

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

DATE: December 2, 1987

SUBJECT: Crab Management

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Consider and approve scheduling for development of Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP and associated environmental and economic assessments.
- (b) Joint meeting with the Alaska Board of Fisheries on crab management and implementation of the crab FMP.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting in September 1987 the draft crab FMP was returned to the crab plan team to provide better scientific justification for proposed management measures. The plan team revised the draft plan and met with the SSC in November. A subsequent draft has been prepared pursuant to guidance received from the SSC.

However, the associated draft environmental assessment and regulatory impact review (EA/RIR) is only in very preliminary stages of preparation. The NWAFC and ADF&G have provided necessary background data, and the NWAFC has prepared a rough outline for the documents, but the crab plan team has not yet had the opportunity to review the preliminary material. There is so little time between the December and January Council meetings that the plan team will be unable to complete even a rough draft of the EA/RIR for consideration at the January meeting.

Much emphasis will be placed on analyses presented in the crab EA/RIR, particularly as they must address alternatives to the management regime specified in the draft plan. Because of the importance of these associated documents, it is recommended that the plan team be given adequate time to prepare suitable analyses. This will require rescheduling the development and implementation of the crab FMP. Attached (item D-1(a)) is a proposed schedule which concludes with implementation of the FMP by the beginning of 1989; the schedule parallels the cycle used for the groundfish FMPs.

At 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, the Council will meet in joint session with the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The major topic will be cooperative management of king and Tanner crab and, specifically, progress toward implementing the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab FMP.

REVISED SCHEDULE FOR THE
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
KING AND TANNER CRAB
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

December 1987	Council receives progress report on development of the FMP and associated analytical documents
January-March 1988	Plan team prepares distributable draft FMP and draft EA/RIR, presents to the Crab Management Committee, and distributes to Council family prior to April meeting
April 1988	Council reviews draft FMP and EA/RIR and approves for public review
May 1988	Public comment period ends and plan team revises draft FMP and EA/RIR in preparation for June meeting
June 1988	Council approves FMP and EA/RIR for Secretarial review and implementation
July 1988	Secretarial review begins
November-December 1988	FMP approved and implemented