Executive Director's Report

First, welcome back from the summer recess. It's passed all too quickly and our staff, as well as those from the Region and Center, have been very busy completing amendment analyses and preparing the initial groundfish stock assessments you'll review this week. As you're already aware, and will hear more about under agenda item C-1 Legislative Update, Congress has been busy with Magnuson Act amendments this past week. Keeping track of new legislation and developments on the international front, planning the domestic observer program for 1990, completing various amendment analyses, and updating all the stock assessment reports will keep everyone running at full speed between now and the December meeting.

This week's agenda is loaded with many, very heavy issues - the types of decisions that potentially could change the whole look of the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. As we go through the week, we'll have to keep a close eye on tasking and the number of analysts that can be mustered from the Region and Alaska Fisheries Science Center, ADF&G, and the academic community to help out. Along those lines, item B-1(a) is a letter from Council member Bob Alverson requesting a review of the plan teams in December. He has listed several people that he would like on the teams. I will place such a review on the agenda, and the Council will review AP memberships also. SSC members have two year terms.

You'll note that the executive lunch has been moved to Wednesday vice Tuesday because there was no room in which to eat. During that session we'll receive a full briefing on the negotiations in the Soviet Union. Today and Thursday and Friday, it's sandwiches and chips here in the meeting room. There also are committee/workgroup meetings planned every evening. Let's hope by Friday that we actually get the whole agenda completed.

December's meeting could be a long one also. When discussing halibut management tomorrow, we'll need to determine when to meet with the International Pacific Halibut Commissioners. I've suggested December because of the issues of bycatch, allocation, and limited entry that will be on the agenda. If we do meet jointly then, we may need to start on Monday.

During October 18 -21, the Council will have a booth at Fish Expo, #6415-6417 in the Exhibition Hall, shared with ADF&G, NOAA Fisheries Region, and Alaska Sea Grant. Council members are encouraged to stop by if you are in the area and want to help explain to the public what we're doing in management.

As indicated in item B-1(b), there will be an orientation on February 6-7 for new and not-so-new Council members in Washington, D.C. Please let me know if you want to attend.

And finally, we've received a response from GAO on our request for a study of foreign and domestic ownership of the processing industry (B-1(c)).

Questions for Future Trivia Contest

Question: How many copies will wear out a copying machine in the Council office?
Answer: The old machine recently wore out after 3.5 years and 3.3 million copies.

Question: How many copies are needed for a Council meeting?
Answer: Our new machine has been on line for 8 working days and has generated 115,000 copies for this week's meetings (and we're not done, yet).
September 1, 1989

Mr. John G. Peterson  
Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave.  
P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On July 25, 1989, staff from our Seattle Regional Office met with you to discuss your letter requesting us to study the foreign and domestic ownership of the processing sectors for fisheries off Alaska. As we explained to you, the U.S. General Accounting Office is a congressional agency that responds to the needs of congress for information and evaluations of federally funded programs. The U.S. General Accounting Office is not authorized to initiate work at the request of private agencies. Accordingly, we cannot perform a formal review of processors' ownership as you requested.

However, as agreed, our Seattle Regional Office will provide some technical assistance to the Council in designing a questionnaire if the Council decides to study the foreign ownership question. Seattle Regional Office staff who have experience in designing such questionnaires will be available to provide some assistance to the Council when it is needed.

We trust that this arrangement will be of some benefit to the Council in their desire to determine the type of ownership of the seafood processing sectors. Should you have any further questions about this matter, please call either Mr. Charles Mosher or Mr. Don Praast on (206) 442-5356, or Mr. Frank Subalusky on (202) 426-1780.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John P. Carroll  
Regional Manager
August 30, 1989

Mr. Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510

RE: Plan Teams

Dear Clarence:

I have sent a letter to the S.E. Alaska and Sand Point NMFS directors requesting that they consider Janet Wall, Russ Nelson and Janet Smoker on the Plan Teams based on your information on the same subject. I would point out that the Council has ultimate responsibility for the make-up of the teams. I believe that the Council should review all the Plan Teams and their make-up by the December Council meeting.

Current policy provides for nominations to come from the Council, SSC or AP in addition to those the agencies submit to the Council. I submit for consideration Janet Wall, Janet Smoker and Russ Nelson as possible Plan Team participants.

Very truly yours,

Robert D. Alverson
Manager

RDA: cb
Mr. John G. Petersen, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W. 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Petersen:

Plans are underway for another new Council member orientation. Participants from the last two orientations found the meetings useful and recommended that they be held regularly. We have tentatively scheduled a two-day orientation for February 6-7, 1990. Sessions will be held in our new Silver Spring Conference Room.

Each Council should plan to cover travel expenses for its new members and other participants that it decides to send. Although meeting content will be directed to new Council members, attendance is not limited. However, final participation will depend on what your Council's budget will permit.

Please let me know by September 30, 1989, your Council's intentions so that we may have some idea of the expected level of participation.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Schaefer  
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management