OWNERS CARRYING NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

This Agreement entered into between the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and the owner or managing owner of the vessel (Owner).

WHEREAS, The NPFMC has established a policy of placing its employees on board vessels fishing in the Fishery Conservation Zone off Alaska for the purposes of observing fishing operations and collecting data; and

WHEREAS, the Owner has agreed to carry a NPFMC employee on his vessel under the following conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed that:

1. The NPFMC employee will present himself to the vessel Captain at least \_\_\_\_\_ hours prior to sailing and be prepared to board at that time.

2. The vessel Captain will assign the NPFMC employee suitable living quarters on board the vessel during the entire fishing trip. Such quarters shall be comparable to that assigned crew members. Meals and snacks, similar to that provided assigned crew members, shall be provided to the NPFMC employee during the fishing trip. Amenities normally provided to other crew members shall also be provided to the employee.

3. The NPFMC will reimburse the Owner in the amount not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ per day for reasonable expenses at a daily rate for each day or part thereof that the observer is on board the vessel. For the period covered by this Agreement, the NPFMC may request additional documentation for invoices submitted.

a. The Owner shall prepare a detailed billing outlining the charges being made for subsistence plus other allowable costs incurred as a result of the NPFMC observer being on board the vessel. Invoices will be submitted within 90 days following the completion of the fishing trip. Failure to submit invoices within the required time may result in the Owner not receiving reimbursement.

b. Invoices (original and one copy) shall be forwarded to NPFMC, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510.

c. Invoices submitted by the Owner shall be subject to an audit at the discretion of the NPFMC.

4. The NPFMC will reimburse the Owner for the following costs:

a. Telecommunications charges applicable to official business calls made by the NPFMC employee.

b. Cost to the Owner for extending his protection and indemnity insurance to cover the NPFMC employee to the same extent as the Owner carries insurance on crew members.

c. Lost fishing time arising from NPFMC employee injury or sickness requiring evacuation, provided that a notification of the nature of the emergency is transmitted to the NPFMC issuing office at the earliest practical time. The NPFMC will pay only for those days during which the vessel is unable to fish as a direct result of preparing for and evacuating the injured or ill NPFMC employee, including time travelling to and from the fishing grounds and any documented out-of-pocket expenses for port of entry and medical services. Payment will be based on the historical catch rate per day at sea for the vessel averaged for the previous two years of fishing data or if not available, on the historical catch rate for the applicable class of vessel.

5. The Agreement shall cover that period that the NPFMC employee is on board the vessel.

6. The Owner shall indemnify and hold the NPFMC harmless from any and all losses, damages, or liability--or claims therefore--on account of personal injury, death, or property damage of any nature whatsoever, arising out of the activities of the Owner, his employees, subcontractors, or agents. The Owner, at its own expense, shall maintain public liability and property damage insurance during the term of this contract and any extension thereof.

7. Any questions involving interpretation of this Agreement shall be referred to the Alaska Office of NOAA General Counsel. The NPFMC employee on board the vessel has no authority to modify or change the terms of this Agreement. Any modification must be made in writing by the issuing officer.

8. All data collected under this Agreement shall be confidential. It may be released only in accordance with the provisions of NOAA Directive 88-30. Any information regarding unique fishing practices or techniques employed in fishing for ~~swordfish~~ by the operator of the vessel and acquired by the observer shall also be confidential and may not be released.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year of the last signature date indicated below.

OWNER OR DESIGNEE

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director

Company  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

These are the current committee assignments as our records show:

CAMPBELL	1. *Board/Council Coordinating *Halibut *Policy & Planning Herring.
COLLINSWORTH	GOA Groundfish BSAI Groundfish Herring King Crab Tanner Crab Troll Salmon Board/Council Coordinating Finance Halibut Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating Net-mark, Interception and Entanglement Policy & Planning AD HOC Comprehensive Goals
DIDONATO	Board/Council Coordinating Policy & Planning
HARVILLE	GOA Groundfish BSAI Groundfish Herring King Crab Troll Salmon Finance Incidental Species Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating *Net-mark, Interception & Entanglement Policy & Planning AD HOC Comprehensive Goals AD HOC Advisory Panel Operations
HEMPHILL	*AP Nominating Committee Incidental Species
LUCAS	Permit Review AD HOC JV/Foreign Allocations Policy
MACE	AP Nominating Committee Permit Review
McVEY	King Crab Finance Halibut Inter-Council Salmon Coordinating Policy & Planning

\*Denotes chairman of the committee.

MITCHELL	AP Nominating Permit Review
NELSON	BSAI Groundfish Herring AD HOC Comprehensive Goals Policy & Planning
PETERSEN	AP Nominating Committee Incidental Species Permit Review AD HOC JV/Foreign Allocations
PETERSON	Finance Halibut
STEPHAN	Halibut Incidental Species Net-mark, Interception and Entanglement Policy & Planning
WINTHER	*Finance Halibut Incidental Species Permit Review

\*Denotes chairman of the committee.

STATUS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Salmon FMP

ADF&G will present a status report on the 1984 fishery. However, no formal action is required by the Council at this meeting. Last February the Council met with the Board of Fisheries and continued the chinook harvest range at 243,000 to 272,000 fish for the 1984 season. The Council's intention was to manage for the low end of this range if Canada matched this action in conservatively managing their fisheries. No plan amendments were needed as a result of Council action in February.

2. Herring FMP

An RFP for offshore research was sent to the public on June 13 with a response deadline of July 31. No responses were received.

Industry has recommended to NMFS that a Secretarial Plan be drafted and implemented for an offshore fishery. NMFS will report on this request at this meeting. The Council placed its plan on hold in May 1984 until more information could be gathered.

3. King Crab FMP

Secretarial review started on July 16, 1984. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on July 19 and public comments are being accepted until September 28. The FMP is scheduled to be effective on December 2, 1984.

4. Tanner Crab FMP

The Council and Board of Fisheries will meet jointly on Wednesday, September 26, to discuss proposals to the Board on exclusive registration areas and pot limits. They will also review an in-depth study on exclusive areas and pot limits recently completed by staff of the Council, ADF&G, and NMFS. The Council will then provide direction to the Tanner crab plan team on any amendments to the FMP that may be needed as a result of Board actions at this meeting.

The Council will also review the status of Amendment 9 to the Tanner crab plan. This amendment would have given the NMFS Regional Director authority to set seasons using rulemaking notices and change seasons using field orders based on either biological or socioeconomic needs. The amendment has just been partially disapproved by NMFS.

5. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

The Council needs to request two emergency rules:

- (1) raising the incidental halibut bycatch ceilings for the domestic trawl fisheries, and
- (2) closing the sablefish fishery in federal cul-de-sacs in Southeast Alaska.

These two rules were originally passed by the Council in December 1983 and February 1984, respectively.

The Council will review the status of groundfish stocks in the Gulf of Alaska and put out for public review preliminary estimates of optimum yield and apportionments to domestic and foreign fisheries for 1985. Final action on these estimates is scheduled for the December Council meeting.

Amendment 12, which would ban pots in the Southeast sablefish fishery, will be re-examined by the Council at this meeting. The amendment was originally passed by the Council in July 1982 but has had several procedural problems.

Amendment 13, which combines the Western and Central areas for pollock management and sets the OY at 400,000 mt became effective August 13, 1984.

6. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP

The Council will review the latest assessments of groundfish stock abundance in the Bering Sea/Aleutians for 1985 and set preliminary levels of total allowable catch for each species and initial apportionments to the domestic and foreign fisheries. These estimates will be sent out for public review and a final decision made in December.