

NMFS -  
2/24

# of Positions / Jobs

ESTIMATED  
FY1984/FY 1985  
(In Millions of Dollars)

	Fisheries Management	Enforcement & Surveillance	Grants to States	Fisheries Development	Habitat Conservation	General Support	Other Programs	Total
FY 1984 Proposed	10/0.6	21/1.4	0/0.7	3/0.2	9/0.5	7/0.4	2/0.3	52/4.1
Alaska Region Cuts	-0-	-0-	-0/0.7	-2/0.1	-3/0.2	-0-	-1/0.1	-6/1.1
FY 1985	10/0.6	21/1.4	-0-	1/0.1	6/0.3	7/0.4	1/0.2	46/3.0
FY 1984 Proposed	26/1.0	18/1.1	0/1.6	5/0.2	16/0.8	7/0.4	10/13.5*	82/18.6
Northwest Region Cuts	-0-	-0-	-0/1.6	-5/0.2	-0/0.1	-0-	-3/13.1	-8/15.0
FY 1985	26/1.0	18/1.1	-0-	-0-	16/0.7	7/0.4	7/0.4	74/3.6
FY 1984 Proposed	11/0.7	13/0.7	0/0.9	5/0.2	7/0.3	9/0.5	47/1.7	92/5.0
Southwest Region Cuts	-0-	-0-	-0/0.9	-5/0.2	-0-	-0-	-1/0.1	-6/1.2
FY 1985	11/0.7	13/0.7	-0-	-0-	7/0.3	9/0.5	46/1.6	86/3.8
FY 1984 Proposed	19/1.1	18/0.8	0/4.3**	15/0.7	18/1.3	11/0.6	-3/0.3	84/9.1
Southeast Region Cuts	-0-	-0-	-0/4.3	-11/0.4	-0/0.5	-0-	3/0.3	-14/5.5
FY 1985	19/1.1	18/0.8	-0-	4/0.3	18/0.8	11/0.6	-0-	70/3.6
FY 1984 Proposed	41/1.8	31/1.5	0/2.2	8/0.6	11/0.7	13/0.7	16/0.4	120/7.9
Northeast Region Cuts	-0-	-0-	-0/2.2	-5/0.5	-10/0.5	-0-	-16/0.4	-31/3.6
FY 1985	41/1.8	31/1.5	-0-	3/0.1	1/0.2	13/0.7	-0-	89/4.3

\*Vessel Buy-back 2.5  
Columbia River 9.6  
Salmon/Steelhead Enhancement 1.0  
13.1

\*\*Includes Disaster Aid of 2.5

III.A. BUDGET PROCESS

In Biloxi last fall Council Chairmen discussed the need for the Councils to be included in the early phases of structuring NMFS budget requests. Not only are the Councils left out of the budget process, they rarely see next year's budget until long after it has been made available to Congress or reported by Nautilus Press in Marine Fisheries Management. By then it's an uphill battle attempting to persuade Congress to restore the appropriate funding levels.

In Biloxi, Bill Gordon noted he could see no statutory limitations preventing Council participation at the regional level in formulating the 1986 budget. However, he explained that once it was sent forward to NOAA there would be very little opportunity for Council involvement. He emphasized the need for Councils to work with the Regional and Center Directors to lay out perceived priorities in an attempt to build a strong budget.

With the drastic cuts proposed in the NMFS and Council budgets for 1985, and probably 1986, Council, NMFS or even NOAA input may have little effect on the outcome under this administration. Still, I think we need to be involved in the preliminary stages of budget formulation. Then we can go to bat at the Congressional level to ensure our budget recommendations remain intact.

1. What is the budget outlook for 1985 and 1986?
2. How far along is budget formulation for 1986?
3. How can the Council have more effective input into its own budget and those of NMFS and NOAA?
4. Would an annual meeting with Regional and Center Directors to review program priorities and funding levels be useful?
5. How can the programmatic budget process be made more responsive once a need is identified?

