

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

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NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL NINTH PLENARY SESSION SUMMARY

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) met concurrently on August 25-26 at the Elks Club, Kodiak, Alaska. The SSC and AP met separately one day earlier and at other announced times during the Council meeting dates. A public hearing was conducted on Aug. 24 and public comment was received during the course of the Aug. 26 meeting.

- Council received first draft of management plan on the High Seas Salmon Troll Fisheries off Alaska and circulated them internally for review.
- Council discussed and heard comment concerning the Tanner Crab Management Plan. Major considerations are size, fishing areas and pot limits, with C. bairdi stocks reserved to U.S. fishermen.
- Council heard extended comment on the Bering Sea herring fishery. Reports indicate a potential for a fast developing effort on herring stocks by U.S. fishermen with no surplus available for foreign allocation in 1978. Council recommended re-activation of U.S Corps of Engineers study of the St. Paul Island small boat harbor. Potential of the herring fishery and other fisheries in that area may change the previously unfavorable cost-benefit ratio as shown in the original plan.
- Council heard a report on the experimental clam fishery in the Bering Sea and directed a management plan be started to cover that fishery. Work this past summer indicates a good potential. A production fishery may develop next season.
- Council delayed submission of the King Crab Plan from September, 1977 until February, 1978.

- U.S / Canadian negotiations concerning salmon talks were described to the Council as "very cooperative". Council chairman Rasmuson stated his optimism about solving the problem of Canadian troll fishery intercepts of Alaska-bound salmon. Common goal is stock enhancement.
- Council approved four permit applications for Japanese fishing boats consisting of two refrigerated transports (no fishing capacity) and two stern trawlers.
- Council heard a report on patrol and surveillance effort. Since July 1, 1977, USCG logged 13 infractions (4 violations, 9 citations). Most appear to be misunderstanding/misinterpretation of regulations and are technical in nature.
- Council discussed PMP and OY changes for 1978. It will delay until further study the reports available on some stocks (September meeting). Council is strongly in favor of the 30 percent withholding on initial allocations.
- Council heard a report on the status of black cod. A decline in catch rates of 50 percent for the period 1971-76 indicates TAC should be reduced considerably.
- Council accepted a report of the Halibut Working Group. There is no Council view at present. Members Lokken and Jensen were directed to participate in forthcoming re-negotiation talks
- Council heard a report from the Kodiak City Council which had passed a resolution to deny foreign processing of fish caught by U.S. fishermen.
- Council discussed foreign fee schedules and again recommended use of most current possible ex-vessel prices as the fee base.
- Council accepted the resignations from the AP of William Burke and Jay Gage. New member Gordon Jensen, Petersburg (Chairman, Alaska Board of Fish) was seated. Clem Tillion (Senate, State of Alaska) was re-appointed.
- Council hired Mike Hershberger as a consultant with responsibility for writing and editing Environmental Impact Statements and summaries for management plans, editing drafts and other writing requirements.
- Council accepted the Executive Director's report and FY78 budget totaling \$1,446,517.
- Council heard Requests for Proposals (RFP's) as follows: Relative Merits of Various Types of Joint Ventures in Developing Commercial Fisheries off Alaska; Impact of a Commercial Herring Fishery on the Economy and Villages of the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim. Council will conduct further discussion on RFP calling for a study of eastern Bering Sea herring.

- Council will contract with the Fisheries Research Institute, Univ. of Washington, for information concerning incidence of North American salmon in the Japanese land-based fishery (\$44,500); with the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game for Gulf of Alaska groundfish information (\$50,000/2 yrs maximum) and further with ADF&G for fisheries statistics enhancing management plan development (\$197,600/26 months). All were approved previously.
- Council heard a report on Interim Regulations, Part VI and will delay comment until SSC develops procedures in light of Council experience in management plan development.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings on the tanner crab and groundfish management plans, and joint ventures, have been held in Seattle, Wash., Petersburg, Sand Point, Anchorage and Kodiak, Alaska. The hearings were conducted in cooperation with NMFS. All hearings were chaired by Council Chairman Elmer Rasmuson with the assistance of Bob McVey and Harry Rietze for the joint venture portion. Management Plan team leaders Don Collinsworth and Bert Larkins were in attendance to explain the plans when necessary. The hearings were regarded as generally successful, with the largest attendance, 100, at Kodiak. Testimony on the plans is being summarized by the Management Plan drafting teams. NMFS is summarizing joint venture comments.

HERRING INFORMATION REVIEWED

SSC, NMFS and ADF&G representatives met in the Council offices Sept. 1 to review and consolidate information now available on Bering Sea herring. Their work will lead to Council preparation of a herring study proposal.

MEETING DATES

The next NPFMC meeting will be held Sept. 22-24 in Anchorage at the Court Building, 3rd and K Streets, Room 401. The October 27-28 session and November /December meeting will be held Dec. 1-2 in the same location. The SSC will meet two days preceding the September meeting and the AP one day preceding to review the high seas and ocean troll salmon plans. Both meetings will be held in Anchorage.

OTHER MEETINGS

International Pacific Halibut Commission - Sept. 13, Seattle.
 Regional Council Chairman's Meeting - Sept. 14-15, Portland.
 U.S./Canadian Salmon talks - Oct. 5-7, Seattle.
 INPFC - Anchorage, Sept. 17-18 and Oct. 31 - Nov. 4.
 U.S./Canadian Salmon talks - Nov. 28-30, Vancouver, B.C.

MAILING LIST UP-DATE

The Council is in the process of preparing additional management plan mailings. Enclosed is a self-addressed stamped post card. Please fill it out and mail, indicating which plans you want to receive. If no plans are wanted, return the card indicating so. Please indicate if you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.