

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome to the December Council session. After reports for the first hour this morning we'll move ahead into Gulf of Alaska groundfish, including specifications for 1990 and halibut bycatch management within the 2,750 mt PSC cap for fixed and trawl gear. Wednesday is devoted to Bering Sea and Aleutian Island groundfish, including the setting of crab and halibut PSC allowances by fishery within the caps established by Amendment 12a. Then on Thursday we'll take up pollock management and roe-stripping in all areas, as well as many of the other agenda items. While the Permit Review Committee is meeting on Thursday night, the plan teams will clean up the tables of ABCs, TACs and apportionments for final Council approval on Friday.

To speed things along, for each agenda item there will be, in order, a brief staff lead-in, reports of the AP and SSC, public testimony, and then Council action. We've even got a new lighting system to signal testifiers when their time is up. With a little luck and a heavy gavel, we'll be out of here by Friday afternoon.

Executive Sessions

The Council has two executive sessions scheduled this week, for Wednesday and Thursday, to review memberships on the SSC, AP, Pacific Northwest Crab Industry Advisory Committee, and plan teams. There also will be reports by the Performance Review Committee and on international negotiations. Both sessions will be in the Gallery on the 15th floor.

New AP Member Welcomed Aboard

Chairman Collinsworth has appointed Jeff Stephan to fill the seat vacated by Senator Zharoff. His is an interim appointment that expires after this meeting unless reappointed to a one-year term beginning in January 1990.

Research Priorities

Our research policy calls for the plan teams to develop research priorities during November for submission to the Council, SSC and NMFS Regional Office for review in December. In January, the Council will review all comments and develop their priority recommendations for submission to the Regional Director for use in preparing his annual budget. The long lead time in NMFS budget planning means that major research initiatives approved by the Council this January will not be incorporated by NMFS until two years later, i.e., FY 1992 which begins October 1, 1991. The 1992 budget will leave the Region in February for consolidation at the Central Office. We need to have our submission to NMFS as soon as possible following the January meeting. The Council's research policy and plan team recommendations are under item B-1(a). No action is required by the Council at this meeting.

SOPPs

NMFS' Central Office finally has reviewed our proposed Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures. Their comments are under B-1(b). I'll bring back revisions for your review in January.

Sablefish and Halibut

The sablefish limited access analysis has required considerable time to complete following the September meeting. Various reviews we received concluded that the large number of options under each major alternative needed more quantitative cost-benefit analysis to pass muster under E.O. 12291. We're augmenting the analysis but the new annex will not be available until about December 15. If you have no objection, I will ask the SSC to assign a subcommittee to review the analysis before sending it out for a short public review before the January meeting. In January the Council is scheduled to take final action on sablefish.

Halibut is scheduled for initial action in January. IPHC staff has been working hard on the analysis and we hope to have it finished just before the January meeting. Getting the analysis done by January is going to be tight and there will not be much lead time for review before the January Council meeting when you're scheduled to send it out for public review. Final action is scheduled for April. If that becomes impossible, I'll let you know by Christmas and request that you back off the initial decision on limited access for halibut until April, thus postponing final action until June.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Policy on Development of Research Priorities*

The Council adopted an annual schedule for the development of fishery research priorities. The following schedule is intended to provide NOAA Fisheries with the Council's research priorities as they prepare their agency budget and research plan.

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| Early September | Plan teams prepare list of research topics. These topics would be influenced by ongoing research programs, stock assessment surveys, problems with management of fisheries, industry proposals, and prior Council discussion. |
| October | Research topics are more fully developed and costs estimated (this work could be performed by the plan teams and representatives of NOAA Fisheries (Alaska Region), Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game who are knowledgeable with the proposed work). |
| November | Plan teams review topics, finalize list and make priority recommendations. |
| December | Recommended research priorities are presented to the Council, SSC and NOAA Fisheries Regional Office for review. |
| January | Council reviews research topics and comments, and develops their priority recommendations. |
| Late January | Council recommendations for fishery research are forwarded to the NOAA Fisheries Regional Director for use in preparing its annual budget. |

The long lead time in the NOAA Fisheries budget planning process means that major research initiatives approved by the Council in January of one year will not be incorporated by NOAA Fisheries until two years later.

*Approved in January 1989.

**PRIORITY RESEARCH TOPICS
GULF OF ALASKA AND BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
GROUNDFISH PLAN TEAMS**

The Plan Teams believe strongly that the principal priority for marine fishery research in the North Pacific is to ensure that baseline longline and trawl surveys continue at least at current levels, and that strong consideration be given to enhancement of these vital stock surveys. Greater support for analysis of samples and data collected from previous surveys is also essential. The resources of the Aleutian Islands are in particular need of expanded survey coverage.

The Teams are encouraged at the prospect of expanded observer coverage and logbook data collection in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries beginning in 1990. Data collected from these programs must be expeditiously compiled and actively managed to be of maximum benefit to efforts to manage these fisheries. These programs will provide needed information on bycatch rates, species and size composition of catch, and discards. The Teams expect that these programs will contribute information addressing the following topics on last year's list:

- bycatch rates by area, species and season for each fishery.
- incidental catches among rockfish assemblages.

Recognizing that the information collected through the expanded domestic observer program will substantially improve our general knowledge of commercial fish stocks, the following research areas are also recommended by the Teams. The list is not in priority order.