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER  
IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

S U M M A R Y

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>		<u>FY 1984 Reduction</u>		<u>Percent Reduction</u>	
	<u>Fund (\$K)</u>	<u>People (FTP)</u>	<u>Fund (\$K)</u>	<u>People (FTP)</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>People (FTP)</u>
NOAA	\$892,841	12,094	\$93,041	1,583	10	13
NMFS	167,591	1,796	55,201	370	33	21
NWAFRC	19,826	299	7,071	77	36	26

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER  
 IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
 (By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$thous)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)
Auke Bay Laboratory (ABL) Program Impacts	\$3,438	26	74	62	\$ 345	0	43	\$3,783	69

° Budget reductions will:

- End the Laboratory's research on interception of U. S. salmon in Canadian coastal and Japanese land-based fisheries.
- End assessment of some groundfish resources in the eastern Gulf of Alaska (sablefish and Pacific ocean perch).
- ABL could no longer participate with Alaska Department of Fish and Game aquaculture associations to mitigate economic losses to the Alaska chinook salmon troll fishery (losses resulting from catch limitations imposed by court action, and treaty provisions).

Facilities Closure	Facility/State	Personnel Affected <sup>1/</sup>		Funds (\$K)
		Perm	Temp	
	Little Port Walter (AK)	2	3	604

° Closure of the Little Port Walter facility will:

- Close the principal facility in Alaska for brood stock development.
- Affect other State, Federal and University scientists that reside or work at the station on cooperative research programs.
- Affect the planned installation adjacent to Little Port Walter of a new Federal/State chinook salmon production facility

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
(By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb. Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)
Coastal Zone & Estuarine Studies (CZES)	\$902	17	54	33	\$2,703	10	37	\$3,605	64
Program Impacts (Fisheries Enhancement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>° Terminate program to improve quality of smolts from public mitigation hatcheries--smolts released at the proper time that will migrate more rapidly downriver from hatcheries, adjust better to ocean environment, survive better in fresh water and at sea, and therefore contribute more adult fish to the fisheries. A \$30 to \$50 million annual increase in revenue to the Columbia River and coastal fisheries is possible through this research.</li> <li>° Terminate program on identification (by genetic method) of salmon stocks in controversial international mixed stock fisheries off Oregon, Washington, Canada, and Alaska. Failure to identify depleted N.W. racial stocks will result in closures of \$150 million coastal and river fisheries.</li> <li>° Terminate the Snake River fall chinook salmon captive brood program designed to restore these severely depleted wild runs. Failure to restore runs could result in listing stocks as "threatened" and subsequent closure of a \$150 million coastal and river fisheries.</li> <li>° Terminate Atlantic salmon captive brood program producing 50% of eggs for southern New England hatchery programs--3.5 million eggs produced annually constitute major sources of eggs for Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers.</li> <li>° Terminate research on and evaluation of salmonids under consideration as endangered/threatened species.</li> <li>° Terminate research on brood stock diseases, diets, rearing strategies, maturation, reproduction, and seawater acclimation.</li> </ul>								

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
(By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb. Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)

CZES (Cont'd)

Facilities Closure (Fisheries Enhancement)	Facility/State	Personnel Affected		Funds (\$K)
		Permanent	Temporary	
	Manchester Station (WA)	9	10	
	Cook Station (WA)	1	0	924*
	Big Beef Creek Facility (WA)	1	1	

° The facilities listed form an integrated research facility that, if closed, will result in termination of: (1) salmon enhancement research at Columbia River hatcheries, (2) enhanced egg production of threatened wild stocks of salmon, (3) identification of threatened salmon stocks in domestic and international fisheries, (4) disease prevention in cultured salmonids, (5) Atlantic salmon broodstock program, and (6) Snake River fall chinook salmon broodstock program.

° The following users will be affected: Auke Bay Laboratory, NMFS; Bonneville Power Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Northeast Region, NMFS.

