

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director



DATE: June 6, 1997

SUBJECT: Reporting Requirements

ESTIMATED TIME
1 HOUR

ACTION REQUIRED

Final action on recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

BACKGROUND

NMFS staff have informed the Council that a number of "housekeeping" and technical amendments are needed to revise the recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the groundfish fisheries off Alaska (Item C-11(a)). A proposed rule is anticipated for mid-August 1997. Revisions affect the following requirements:

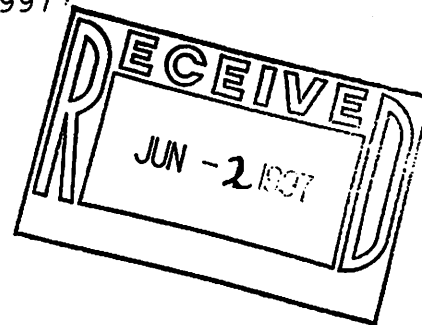
- ADF&G fish tickets
- IFQ regulatory areas
- Groundfish as bait
- Reporting at sea
- Reporting area
- Fishing trip
- Product transfer reports
- Logsheet maintenance and storage



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA C-11(a)
JUNE 1997

June 2, 1997



Mr. Richard B. Lauber
Chairman,
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Rick,

We wish to inform the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) of certain proposed revisions to the recordkeeping and reporting (R&R) requirements established for the groundfish fisheries of the exclusive economic zone off Alaska at 50 CFR part 679. Most of the proposed revisions are "housekeeping" in nature. Others, however, are more substantial and are described below. We anticipate that a proposed rule to implement these revisions would be published in the Federal Register by mid-August. This rulemaking also would include numerous technical edits and clarifications to existing R&R requirements.

o ADF&G Fish Tickets. NMFS proposes that all motherships be required to submit State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) fish tickets. Limited data are available on individual catcher vessels that deliver to at-sea processors. This type of data has become increasingly important, as catcher vessel deliveries to motherships have increased and as the Council moves toward VBAs, ITQs, or other programs that require catch history data by vessel. Regulations currently require that any fish ticket numbers be reported on mothership and shoreside processor WPRs.

o IFO Regulatory Areas, halibut figure. NMFS proposes that a new figure (Figure 15) be added to the 679 regulations presenting the regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery.

o Groundfish as bait. NMFS proposes to formalize a policy into regulations that has been in effect since 1992 by adding an exemption from R&R requirements to paragraph 679.5(a)(1). A catcher vessel that participates in a crab fishery and that takes groundfish in non-groundfish pot gear for use as bait on board that vessel, and the bait is neither transferred nor sold, is not required to comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements contained in 679.5(a) through (j).



o Reporting area. NMFS proposes to revise the term "reporting area" in § 679.2, Definitions. In past years, this term included reference to Alaska State waters. In this context a reporting area was made up of an EEZ statistical area and any adjacent Alaska State waters. NMFS then expanded use of "reporting area" in Figures 1 and 3 to include areas like the Donut Hole that did not contain either EEZ or State waters. Also, a reporting area could consist entirely of State waters. NMFS proposes to revise the definition of a reporting area to include all three of its possible forms.

o Fishing trip. NMFS proposes to remove the requirement to record the start date, end date, and trip number of a fishing trip from regulations at 679.5(c)(3)(i)(B). These removals would affect the 1998 Catcher vessel daily fishing logbook (DFL), Catcher/processor daily cumulative production logbook (DCPL), and instruction manuals.

o PTR Transfer. NMFS proposes to revise regulations and to add an option to the mothership and shoreside processor DCPL and WPR to facilitate the reporting of product transferred for reprocessing. Specifically, the option "PTR TRANSFER" would be added under the field "gear type" and would be circled instead of gear type for this purpose only. Product transfer reports (PTRs) are used by processors to document the removal (or receipt) of groundfish product at the site of a processor. Processors receiving groundfish product, documented on a PTR, for subsequent reprocessing must report reprocessed product on the weekly production report (WPR) to fully account for groundfish product inventory at any time.

o Logsheet Maintenance and Storage. NMFS proposes to move maintenance and storage of logbook sheets from the Observer Program in Seattle, WA, to NOAA Enforcement Division in Juneau, AK, and to revise the submittal instructions showing this new address in the regulations and logbooks.

Staff will be available during the Council's June meeting to answer questions about these proposed revisions.

Sincerely,



Steven Pennoyer
Administrator, Alaska Region