



Appendix E.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, Washington 98112

August 31, 1977

Mr. Jim Branson, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim:

Please find attached a copy of the minutes of the SSC meeting held on August 24-25, 1977, in Kodiak, Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dayton L. Alverson
Chairman, SSC

Enclosure

cc:
Rasmuson w/enclosure on 9-6-77
SSC members w/enclosure



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
OF THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILAugust 24-25, 1977
Kodiak, Alaska

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Kodiak, Alaska, from 7:00-9:30 PM, August 24, and from 8:30-10:30 AM, August 25. All members of the Committee were present. The major topics discussed included (1) revision of the current draft outline for fishery management plans; (2) the Stoker report concerned with interactions between walrus and clams in the Bering Sea; (3) the necessity of having an inter-meeting prior to the next full session of the Council; (4) research proposals (RFP's); (5) optimum yields for fishery management plans; (6) the committee report on socio-economic needs; and (7) the need for a general educational forum for Council members.

Revision of Draft Outline

Members of the SSC unanimously agreed that the existing detailed outline for management plans was tedious, failed to result in a cohesive report, and made it difficult for Council members and others to ascertain the rationale supporting management decisions proposed in the plans. The members noted that the difficulty resulted from excessive verbiage associated with biological, sociological, and economic descriptors. The members acknowledged that such information was pertinent and, to a degree, mandated by the legislation; but, nevertheless, felt that the outline could be restructured in order to result in a more reasonable and readable document.

The Committee recommended the following format for the basic management plan:

- A. Cover Sheet
- B. Executive Summary
- C. Management Plan Content
 - 1.0 Table of Contents
 - 2.0 Introduction
 - 2.1 Goals and objectives for management plan
 - 2.2 Operational definitions of terms used
 - 3.0 Description of fishery (short abstract)
 - 3.3 History of management (short abstract)
 - 4.0 Biological descriptors
 - 4.7 Current status of stocks
 - 4.8 Estimate of future stock conditions
 - 5.0 Catch and capacity descriptors
 - 6.0 Optimum yield concept
 - 7.0 Total allowable level of foreign fishery
 - 8.0 Management regime

The remaining material, including full coverage of 3.0, 4.0, etc., would be attached to the plan as appendices or annexes. The environmental impact statement and economic impact statement would be similarly attached, hence meeting all the specific reports, data requirements, etc., as outlined in the legislation.

The Committee also examined the Federal Register document dealing, in particular, with the issue, "Contents of Fishery Management Plans." The Committee was unanimously opposed to the

standard format as outlined for the plans and felt that many of the items listed would substantially delay plan preparation and generated a great deal of verbose, unnecessary information. Although the Committee felt that all of the items in some way were desirable as background information concerning a fishery or fisheries, much of the material could be incorporated into a general study document and need not be specifically identified for management plans. The Committee recommends that the Council send a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service objecting to the standard format for fishery management plans as described in the Federal Register and suggesting specific alterations for both the format and topics included.

Steker Report

The SSC noted that it had received a copy of a report, prepared by Sam W. Steker, concerning potential interaction between a clam fishery and certain marine mammals of the Bering Sea. The Chairman noted that the report contained a number of value judgements and failed to support many of its conclusions with facts or data. Inasmuch as the report might have a substantial impact on the potential development of a clam fishery in the Bering Sea, the SSC has recommended that two review groups examine the document; the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NMFS scientists will review the paper and submit comments to the Committee Chairman. These review comments will be summarized and submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

The Committee was briefed on the clam survey results which showed evidence of commercial potential along the Aleutian Chain in the area from Port Moller, east towards Bristol Bay.

Inasmuch as a report will soon be published demonstrating commercial potential, it is recommended that the Council convert its study group to a management team and that ADF&G take the lead agency role in this matter. A full report of the clam study will be given at the next Council meeting.

Inter-Meeting

In order to accomplish the workload of the SSC, it will be necessary to establish an inter-meeting prior to the next session. In order to meet its commitments, the SSC will schedule a meeting in Anchorage, prior to the next Council meeting, on September 20-21.

Research Proposals (RFP's)

The Committee examined a number of RFP's as prepared by the Council and agreed to assist in their modification. The Chairman will submit comments concerning the RFP's to the Executive Director during the early part of the week of August 29.

A research proposal by Dr. Katz was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee recommended that the proposal not be funded on the basis that it does not meet the general criteria for high priority projects as outlined at the last session of the SSC.

Optimum Yield

The Committee briefly examined the OY values as submitted in the most recent report (August 16) from NOAA headquarters.

Members found it difficult to properly evaluate the OY values inasmuch as no data were provided on MSY values, equilibrium yield values, or allowable biological catch data. In the absence of such information, the Committee could not make enlightened commentary. Regardless, the following points should be considered:

We recognize that the EY for Pacific pollock has been set at 1 million metric tons and the total allowable foreign catch at 950,000. Considering the general quality of the data upon which estimates are made, the Committee would prefer a somewhat more conservative approach--e.g., 850,000 tons. The Committee also recommends that the management team re-evaluate blackcod values in light of the new analyses conducted by Dr. Low at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. It was brought to the attention of the SSC that it might be desirable to attempt to lower the OY value in order to achieve higher average size of fish. The Committee noted there were two sides to this issue: that concerned with the contribution of food to the world protein source, and consumer interest. Although the interest of U.S. fishermen might be better served by establishing a higher average size, there could be a substantial biological loss resulting in increased fish prices to consumer groups.