\* Funds (both regular and reimbursable) form an integrated research program conducted in part at all three locations.

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
(By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb. Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)		(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)	

CZES (Cont'd)

Program Impacts (Habitat Investigations) ° Eliminates federal expertise on dredging and material disposal issues in relation to fisheries resources on the Columbia River. Six to eight reimbursable projects (\$1,418K worth) from various state and federal agencies will be turned away. Critical evaluation of Environmental Impact Statements will be drastically reduced. Will lead to increased risks to the fisheries resources of the Columbia River and adjacent areas. Eliminates biological evaluation of:

- a. Near-shore mining project proposed off Washington coast;
- b. proposed development (e.g., coal storage site and deepening ship channel to Tongue Point, OR) in the Columbia River estuary and its immediate ocean area;
- c. change in salinity intrusion patterns in the Columbia River estuary as a result of deeping the Columbia River bar and ship channel to Tongue Point: and
- d. Columbia River aquatic habitat.

Facilities Closure (Habitat Investigations)	Facility/State	Personnel Affected		Funds (\$K)
		Permanent	Temporary	
	Hammond Station (OR)*	6	10	1,622 (regular and reimbursable)

° Currently the center of Habitat Investigation's research is in the lower Columbia River. Transfer of Hammond Station to Ecological Effects of Dams Task would result in termination of research on the effects of dredging, dredge and construction material disposal, offshore mining, and contaminant discharge on fishery resources in the Columbia River system.

\* Station itself would not be closed but would be transferred to Ecological Effects of Dams Task.

## NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
(By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb. Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)		(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)	

CZES (Cont'd)

- Program Impacts (Effects of Dams)
- ° Reduces substantially research capabilities on fish passage problems faced by numerous federal and state agencies. At least three major reimbursable projects (\$750K worth) from cooperating federal agencies will be turned down. Information for decision making by water resource development and fishery agencies, e.g., optimum use of water budget, will be delayed or, in some cases, be unavailable.
  - ° Delays research pertaining to protection of fingerling salmonids at dams designed to offset significant losses of chinook salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River. This delay would cause already depressed runs of upriver spring and fall chinook salmon to decline to a point where they may be listed as threatened or endangered.
  - ° Substantially reduces role of NMFS in implementation and conduct of the Fish and Wildlife Program Section 4 (h) of the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980.
  - ° Delays in resolution of complex problems on fish (salmonids) passage, productivity, and allocation matters faced by federal agencies (Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Admin., Councils, etc.); federal courts; state agencies (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho); commercial and recreational fishing groups; and Indian groups from Alaska to California.



NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
(By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb. Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)	(C)		(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)	

CZES (Cont'd)

Facilities Closure (Effects of Dams)	Facility/State	Personnel Affected		Funds (\$K)
		Permanent	Temporary	
	Pasco Station (WA)	6 <sup>1/</sup>	6	297.7 <sup>2/</sup>

° The Pasco station supports research activities relating to the effects of dams on fish production in the lower Snake and mid-Columbia Rivers. Closure would result in increased costs for field research and delays in accomplishing research objectives relating to resolution of complex problems on fish (salmonids) passage, productivity, and allocation matters faced by federal agencies, federal courts, state agencies, commercial and recreational fishing groups, and Indian groups.

1/ These positions would be transferred to other locations within the Division.

2/ These funds represent salaries and O&M costs covered by regular funds. Reimbursable contract funds play a major role in funding.

## NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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(By Organizational Unit)

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	Funds (\$thous)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)

Utilization Research Division (UR)	\$1,000	23	81	85	0	0	3	\$1,000	26
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Program  
Impacts

° Budget reductions will terminate:

- Fisheries utilization research programs (concepts, technology, and procedures) on domestically underutilized resources such as Pacific whiting (hake), Pacific cod, Alaska pollock, widow rockfish, flounders, and Atka mackerel.

