

VII. INTERCOUNCIL COMMUNICATION

The Executive Directors of the North Pacific and Pacific Fishery Management Councils have been directed to maintain the information flow between the two Councils. They will communicate and coordinate the activities of their two respective Councils. The InterCouncil Coordinating Committee will meet at least once each year to discuss any issues of mutual concern. The two Executive Directors have not yet had an opportunity to meet and draft a broader statement of purpose and objectives for the committee.

Communication with other Councils occurs primarily through the Council Chairmen's meetings. Occasionally the Executive Directors and Council members of the various Councils attend other meetings and may have opportunity to discuss general Council issues, but this contact is infrequent and undirected. We share plans and meeting minutes with the other Councils and the Directors may work together on specific projects, though that happens rather infrequently.

One of our industry members has suggested the annual fish expos as a meeting forum for the four Councils most involved with groundfish and sharing similar problems, i.e. the Pacific, North Pacific, New England and Mid-Atlantic. Based on our experience at the last one in Seattle, I believe the idea has some potential. It's an excellent forum for all segments of the industry. Round-table discussions with representatives of the four Councils would allow many to hear what's going on in management that never contact the Councils ordinarily. Conversely, it would be a rare opportunity for Council members to see problems and solutions from outside their own regions.