

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

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## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The NPFMC met Feb. 23-24 at the Anchorage-Westward Hilton. Some of the highlights of the meeting included:

- \* Salmon Troll Plan...The FMP submitted in December was withdrawn, for re-drafting, and will be submitted in time for the 1979 fishing season. Public hearings will be held on the re-drafted plan in September after the close of the salmon troll fishery.
- \* Bering Sea Tanner Crab...The Council approved a new Appendix for the FMP which summarizes the Council record of its decisions on the TALFF (15,000 mt) for C. opilio and the 58 degree N latitude line.
- \* Joint ventures...Deferred until July 1 (in keeping with Council policy on consideration of joint venture proposals) applications from KMIDC for two ships to buy raw fish from Americans in the Gulf of Alaska.
- \* GoA Groundfish...FMP approval is expected soon and the plan will be in effect by mid-April if that is so.
- \* Bering Sea Shrimp...The Council assigned a low priority to an FMP for shrimp other than shrimp in the eastern Bering Sea. An FMP for eastern Bering Sea shrimp will go ahead on schedule. Information to the Council during the February meeting indicated 99% of all shrimp taken in areas outside the Bering Sea are caught in State waters.
- \* Bering Sea Clams...The Council will solicit RFP's for a major ecological study of the clam fishery area to be used in writing the FMP.
- \* Advisory Panel Policy...Council adopted a new policy of dropping AP members who have not attended a Council function for a period of six months without notifying Council of the reason. Strong reliance on AP input for Council decisions dictates a group of active participants.

- \* Foreign Permits...Approved permits for two Japanese longliners.
- \* Foreign Allocation Policy...Passed a Resolution requesting allocations to foreign nations of resources declared surplus be greatly reduced or stopped if those nations restrict imports of those same resources caught by U.S. fishermen.

??? FMP-ABC-RFP-FAC-etc ???

Acronyms are the spice of life when it comes to communicating with fisheries personnel. The following is a short glossary of terms which may prove useful in interpreting what is being said when reading most of what the Council writes about:

- FMP - Fishery Management Plan (As in "Troll Salmon FMP").
- ABC - Acceptable Biological Catch (A seasonally determined catch).
- RFP - Request For Proposal (a solicitation of "bids" for projects).
- FAC - Foreign Allowable Catch (how much foreigners can catch).
- DAH - Domestic Annual Harvest (how much Americans expect to catch).
- AP - Advisory Panel (one of two advisory groups to the NPFMC).
- SSC - Scientific & Statistical Committee (the other advisory group).
- OY - Optimum Yield ((used with MSY (Maximum Sustained Yield)) and EY ((Equilibrium Yield)) as measures of catch levels which either maintain the resource at similar levels of abundance in successive years (EY) or considers environmental factors for amounts which can be taken from any stock under assessed conditions (MSY) or which is derived by a plus or minus deviation from ABC to promote social, economic or ecological objectives (OY). Probably the most confusing three terms to the layman but of utmost importance to the biologist.

A very good practice paragraph for the use of these terms can be found in the Commercial Troll Fisheries off the Coast of Alaska FMP. On page vi we find this example: "Due to the complex aspects of salmon stocks under discussion, MSY concepts cannot be approached with any degree of precision. For the same reasons, EY is difficult to relate to the Alaska troll fishery. Similarly, ABC levels serve...as the basis of OY and the determination of FAC, if any..."

Believe it or not, acronyms are employed as a means of necessary uncomplicated communication among those who deal with the subject of fisheries management.

#### JOINT SCIENTISTS MEETING

The Council (Jan. meeting) endorsed the concept of a joint U.S. - foreign scientists meeting for the purpose of discussing all species in the North Pacific. Specifics of time and place have been postponed until after the INPFC renegotiations are concluded. Such a meeting would be a building block in the joint research projects participated in by U.S. and foreign scientists with an interest in the waters of the North Pacific, Bering and Chukchi Seas.

## CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

The Council Chairman or Vice Chairman and the Executive Director will attend a Chairman's meeting to be held in Charleston, S.C., in late March. A suggested agenda topic from NPFMC is a discussion of what economic factors are acceptable when determining harvestable surpluses of fishery resources.

## FMP STATUS

Those who are interested in receiving copies of various FMP's are probably wondering why the Council staff has not mailed them. The following is a status report on each FMP and projected implementation date:

Troll Salmon -	Undergoing re-drafting for implementation in time for 1979 season.
GoA Groundfish -	Approval indicated for plan to be in effect by mid-April, 1978. Copies of the final plan should be available in the next week or so.
Bering Sea Herring -	Under draft for implementation by early 1979.
Tanner Crab -	Now under discussion and final review in Washington and approval expected soon.

## STAFF ACTIVITY

February was a busy month for the Council staff and its advisors. An additional typist was hired to assist in the special project of transcribing tapes of meetings and organizing other data pertinent to documenting the basis for the Council's decision to set the TALFF north of 58 at 15,000 mt for C. opilio. An estimated 30 "person days" was expended on the Tanner crab material, which included listening to tapes covering a period of more than a year and transcribing the portions dealing with the subject, organizing public testimony and written materials received and then sorting and assembling all of it. Staff travel for meeting purposes was light (2 days) compared with the pace late in the year during the round of public hearings on Tanner crab and various FMP plan development team activities.

## NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

James O. Campbell, Anchorage businessman, took his seat on the Council at the January meeting, after being named to replace former Council Chairman Elmer Rasmuson, who had resigned in October. Rasmuson continues his interest and participation in fisheries matters as Chairman, American Section, International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

## CHAIRMAN TRAVELS

NPFMC Chairman Harold Lokken attended the INPFC meeting in Vancouver and both he and Council member Gordon Jensen attended the last round of the U.S./Canadian negotiations on the West Coast. Vice Chairman Clem Tillion traveled to Juneau...and settled in for a six-month stay as a State Senator. AP member Sig Jaeger visited Korea and Japan during January on fishery matters...and returned with an Oriental wonder in the form of a calculator 1/16th of an inch thick and small enough to be covered with Sig's business card.

## LIMITED ENTRY CONFERENCE

A national conference on limited entry will be held in Denver, Colorado on July 17-18-19 at the Sheraton/Denver Airport Hotel. Topics to be discussed include the economic, legal, social and conservation aspects of limited entry. Additional papers will discuss previous experiences with limited entry in British Columbia, Alaska, Michigan, the buy-back programs in Washington and British Columbia and one or two other papers to scope out experiences in the United States and abroad.

The Council has been asked to gather information concerning those who are going to attend this conference. If you intend to participate, please send your name to the Council.

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