

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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TENTATIVE AGENDA

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Eighteenth Plenary Session

Captain Cook Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
August 24-25, 1978

The Council will meet Thursday and Friday, August 24th and 25th in the Resolution Room of the Captain Cook Hotel. The Council meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. both days.

The Advisory Panel will meet on August 23rd in the Easter Island Room of the Captain Cook Hotel at approximately 9:30 a.m.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will meet in the conference room at the Council offices in the Post Office Mall Building beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22nd and again at 10:00 a.m., August 23rd, Wednesday. If the Advisory Panel and the SSC wish to meet separately on the 24th or 25th, space will be arranged by the Council staff.

The public comment period is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, August 24th.

AGENDA

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Sent with the August 11th mailing.

3. Director's Report
 - a. 1979 - DAH Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP
 - b. Hearings and comment period for the Ocean Salmon Plan
 - c. Visit to the Pribilofs by Corps of Engineers
 - d. Incidental Species Committee Report
 - e. Fishery Management Plan update
 - f. Fee Schedule

We need a Finance Committee meeting to discuss programmatic funds for next year and reassess the coded wire tag recovery program for the troll salmon fishery.

4. U.S. Coast Guard Report
5. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
6. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
7. Advisory Panel Report

Both Keith Specking and Nick Szabo have indicated they will not be able to attend this meeting. Chuck Jensen has agreed to chair the Advisory Panel at this meeting.

8. Tanner Crab Fishery Management Plan for 1979

The Council schedule calls for first draft of revisions to the Tanner Crab FMP at this meeting. Following discussions with ADF&G, Chairman of the Board of Fisheries and some members of the SSC and AP, I recommend that the Council request the Tanner crab plan be implemented as is for the 1979 season with implementation no later than December 1. November 1 would be ideal since it would start a 'fishery year' with the opening of the first Tanner crab season.

We have had requests from the Japanese Crab Industry to allow them to fish south of 58° North and west of 171° West for the entire season, retaining the C. bairdi they catch in that area.

9. Halibut Fishery Management Plan

Canadian negotiations are still up in the air. Most of the first draft of the halibut FMP will be available at this meeting. Jim Balsiger and Dick Myhre will give a short presentation to the Council on the plan and the resource.

10. Bering Sea Shrimp Fishery Management Plan

Members of the Plan Development Team will give an overview of the resource and a summary of the plan at this meeting. They will need Council guidance on objectives.

11. ADF&G Herring Research Contract

The contractors will work with the SSC and Advisory Panel prior to the Council meeting and give a short summary of their research program to the Council. The Herring Plan Development Team intends to meet all day Thursday in Council headquarters to work on the draft of the herring FMP.

12. This agenda item was deleted.

13. Advisory Panel Membership Policy

The Advisory Panel recommended at the July meeting that members of that group missing three or more consecutive meetings without reasonable excuses should be considered automatic resignations. Current policy allows no more than six consecutive absences before a resignation is assumed. Based on the six meeting policy, two Advisory Panel seats are vacant.

We have solicited Advisory Panel nominations in the Newsletter and Summaries and Council correspondence since the last meeting and have received several requests for nominations. These have been forwarded to Advisory Panel Selection Subcommittee Chairman Chuck Meacham.

14. Release of unused DAH for herring in the Bering Sea for the remainder of 1978

NMFS has recommended releasing 2,000 metric tons of herring not taken by U.S. fishermen from the original 10,000 ton estimate for 1978. If released it would become available for foreign fishermen in the October/December trawl fishery.

15. Release of reserve for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska for the remainder of 1978, excluding pollock.

Your agenda book includes a letter from Harry Rietze indicating the amounts of reserve that are available for release in the Gulf of Alaska for the remainder of 1978. If the FMP is implemented on November 1st the fishing year has only two more months to run.

16. U.S. Sablefish Fishery

A report on current status of the U.S. sablefish fishery and predicted catch for the remainder of the year.

17. U.S./U.S.S.R Fisheries Agreement

Analysis by the SSC and AP as requested by the Council at the July meeting.

18. SSC report on Membership

SSC terms expire in September. The SSC will report on those willing to serve another term and recommend replacements for those who are not.

19. Report on the Gulf of Alaska Shrimp Fishery

An analysis of the current management and resource assessment methods in the Gulf of Alaska shrimp fishery as requested by the Council at the July meeting. A report is expected from the SSC.

20. Aleutian Island Clean-up Study

Tetra-Tech, Inc., is drafting an environmental impact statement for the Corps of Engineers on a clean-up program of World War II debris in the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula. They have requested comments or recommendations from the Council on the effect such a clean-up would have on fisheries and fishery related activity.

21. This agenda item was deleted.

22. Discarded Foreign Fishing Gear and U.S. Boat Damage

U.S. fishing boats damaged or immobilized by discarded foreign fishing gear, usually trawl web, have been a recurring problem off Alaska. Recently the halibut vessel SEYMOUR had to be towed to Kodiak to remove trawl web from the wheel. The Council has been asked to recommend a better solution to the problem than the current prohibition against discarding gear contained in the Foreign Fishing Regulations.

23. Additional Options for the Bering Sea Aleutian Island Groundfish Fishery FMP.

Proposed options which would expand the discussion area for gear restrictions in various parts of the Bering Sea. Recommended by Burt Larkins on the basis of requests by the JA Longline and Gillnet Association.