Socio-economic report

The socio-economic report under preparation by a Committee sub-panel is still in progress and is not expected prior to the next session of the Council.

General Educational Forum

The Committee felt it might be appropriate that a seminar or workshop be established which would provide a vehicle to educate Council members concerning general biological concepts, terminology, and rudiments of socio-economic theory.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Washington, D.C. 20235

F31/BN

JUN 10 1977



TO: Distribution*
 FROM: *for* Robert M. Schoning, Director
 National Marine Fisheries Service, F3
 SUBJECT: Fee Schedule for Foreign Fishing in 1978

Attached for your review is our first draft of the proposed fee schedule applicable to foreign fishing in waters under U.S. jurisdiction in calendar year 1978. We invite your comments at this early stage of preparation of a new schedule.

You will notice that this proposal is basically the same as the fee schedule established for the year 1977 with the only change being made in prices for fish as the basis for the poundage fee. There are several reasons for this adherence to the original fee schedule approach. First, our experience so far with this schedule indicates that the fees are simple to compute and are easily understood by the foreign applicants for vessel permits. Second, with regard to the approach of charging vessel permit fees and poundage fees, there is not enough new information on hand to warrant changing the concept. Third, the time we have been working with this schedule has been too short to provide us with additional information that would justify any significant changes at this time. Nevertheless, we are interested in comments on any part of it.

In establishing the fee schedule for 1977 and in proposing this schedule for 1978, we have considered all the comments received in the past. We are still seeking additional advice on the following issues:

1. Should fees be charged for valuable non-surplus species taken as by-catch with target species. Closely related to this is the question of whether these incidentally taken valuable species should be discarded or retained by the foreigners. Present foreign fishing regulations require that the incidental catch of prohibited species be returned to the sea immediately (Fed. Reg. Vol. 42, No. 29, Feb. 11, 1977, §611.13). The category of prohibited species includes all Continental Shelf fishery resources (crabs, lobsters, etc.) and all other species of fish which foreign



fishing vessels are not specifically authorized to retain (like cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, and others - \$611.54). The latter are species which are now or are expected to be fully utilized by domestic fishermen, hence there is no surplus available for allocation to foreigners. The determination of whether to retain or discard prohibited species must be made in the appropriate fishery management plans prepared by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, or in the preliminary fishery management plans prepared by the Secretary.

Charging of fees is a separate issue. Some reviewers of the 1977 fee schedule proposed that the incidental catch of these valuable species should not be discarded, and that high fees should be charged for it. Others suggested that the incidental catch should not be retained, but that high fees should be charged (based on reported catch). Still others advocated no fees be charged for discards.

We interpret "high fees" to be fees which are essentially higher than those currently applied to surplus species (3.5% of the ex-vessel value in 1977).

2. Basis for calculation of poundage fee. U. S. commercial landings in 1976, as published in Fisheries of the United States, 1976 (NMFS, Current Fishery Statistics No. 7200, April 1977), will be the basis for calculating the ex-vessel unit value of fish (average unit value for 1976), where applicable, for determining fee charges in 1978. Unit values for species that are not landed in the United States will be based on their landed values in selected foreign countries in 1976 (Japan, Korea, and others). It may be argued that more recent information than that available for 1976 should be used for the 1978 fee schedule. It must be recognized that the 1976 data are the latest available published information for an entire year (average annual price). Any adjustments to account for inflation in 1977 would have to be based on information on prices for only a few months, giving rise to questioning the accuracy of such estimates because of inherent seasonal fluctuations of fish prices. The merit in having a nationally published list based on known extensive nationwide sampling outweighs the approach of using incomplete data.

3. Level of fees. The proposed rate of 3.5 percent of the ex-vessel value of fish (poundage fee) is the same as that applied in 1977. Some earlier comments indicated that it was too high, proposing that it be lowered to 1.5 - 2 percent. Others suggested that more than 3.5 percent --up to 5 percent-- should be charged. Since we have not yet received any meaningful data on the cost of

fishing by various foreign fleets, it would be unwise to change the rate at this time without having received additional convincing data. The only guide at hand at this time for deciding on the level of fees, other than the criteria used for 1977, is the amount being collected for the year 1977: approximately \$1 million from permit fees, and \$9.5 million from poundage fees. We hope to obtain more information in 1977.

In submitting this proposal, we are soliciting your ideas about necessary changes in the fee schedule and the basis for such changes. Our tentative time frame requires that we have the permits delivered to foreign nations by November 12. Therefore, we ask you to submit your comments as soon as possible, but not later than July 15. A notice of the proposed fee schedule will also appear in the Federal Register, with an invitation for comments from all interested parties.

Attachment

***Distribution**

F, F2, F4, F5, All Regional Directors, All Center Directors,
All Regional Fishery Management Councils' Executive Directors,
Fx5, GCF, MR-NOAA, USCG, DOS



Hutton
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center

August 16, 1977

TO: Members, Scientific and Statistical Committee
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

In recent discussions with Steve Pennoyer, it has become apparent that there are a number of other items we will need to discuss at our Kodiak meeting. They include:

- The recent Stoker report (Clams Vs. Walrus)
- The new PMP values for OY for 1978
- Comments on the requests for research proposals
- The Federal Register guidance outline

These items are included in the attached agenda for our next session.

It is apparent that we will not be able to complete our discussions during the first evening, and it will be necessary to meet concurrently with the Council's sessions.

Sincerely,

Dayton L. Alverson
Chairman, SSC

cc:
Branson