- Fishery product quality improvement programs (preservation and processing technology); stabilized minced flesh and potential uses; modified fish blocks; surimi-like products; improved frozen storage characteristics for rockfishes.

- Fishery product safety programs (prevention of toxins--e.g., organics, metallics, botulism--in fishery products); quality assessment techniques; standards for FDA and industry requirements; assessment of nutrient quality vs harvesting and processing methods.

- Nutrition/disease factors in aquaculture diets (fish wastes and silage utilization; carotenoids from crustacean wastes; disease/mineral relationships; botulism prevention and control in hatcheries).

Facilities  
Closures

Facility/State	Personnel Affected		Funds (\$K)
	Perm	Temp	
Seattle (WA) and Kodiak (AK) 1/	23	3	1,000

1/ Closure consists of the UR Division's facilities at the Montlake complex in Seattle and at Kodiak, Ak.

## NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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	Funds (\$thous)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)

(UR) Purpose of the research is to obtain data and develop concepts that will aid in advancing U. S. fisheries technology that benefits industry and the consumer. Termination of this research will affect:

° Fishermen, processors, enterprises engaged in the storage and transportation of fish, and the consumer.

° The basic sciences in fish nutrition, microbiology, and chemistry.

## NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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	Funds (\$thous)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)
Resource Assessment & Conservation Engineering Division (RACE)	\$262	1	6	2	0	0	1	\$262	2

<sup>0</sup> Reduces substantially the research capabilities and information output at the Kodiak facility.

- Reduces shellfish surveys critical to management of northern Pandalid shrimp.

- Terminates shellfish ecology research vital to understanding factors which influence year class strength and impact of man's perturbations of the environment.

<sup>0</sup> Funds to support operation and maintenance of Kodiak Facility eliminated elsewhere in FY 84 budget; replacement of these funds to continue program operation in Kodiak would require reduction in crab and groundfish surveys.

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
(By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$thous) (A)	Permanent Personnel (B)	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.) (C)	Permanent Personnel (D)	Temporary Personnel (E)	Funds (\$ thous.) (A+C)	Personnel (B+D+E)
Resource Ecology & Fisheries Management Div.(REFM)	\$243	0	13	0	0	0	0	\$243	0

Program  
Impacts

- ° Elimination of fishery oceanographic capability which is required to develop and make operational ecosystem models for the eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Implementation of the multispecies approach to fishery management will be slowed or postponed.
- ° Delays the generation of bio-economic analysis needed in development of fishery management plans and amendments.

## NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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	Funds (\$thous)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)

Environmental  
Conservation  
Division (EC)

\$184	4	18	19	0	0	0	\$184	4
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Program  
Impacts

° Termination of research on diseases affecting valuable shellfish resources--Tanner (snow) crab, Dungeness crab and shrimp. Termination also of cooperative work with the Alaska Dept. Fish & Game on parasites affecting shrimp eggs.

° Substantial reduction (30%) in biological component of interdisciplinary research on marine ecosystems and markedly reduced ability to conduct studies on pollutants in Puget Sound and other waterways and its impact on important marine resources.

## NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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	Funds (\$thous) (A)	Permanent Personnel (B)	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.) (C)	Permanent Personnel (D)	Temporary Personnel (E)	Funds (\$ thous.) (A+C)	Personnel (B+D+E)

National  
Marine Mammal  
Laboratory  
(NMML)

\$150	0	10	0	\$278	0	3	\$428	3
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Program  
Impacts

° Eliminates the U.S./IWC Observer at Japanese land-based whaling stations. U. S. would not be able to fulfill second year of coverage as committed in two-year U.S.-Japan bilateral agreement. Would not observe 1983/84-85/86 sperm whale seasons nor 1984-86 Bryde's whale season for infractions of IWC regulations.

