

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

## CHAIRMAN

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Subject: Summary of North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting of January 28, 1977 in Anchorage, Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met in Anchorage, Alaska, January 26-28. Concurrent meetings were held by the Advisory Panel and the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Jim Branson was appointed Executive Director, and Mr. Branson accepted the appointment. The Council authorized the hiring of an Assistant Director and support staff subject to the Council's approval.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee reported to the Council on document identification and control, the establishment of special advisory groups to act as associate planning team members, and recommended working relationships between interregional planning groups developing plans on common or overlapping stocks.

Subcommittees were organized to review and make recommendations on the Council's statement of organization, practices and procedures, the draft Department of Commerce regulations, the proposed fee schedule for foreign fleets fishing in the U.S. FCZ, foreign applications for permits and the GIFA's.

The subcommittee responsible for the consideration of foreign permits and GIFA's did not report on GIFA's at this meeting because of the absence of a GIFA with Japan and the lack of time to review the existing GIFA's. The committee also was unable to report and comment on the foreign permit applications because the applications from the two major fishing countries off Alaska, Japan and USSR, were not

available, and the summaries provided with the applications on hand were insufficient for analysis. Representatives of NMFS and ADF&G developed a list of items to be included in the summary provided with foreign applications to facilitate review by persons not intimately knowledgeable of TAC's, each nation's traditional engagement in the fishery applied for, previous violations and gear conflicts, and the U.S. catch in that fishery or related fisheries in the area.

The Council's statement of organization, practices and procedures is being prepared for publishing in the Federal Register. Comments on the Department of Commerce draft regulations were generated for forwarding to the Department of Commerce by the Council.

Chairman Rasmuson and Vice-Chairman Lokken reviewed the Houston meeting of Council chairmen. Upon being assured by NMFS at the meeting that the Council's budget request would not be prejudiced by accepting the NOAA allocation of \$182.8K for the first six months of FY 1977, the Chairman recommended that he be instructed by the Council to sign a grant application for that amount to provide operating funds. This was done.

The question of foreign ownership of U.S. fishing vessels was considered by the Council. Due to the importance and complexity of the issue, the subcommittee did not report at this meeting, and was instructed to furnish the Council with its comments at the next meeting.

The Council adopted a subcommittee recommendation to support a foreign fee schedule of \$2 per gross vessel ton with no upper limit and an access charge of 3 1/2 percent of the ex-vessel value of landings. These changes were judged to be in line with the licenses and taxes paid by U.S. industry.

The Council verified that the management planning teams should proceed with plans on the tanner crab fishery, Bering Sea trawl fishery and Gulf of Alaska trawl fishery. The SSC recommended that a planning team be appointed to develop, in conjunction with the Pacific Council team, a plan for the domestic high seas (troll) salmon fishery. After considerable discussion of the species and areas involved, the recommendation for plan development and the committee team nominations were accepted by the Council.

The three treaties currently in force with respect to fisheries in the North Pacific Region, i.e., the INPFC, IPHC and IPSC, were discussed. The Council opted to request that each of the treaties be renegotiated by the Department of State to conform with P.L. 94-265.

The question of one-time congressional relief for display of foreign vessel permits, Council review of applications for permits, and congressional review of GIFA's were discussed. Since the Council members individually responded to the Regional Office on this matter, a formal resolution was not deemed necessary. There was a concensus that the Council would support any congressional action required to implement the Act.

Mayor Yamaguchi of Kushiro, Japan, testified at the public hearing. He presented a statement on the detrimental effects P.L. 94-265 could have on his city if the Japanese catches were reduced. He emphasized that he represented only his city, and was not acting as a representative of the Government of Japan.

Mr. Kim, representing a segment of the South Korean fishing industry, testified as to the importance of protein from marine fisheries to his country for human consumption, and the potential adverse impact P.L. 94-265 had on the well being of the people of the Republic of Korea.

Harry Rietze, at the Council's request, reported on the status of the PMP's. Mr. Rietze presented a summary of the changes in the current draft of the king and tanner crab PMP, emphasizing that the changes were not final and were subject to further alteration. Three other PMP's containing modifications from the DEIS/PMP's were identified. These were the sablefish, Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries, and the trawl and herring gillnet fisheries of the Bering Sea. Rietze pointed out that all four plans were still subject to change, since they had not gone through the final review stage at that time.

