

Agenda Item D
March, 1980

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Much of the activity since the last Council meeting has been centered around the Salmon FMP, both off Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. I attended a Pacific Council meeting two weeks ago where they set the management regulations for the 1980 season. I understand that later analysis of those proposed regulations indicated they would not meet the goals set by the west coast states and the Council so the Council is meeting again this week to re-hash the problem.

The Salmon FMP is an agenda item for the Council at this meeting. Briefly, our amendments have been neither approved nor disapproved, although it is apparent that the ban on hand trolling will probably be disapproved, as it was last year. In addition, Assistant Administrator Leitzell is asking that the Council take steps to reduce the take of chinook from the 1979 level. The situation will be covered in detail under the agenda item.

Tokyo Fisheries Attache

Bob Iverson, NMFS, Honolulu, has been named as the new Fisheries Attache in Tokyo. He will be visiting along the west coast as soon as he finishes an indoctrination tour in Washington. I have encouraged him to come to Alaska during a Council meeting.

Economist Position

Jim Richardson, now in graduate school at Oregon State University, has accepted the job of staff economist for the Council. We expect him to be aboard shortly after the first of June. I am going to try to get him

to come up for a Council meeting prior to June which will give everyone a chance to meet him and him a chance to look around for living quarters, etc.

The office space has been remodeled, we're waiting on telephones and furniture now, though we are making some use of the offices in the meantime.

Fur Seal Hearing

The hearing scheduled by Breaux's subcommittee on the Northern Fur Seal for March 18th was postponed and has been tentatively rescheduled for April 29th.

Halibut Limited Entry

We have received several bids on the Halibut Limited Entry Background RFP. The closing date was Monday, the 24th. We should have recommendations and be in a position to make an award on this contract at the April meeting.

John Harville

John has written to make sure that the Council understands that he has not lost interest. He expresses a strong concern for staying on the Council and active in its affairs and regrets that his current contract has kept him away. He expects to be back as soon as its over, which probably won't be until at least mid-summer.

Herring Symposium

The Herring Symposium held in Anchorage in February was, according to the participants, a great success. It brought scientists together from both coasts of Canada and the United States, Norway, Germany and Alaska to discuss herring management and research around the northern hemisphere. Funded through the Governor's office and coordinated by the Council and

the State, the transcript will be done by the Sea Grant Program. We expect to have it ready at the next Council meeting.

Travel

There was a great deal of staff travel during the month with Plan Development Team meetings in Seattle and Juneau that involved Mark, Mike, Maggie and myself at various times since the last Council meeting. I attended the Pacific Council meeting on March 11th and 12th, the subject was salmon and the insights available through attending that meeting are quite valuable.

Management Plan Schedule

The Tanner Crab amendments have been approved and should be published in the Federal Register soon. I don't expect that they will be in effect before the 1st of June. There is a schedule under this tab for the rest of the FMP's that are in place or in progress, most of them will be touched on during the course of the meeting. One I would like to mention is the Surf Clam Plan, which is in pretty good shape with the exception of a finished testing procedure for PSP and the section on leasing in offshore waters. There has been little interest to date by industry in a clam fishery in the next two or three years.

MD/March 22, 1980

STATUS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Gulf of Alaska FMP

Amendments are currently being prepared for Council review and approval. If the Council approves the amendments for public review at the March meeting, we can hold public hearings late April/early May. We expect the Council to receive the final amendments for approval in May. Implementation date is scheduled for January 1st, 1981.

2. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Draft FMP

The Council's comments on the proposed Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Groundfish FMP regulations relating to the halibut savings area and the Bristol Bay pot storage areas were forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce on January 18, 1980. They have caused an extensive delay by the Plan Review Office of National Marine Fisheries Service who have indicated that in order to implement the Council recommendations it is possible that certain portions of the plan, e.g., definitions of the halibut savings area, be partially disapproved. No action is expected on this until the middle of April and implementation cannot come before the end of May.

The first reserve release was effective February 14 by notice in the Federal Register.

3. Troll Salmon FMP

The amendment package approved by the Council at the January meeting was forwarded to Washington, D.C. on February 22, 1980. By letter on March 17, 1980 Leitzell said they're probably going to disapprove the ban on hand trolling and asked the Council to cut the take of chinook in the FCZ to protect depleted stocks in Alaska and on the west coast. Action is required as soon as possible.

4. Tanner Crab FMP

Amendment #5 was received by the Plan Review Office on November 7, 1979, and a regulatory analysis was prepared by NMFS in February. On February 3rd, 1980 the Department of State notified Japan it would get a 7,500 metric ton allocation and could not expect any more. The amendment package has been approved and we expect the regulations to be in the Federal Register early this week. As they have determined the amendment package to be significant under Executive Order 12044, the final regulations will be published at the end of May and implementation is expected by June 1st, 1980.