° Eliminates Dall's porpoise cooperative U.S.-Japan research program. U. S. would not be able to complete biological studies of Dall's porpoise nor assess the impact upon the population of the incidental catch by the Japanese salmon mothership fishery; this assessment is needed for Marine Mammal Protection Act Permit hearings in 1987. U. S. would not be able to monitor the incidental catch of Dall's porpoise so as to close the fishery when the incidental catch limit is reached. U. S. would not be able to monitor the effectiveness of Japanese gear modifications which are required by the North Pacific Fisheries Act (as amended in 1982) to be implemented in 1984.

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER

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	Funds (\$thous) (A)	Permanent Personnel (B)	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.) (C)	Permanent Personnel (D)	Temporary Personnel (E)	Funds (\$ thous.) (A+C)	Personnel (B+D+E)

Office of  
Fisheries  
Information  
Systems (OFIS)

\$36	0	6	0	0	0	0	\$36	0
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Program  
Impact

° Will further reduce computer service needs of 2 NMFS Regions, 2 Fishery Management Councils, and 2 NMFS Research Centers.



NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER  
 IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
 (By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$thous)	Permanent Personnel	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.)	Permanent Personnel	Temporary Personnel	Funds (\$ thous.)	Personnel
	(A)	(B)			(C)	(D)	(E)	(A+C)	(B+D+E)
Newport Aquaculture Laboratory (NAL)	\$300	0	100	0	0	0	0	\$300	0

Program  
Impacts

<sup>0</sup> Terminates federal funding of operation and maintenance costs at the joint NOAA-Oregon State University's Newport Laboratory complex, Newport, Oregon.

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER  
 IMPACT OF PROPOSED FY 1984 REDUCTIONS  
 (By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$thous) (A)	Permanent Personnel (B)	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.) (C)	Permanent Personnel (D)	Temporary Personnel (E)	Funds (\$ thous.) (A+C)	Personnel (B+D+E)
Center Director	\$100	0	100	0	0	0	0	\$100	0

Program  
Impacts

<sup>0</sup> Terminates study by NMFS/Oregon State University on nearshore marine survival of Columbia River salmonids. Delays information needed by hatchery managers on proper timing of hatchery releases to significantly increase survival, and thus production, of salmon.

NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER  
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 (By Organizational Unit)

Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$thous) (A)	Permanent Personnel (B)	Funds	Personnel	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.) (C)	Permanent Personnel (D)	Temporary Personnel (E)	Funds (\$ thous.) (A+C)	Personnel (B+D+E)
Management NWAFC	\$456 1/	6 1/	23	26	\$100	0	16	\$556	22

Program  
Impacts

° Termination of 6 permanent and all temporary employees providing administrative, technical and facility maintenance services at the Center.

° Elimination of funding support for O & M of the Kodiak facility and thus a transfer of these costs to programmatic funds (King and Tanner crab surveys would be reduced).

1/ These funds and positions are part of the proposed \$2.3 million reduction in salmon enhancement research (Line Item LIA: Resource Information) at the Center

<u>CENTER TOTAL</u>	<u>\$7,071</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>\$3,426</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>\$10,497</u>	<u>190</u>
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NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER  
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Organization Unit	Reductions to Base		Percent Reduction		Other Impact (Reductions)			Total Impact	
	Funds (\$thous) (A)	Permanent Personnel (B)	Funds (C)	Personnel (D)	Reimb.Funds (\$ thous.) (C)	Permanent Personnel (D)	Temporary Personnel (E)	Funds (\$ thous.) (A+C)	Personnel (B+D+E)
NMFS-wide <sup>1/</sup>	\$4300	?	50	?	-	-	-	\$4300	?
NWAFC <sup>2/</sup>	(\$990)	(-)	(58)	(-)	-	-	-	(\$990)	-

OTHER IMPACTS OF FY 1984 PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS

° NOAA SHIP SUPPORT

- Reduction of fisheries research vessel support from 486 to about 203 days. This reduction will lay-up the NOAA ships CHAPMAN, JOHN N. COBB, AND MURRE II. This reduction will: eliminate vessel support previously allocated to marine mammal/fish interactions; sablefish index studies; CA/OR/WA coast groundfish; salmon interception logistics in S. E. Alaska; environmental program and field station logistic support in Alaska.