Ecological and Stock Analyses

- Mortality estimates for bycatch species in each fishery, particularly halibut and sablefish.
- Pollock life history information, especially spawning areas, annual stock production, and egg/larval transport in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. The Teams strongly support an expanded Fisheries-Oceanography Coordinated Investigation (FOCI) for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands.
- Expanded pollock stock assessments in the Gulf of Alaska, especially expanded annual acoustic surveys and recruitment studies.
- Structure and degrees of mixing of pollock stocks; the impact of fishing in international waters of the Bering Sea (the donut hole) on pollock stocks in the U.S. EEZ.
- Techniques for aging sablefish, pollock, and cod.
- Field studies of recruitment in all major groundfish species, particularly Pacific cod,

sablefish, and Greenland turbot in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands areas.

- Biomass estimates for rockfish throughout the Gulf of Alaska.
- Expanded ecosystem studies of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska, especially oceanography-recruitment relations and predator-prey studies such as Pacific cod predation on crab and other commercially important species.
- Marine mammal investigations focusing on marine mammal dependence on commercial fish stocks and quantification of the impacts of commercial fishing on marine mammal populations through direct mortality, disturbance, and commercial harvesting of marine mammal prey species.
- Techniques for better assessment of Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Islands.
- Improved bathymetric mapping in the Gulf of Alaska, especially the eastern portion, to assist rockfish stock survey planning and implementation. The National Ocean Service is encouraged to undertake this work as this agency is best equipped to do so.

Economic and Fisheries Analyses

- Economic studies of the total value of Alaskan fishery products, including processing, marketing and retailing.
- Operation cost data for all groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska.
- Continued examination of the institutional problems associated with limited access schemes in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.
- Economic impact of Alaskan harvests on the world market, including price impacts of changes in foreign and domestic supplies and demand.
- Economic evaluation of the consequences of various bycatch management alternatives.
- Net fishing efficiency studies, including effectiveness of various trawl operations in terms of area swept versus retained catch, fish avoidance, etc.
- Effects of trawl mesh size on catch and size composition of pollock and other species in order to minimize catch of undersize fish.
- Economic effects on groundfish fisheries of marine mammal competition, marine mammal incidental take, and marine mammal avoidance regulations.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
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November 15, 1989

NOV 20 1989

Clarence Pautzke
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103106
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. *Clarence* Pautzke:

ACTION	ROUTE TO	INITIAL
	Exec. Dir.	
	Deputy Dir.	
	Admin. Dir.	
<i>cc: JW</i>	Exec. Sec.	<i>lu</i>
	Supv. 1	
	Supv. 2	
	Supv. 3	
	Supv. 4	
	Supv. 5	
	Supv. 6	
	Supv. 7	
	Supv. 8	
	Supv. 9	
	Supv. 10	
	Supv. 11	
	Supv. 12	
	Supv. 13	
	Supv. 14	
	Supv. 15	
	Supv. 16	
	Supv. 17	
	Supv. 18	
	Supv. 19	
	Supv. 20	

Our Central Office is in the process of reviewing the Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures (SOPP) for the various Councils. Thus far, the SOPP for the North Pacific Council looks good. I have a few minor comments and questions to pass along at this time.

Page 7. B. Conduct of Meetings

(3) There was some concern that a time limit for filing minority reports was not stated. We explained that it was Council practice that each member had the opportunity to discuss the reason for their vote at the time it was cast, and the timetable for preparation of minority reports was the same as for the majority, so they would go together.

C. Record

(2) It was recommended that the Council's Policy on Confidentiality of Statistics at Tab 11 (i) in the red book be cited here and at page 16, paragraph F.

Page 8. A. Staffing

Protections for Council staff and members, such as workman's compensation, FSLA, unemployment compensation, and Privacy Act provisions, are not addressed. [605(a)(3)] You could note that the pertinent regulations are incorporated by reference unless otherwise stated.

C. Details of Government Employees

This section should be expanded to discuss reimbursable and nonreimbursable requirements, or cite appropriate sections of the regulations. [605.25(c) or section 302(f)(2) Magnuson Act]



Page 9. E. Salary and Wages

In the first sentence, delete "substantially" and "shall," and insert "must." The reviewers also suggested a reference to "equal pay for equal work."

Alaska COLA is not referenced.

Provisions regarding new positions, salary ranges, and GS-15 cap on annual pay are not referenced. [605.25(e)(3)]

Page 10. G. Sick Leave

(2) If Council staff are informed of the provisions of the Alaska Public Employees Retirement System and these provisions are not in conflict with the 605 regulations, then no problem here.

H. Employee Benefits

A question was raised as to whether COLA is included as part of the base salary, instead of an add-on, and if so, whether employee benefits were calculated against the inflated base, and if so, whether the 20 percent limitation is met. [605.25 (h)]

Page 13. B. Procurement

We suggest including reference to informing minority firms of planned procurements, since an audit would look at the Council's efforts in this area. [605.26(b) (3)]

C. Property Management

There is a potential semantics problem with your use of the term "durable or capitalized" property, instead "nonexpendable items." [605.26(c)] This could be overcome by the catch-all of incorporating the regulations by reference. Also, note the annual requirement for a property report to be submitted to the grants officer, and note at item C.(1) whether this is a "perpetual" inventory, and at (5), that the file will be maintained "at the Council offices."

Page 16. E. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Suggest revising the last sentence to read, "The Council will promptly coordinate FOIA requests with the Regional Office and will recover..."

F. Confidentiality of Statistics

Suggest the last sentence be revised to read, "... in the Council's reference book at Tab 11 (i)."

You did your part towards getting this out earlier in the year, so I don't believe there is any reason to press for a quick turnaround. I know there are other more urgent things on the agenda, so it's left to your judgement as when you want to put the effort on this. That's it. All in all, a very good job.

Sincerely,



Steven Pennoyer
Director, Alaska Region