5. King Crab Draft FMP

The PDT and SSC met in Seattle to discuss alternative management strategies in the king crab fishery. They also discussed the possibility of preparing a Bering Sea King Crab Plan rather than an FMP covering all of Alaska. The King Crab Plan itself has not yet been completely redrafted and the PDT has postponed the finalization of the draft plan until a decision has been made on the Bering Sea portion of the Plan.

6. Herring Draft FMP

Following the Federal Court order on February 8, 1980 an amendment to the regulations of the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan was published in the Federal Register on March 14, 1980. The amendment prohibited the taking of herring in the Bering Sea, provided for weekly catch reports and check in and out requirements in the "Herring Savings Area," effective March 24th, 1980.

The SSC and the PDT met last week to identify significant issues amongst the comments made by the public on the draft FMP. The Plan Drafting Team is scheduled to meet next week to respond to the comments. The Council, at the April meeting, will have to make decisions on whether to modify the plan to respond to those comments. At the May meeting, the final FMP should be ready for approval and transmittal to the Secretary.

7. Clam Draft FMP

The Clam PDT met with the SSC subgroup in Seattle on February 28, 1980. After final revisions, the plan will be ready to send out to the SSC and Council for review. Two issues might hold up the finalization of this draft; PSP testing and the leasing option for mangement. Unless there is some indication the fishery may start in 1981, I recommend delaying this plan to allow more time for some of our more immediate problems.

MD

NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY CONFERENCE

1133 20TH STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • AREA CODE 202/331-8929

Agenda D
March 1980

FILE	ACT	DATE
		Exec. Sec.
		Writer/1
		Writer/2
		Soc. Recep.
		Soc. Typist
February 4, 1980		
Original to Kellor		
MAR 3 1980		

Dear NFPC Participant,

The favorable results of the survey recently conducted prompted the NFPC Steering Committee to begin planning for a 1980 meeting. This early announcement will assist your own calendar and travel scheduling as well as serving as a notice for all groups that have not finalized their own meeting dates. Hopefully it will prevent potential conflicts.

The Sixth National Fisheries Policy Conference will be held May 13-15, 1980, at the National Food Processors Association Conference Room, 1133 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Registration is Monday, May 12 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at NFPA with a \$50.00 registration fee per person. The sessions will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. each day and run to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, with adjournment at Noon on Thursday, May 15. A reception will be held Tuesday evening, May 13, for participants and official guests -- time and location to be announced. Hotel accommodations and luncheon arrangements are to be made by individual participants. The meeting room is centrally located for convenient access to numerous hotels and restaurants -- any Steering Committee member can assist you in these areas if you so desire.

This 6th Conference is designed with a slightly different focus that will concentrate on fewer issues that have broad implications for every aspect of the U.S. fish industry. In-depth discussion for purposes of education, policy development, and preliminary strategy identification on each subject is the goal of this session. Development of resolutions and/or statements will occur only if deemed necessary and useful. Rather, the NFPC will concentrate on reaching a unified industry approach to major areas of interest through a detailed exploration of all aspects of each concern.

Those items presently targeted for discussion include:

Saltonstall-Kennedy Fund

- development and implementation of industry program in the present and future
- government role/industry role

Fish Quality and Safety Program(s)

- existing programs
- industry initiatives/government initiatives

Fishing Vessel Safety, Inspection
--current developments and anticipated actions

Economic Considerations Affecting U.S. Export Opportunities

- TALFF allocation systems
- world market enhancement

Marine Mammal Programs

- co-existence of marine mammals and fishery resources
- impact on industry of various conservation programs

As we refine the agenda and the entire format for this 1980 session, we will be better able to identify the most appropriate sequence of agenda events. Guests from the Congress and the Executive will be invited to join the meeting at a specific point to discuss informally the issues and to exchange information with participants. More details will be available at a later date.

Mark your calendars and return the enclosed early reservation form so that we can organize the 6th NFPC with maximum efficiency and convenience for all. Notification of attendance must be received by April 16, no refunds after that date.

Again, the National Fisheries Policy Conference is an unofficial but one-of-a-kind entity composed of representatives from trade associations and such other affiliated organizations serving every phase of the U.S. fisheries industry -- harvesting, processing, and labor. Individuals from specific member categories represented by NFPC organizations are encouraged to accompany their respective spokesperson and participate in the discussions.

We look forward to an interesting and rewarding Conference that will truly be a significant step toward a nation-wide posture on major fisheries concerns in the 1980's. Do plan to be with us.

Sincerely,

The NFPC Steering Committee

Enc.

cc: Regional Fishery Management Council Directors
Fishery Development Foundation Directors

6th National Fisheries Policy Conference
Registration Form

Return with \$50.00 Registration Fee, (payable to National
Fisheries Policy Conference) to:

NFPC
c/o Kathryn Nordstrom
National Food Processors Association
1133 20th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

NAME _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ACCOMPANIED BY _____

ARRIVAL _____

DEPARTURE _____

WILL ATTEND RECEPTION, TUES. MAY 13, 1980 Yes No