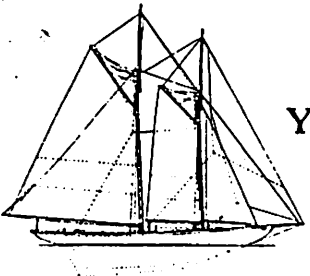
° INFLATION FACTORS

- Program erosion will continue to the degree that inflation increases program costs over and above any program reductions.

<sup>1/</sup> Reduction in NOAA vessel support budget eliminates NOAA fisheries ships and returns \$4,300,000 to NMFS to charter commercial fishing vessels. Of this total, we expect to received \$711,000.

<sup>2/</sup> Reduction at NWAFC based on our cost to replace 486 vessel days ((CHAPMAN (180), JOHN N. COBB (166), AND MURRE II (L40)) and the estimated amount available in FY 1984 to NWAFC (\$711,000) using \$3500/cost per day.

RECEIVED APR 12 1984



**Yankee Fisheries**  
FV Excalibur  
FV Excalibur II

Star Route South Box 144 • South Beach, Oregon 97366  
(503) 867-6143

April 6, 1984

William G. Gordon  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Washington, D.C. 20235

Dear Bill:

The Highliners Association feels that we had a very productive week in Washington, D.C. and is grateful for the attention shown us by all whom we visited. I thought I would personally follow up with a thank you note and also to voice some concerns, particularly insofar as NMFS' budget priorities are concerned.

I think it is openly recognized that the North Pacific and Pacific Fishery Management Councils' areas have far greater room for growth or potential development than any of the other regions. In these times of reduced budgets for government agencies I would plead that NMFS should prioritize its budgets within the regions with recognized development potential. As you know, if all the joint ventures hit their targets this year we will be exporting one hundred million dollars worth of product, almost all of which is from the underutilized or unutilized species complexes. Also, we will have 10 American built factory trawlers fishing in the Bering Sea by the end of 1984. This will have the net effect of reducing imports of frozen fillets and blocks.

An interesting commentary on the above is that several of us out here have been told that our sales of joint venture products cannot be construed as exports, apparently because the exports do not clear through a port or customs officer. This, to us, is ludicrous. We hope these U.S. Census Bureau rules can be modified; but no matter, we will catch the damned fish, get paid for them, and I am quite sure numerous banks, chandlers, net makers, and electronic and engineering firms will get their cut as well as the purveyors of booze and breads.

To continue, we also said that within NMFS itself, stock assessment must be assigned an important primary priority if there should be reductions in program funds. We are both aware of the fact that funding in earlier years was woefully inadequate and that the regional councils and the regional offices of NMFS have not been getting, and are not getting, sufficient data

*From  
The last time in the  
History of the U.S. (does this include  
Add?) that one of the "establishment"  
parties solicited the fishermen  
for help and that establishment really  
lost the war (The French in the French  
+ Indian Wars) want any more of  
our help? ...  
Anyway, Bill, we'll only  
make a 5% commission on all  
funds allocated beyond ASM-B  
& the Administration figures  
to NPMCC.  
B.*

*N.B.*

*N.B.*

from stocks assessment to do their jobs in a responsible and scientific manner. A typical example of what happens when any data funds or manpower is lacking was taken this week in Oregon.

The fishermen have developed an emergent squid fishery on their own. As techniques are being perfected the landings were increasing rapidly. There is now a trip limit imposed of 20,000 lbs per trip per boat. This is based on absolutely no scientific data and although I applaud the conservatism being displayed, there is a danger that the fishery might not be developed because of severity of limits. With these limits the developers of the industry may be convinced that there will never be enough in it for them to continue their efforts.

