RESEARCH PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

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PRESENT PROJECTS - CURRENT

1. Blackcod - A study to investigate markets for blackcod products from fish caught in Alaskan waters.

   This study will analyze the contribution of Alaskan processed fish to the world market. Some of the impediments to full domestic utilization will be discussed. Management alternatives for future development of the blackcod fishery and other fisheries under the MFCMA will be developed.

   Estimated project completion - August 1981

2. Halibut - A workshop to consider the applicability of different measures for controlling effort in the Alaska fishery.

   I have scheduled a workshop on May 14 and 15 in Seattle. This will be a small meeting of scientists having familiarity both with the economic theory of managing fishing effort and the halibut fishery. The goal of this workshop is to determine first, from a theoretical point of view, whether some sort of limited entry program for Alaska's halibut fishery is desirable, feasible or warranted, and then if so, which approaches to managing fishing effort would be best. If the members of the workshop can determine the most appropriate policy alternatives and the application of those alternatives to the halibut fishery, the Council and the Limited Entry Workgroup of the Council can further evaluate these alternatives in terms of costs and benefits to user groups and the Alaska resource owners.

   Estimated project completion - ~~April~~ May 1981

3. An Economic Profile of the Southeast Alaska Salmon Industry.

   There will be a meeting April 27 and 28 between myself and economists with NMFS Juneau, NWAFC, and CFEC to complete a project proposal for the above study. This research will result in development of a computer simulation model which will provide information on impacts to fishermen and communities resulting from fishery management decisions. The project is directed specifically at the salmon fishery, however the model will be maintained to evaluate management decisions in other fisheries.

   Estimated project starting date - July 1981

FUTURE PROJECTS

1. Herring - The Use of the Alaskan Resource as a Roe Fishery vs. a Food/ Bait Fishery.

   There have been several studies completed recently on the feasibility of processing and marketing Alaskan herring as a food rather than a roe product. This project will summarize the recent studies for the Council members and outline the resource utilization decision in terms of economic theory.

   Estimated time required - approximately 3 weeks

2. Effects of Vessel Financing Programs on the Composition and Investment Decisions of Alaska's Commercial Fishing Fleet.

   Status: I have contacted one of the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Agents who has been working with the various vessel financing programs. He indicated an interest in working with me on this project. When I have the time available, this project will be pursued.

   Estimated time required - approximately 3 months

3. Joint Venture Analysis

   This project will evaluate the concept of joint ventures in Alaskan waters as they were originally conceived and also how the concept is evolving in new applications. The types of questions to be answered include:

   a) Have joint ventures succeeded in increasing U.S. participation in previously unexploited fisheries?

   b) What is the performance record of the current joint ventures? Why or why not have they been successful?

   c) Where are joint ventures evolving as a concept or management tool for fishery development in Alaska?

      Status: no action taken as yet
      Estimated time required: 4-6 months

OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

Preparation of two articles to be submitted to professional journals. One is being co-authored by Jeff Povolny to be submitted to Ocean Development and International Law. Another article will be submitted to the Western Journal of Agricultural Economics. Both articles deal with the recent Council decisions on foreign Tanner crab fishing and how the development of the U.S. fishery is encouraged under the MFCMA.