The next Council meeting will be in Anchorage, February 17-18.

RJSIMON/ljg

NAME OF AGENCY <b>Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA</b>	PRECEDENCE
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The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel met in Anchorage, Alaska on January 26-28, 1977.

Jim Branson appointed Executive Director and authorized to select an assistant and staff subject to Council approval.

Council instructed chairman to sign and submit a grant application for \$182,800 for Council operations. Council will submit follow-up on requested increase to NMFS central office.

Council determined its organization, practices and procedures and is preparing them for publication in Federal Register.

Council adopted a subcommittee recommendation for foreign vessel fee schedule of \$2 per gross ton and access fee of 3.5% of exvessel value.

Council will wire its comments on draft DOC Regulations to NMFS central office along with comments on foreign allocation.

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NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR (Type) <b>NMFS , FAK</b> <b>Harry L. Rietze, Director</b> <b>Alaska Region</b>	ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO. <b>(907)</b> <b>586-7229</b>
I certify that this message is official business, is not personal, and is in the interest of the Government.	
<i>by Robert J. Jensen</i> (Signature)	

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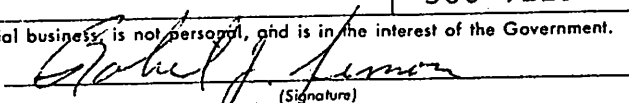
Major of Kushiro, Japan and a representative of the Korean fishing industry testified their nationals and industry heavily dependent upon Bering Sea-North Pacific Fisheries and asked Council not to reduce level of existing Fisheries.

Next Council meeting February 17-18, in Anchorage. The SSC will not meet concurrently.

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NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR (Type) NMF'S, FAK Harry L. Rietze, Director Alaska Region	ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO. (907) 586-7229
I certify that this message is official business, is not personal, and is in the interest of the Government.	
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develop plan and work with the Pacific Council team on an ocean salmon plan. Committee of advisors selected to work with the SSC to consider economic factors and determine OY.

At Council request Reitze presented summary of changes being considered in king and tanner crab PMP. Rietze indicated changes also being considered for sablefish, Gulf of Alaska trawl, and Bering Sea trawl PMP's. Rietze emphasized final review of four PMPs not complete.

Advisory Panel members commented on adverse impact of foreign tanner crab fishing upon the U.S. industry. One member stated his company has market for meat from 50-55 million pounds of tanner crab. Advisory Panel recommended no foreign crab fishing be permitted south of 58°N Lat. and east of 173°W Long. and a minimum C. bairdi size of 140 mm be set for foreign fishery. Council deferred action on minimum size until scientific information on growth rates reviewed.

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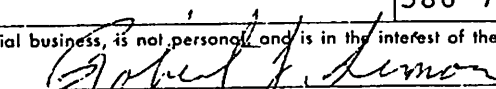
NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR (Type) NMFS, FAK  
Harry L. Rietze, Director  
Alaska Region

ORIGINATOR'S TEL. NO.  
(907)  
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Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA

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Foreign ownership of U.S. fishing vessels referred to Advisory Panel and Alaska Department of Fish and Game for comment at next Council meeting. Council will recommend to State Department that INPFC, IPHC and IPSC be renegotiated to conform with P.L. 94-265.

Available GIFA's not reviewed. Permit applications not commented on due to absence of applications from major fishing countries. Council will submit to NMFS central office a list of items to be included in the summary of foreign vessel permit applications to facilitate Council review.

Council expressed desire to have input into development of foreign allocations before or in concert with State Department suggested allocations.

Council identified tanner crab, Bering Sea trawl, Gulf of Alaska trawl and the domestic high seas salmon fishing off Alaska as Management Units for priority plan development. First drafts of some plans expected by June, 1977.

Planning team for domestic high seas salmon selected to

NAME AND TITLE OF ORIGINATOR (Type) NMFS, FAK  
Harry L. Rietze, Director  
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*Robert J. Lerner*  
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