This may not be the best example, but another instance can be seen in the rockfish fishery here, where the trip limits keep getting screwed down tighter and tighter, based on a model which does not allow the intrusion of any data that would chronicle any increase in the biomass. Again, we see repetition of the theme of fishermen, not fish, being managed down a one-way road.

When we make inquiries to the various management agencies we keep getting told again and again, the principal problems are no money to buy people time, no money for stock assessment, etc.

As you know, the University of Alaska picked up on an idea that was first broached by the Highliners--the conduct of a good, dispassionate review of fishery management techniques and tools, their respective effectiveness, failures, etc. both in the New England fishery and in the Pacific Northwest. There will be formal papers and panels and it is hoped that in this form, i.e. "neutral turf", the agency and management people could freely come to this session to listen, to examine, to talk and to trade ideas as to what fishery management is all about. We have chosen this kind of a neutral forum for the simple reason that there is no way in hell you can conduct such a session which can be construed as partially critical at a council meeting or at meetings with individual agencies.

The costs of the symposium are going to be shared by the industry and agencies. Money is being requested from both the Northwest and the Alaska regions in NMFS. ~~The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will be throwing in money and so too will industry.~~ We think the experience will be helpful.

Of course, the final thing we told your staff people and everybody in Washington that we talked to is that we regard NMFS in the regions as being the legitimate "watch dog" or government spokesman to ensure that the FCMA is carried out by the Council. Most of us feel that the councils have a problem with accountability, that they oftentimes, knowingly and unknowingly have violated their own policies, procedures, and processes that allow the conduct of their efforts along the lines laid down in both the FCMA and the standards and amendments.

The Pacific Council's reversal of its vote to allow whiting fishery south of <sup>N.B.</sup> 39°N; and/or the NOAA's lawyer's interpretations of the "confidentiality" of fish data and statistics has put the federal government in the position of saying to the Council and state agencies, "We can't give you any fish data or statistics because it violates confidentiality".

There is no personal vindictiveness in any of the above statements. There is simply recognition that in 1976 the Congress passed a law, the FCMA, but very

little was provided in the way of guidance or guidelines. This law is probably one of the most complex and well intended pieces of legislation that has been passed in a long time. It is coming on to eight years since that law passed and I feel it is high time that the conduct of the councils be examined, as opposed to an analysis of their stand on any given issue.

I could for example right now make out one helluva case against the State of California and its representatives for absolute failure to understand the second part of the congressional mandate in the FCMA, namely American development into the unutilized and underutilized species. Parenthetically, I would hope that your new Southwest Regional Director realizes that he is now a representative for all American citizens, not just those of California.

In summary, we may be getting very close to the time when a formal overview of council activities will do everybody, and most of all the councils, a great deal of good.

I feel quite sure in stating that there are a lot of fishermen out here who are deeply committed to regional management and who want to see that management succeed. If you bother to sum up the time, effort and money that several of us fishermen have put into everything from council attendance to funding formal studies of fishery effort, fishery development, etc. it will be openly recognized that we are not trying to be hypercritical but rather useful (and hopeful).

To summarize, I believe the development potential of these two regions, and the record we have already established be recognized in NMFS budget priorities. Second, stock assessment is a crucial investment for the management agencies to prioritize. We do not need new legislation to enhance the FCMA, rather, we need to fine tune our behavior within that legislation (and this of course involves looking in the mirror), and that we make our best effort at making the current legislation work.

Thank you for your interest and your staff's concern.

Cordially,



R. Barry Fisher

P.S.

The reason you got this "diatribe" in the first place is that Bill Aron had asked us to comment on NMFS budgets. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to the Pacific Council just prior to their reversal on whiting fishing south of 39°N for the Soviet/American joint ventures.

cc: Bill Aron  
Lee Alverson  
Jim Branson  
Robert McVey