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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

IN THIS ISSUE

WASHINGTON REPORTS	<u>Page</u>
--Foreign Fishing Monitored.....	1
--Domestic Fishing Monitored.....	2
--Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program.....	2
--Joint Ventures.....	2
--Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program Table (October 1977)....	3
--1978 Foreign Fishing Schedule of Fees.....	4
--NMFS Office of Information Systems Established.....	5
--Congressional Activities.....	6
--Confidentiality of Statistics.....	6
--Contracts Awarded to Universities.....	7
--Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Meeting.....	8
--Next Meeting of Council Chairmen.....	8
--Secretary's Annual Report to Congress and the President.....	8
--Fiscal Year 1978 Administrative Grants to Councils.....	9
--Fishery Management Plans (FMP's).....	10
--Status Report on Amending Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's) and Foreign Fishing Regulations for 1978.....	10
--Administrative Operations	
--Inventory of Nonexpendable Property.....	11
--Roster of NOAA/NMFS Contacts for Council Operations.....	11
COUNCIL REPORTS	
--Reports from Councils	
--New England.....	12
--Mid-Atlantic.....	13
--South Atlantic.....	14
--Caribbean.....	16
--Gulf of Mexico.....	17
--Pacific.....	18
--North Pacific.....	19
--Western Pacific.....	20
--Schedule of Upcoming Council Meetings.....	(i)



Foreign Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of October has resulted in 60 boardings, 4 citations, 1 report of violation, and no seizures. They are summarized below:

	<u>Number of Foreign Vessels</u>					
	<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Canada	0	1	0	0	0	1
Japan	272	0	1	0	0	273
Poland	1	3	0	3	0	7
S. Korea	21	0	0	0	0	21
U.S.S.R.	45	30	0	0	0	75
W. Germany	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	339	34	1	4	0	378

	<u>Number of Boardings</u>					
Canada	0	1	0	0	0	1
Japan	20	0	1	1	0	22
Poland	0	3	0	0	0	3
S. Korea	10	0	0	0	0	10
U.S.S.R.	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>24</u>
	36	22	1	1	0	60

	<u>Number of Citations</u>					
Japan	1	0	0	0	0	1
S. Korea	2	0	0	0	0	2
U.S.S.R.	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	4	0	0	0	0	4

	<u>Number of Violations</u>					
S. Korea	1	0	0	0	0	1

Domestic Fishing Monitored

Surveillance and enforcement activity for the month of October has resulted in 51 boardings, 1 citation, and 88 reports of violations. They are summarized below:

<u>Number of Boardings</u>					
<u>Off Alaska</u>	<u>Off Pacific Northwest</u>	<u>Off Western Pacific</u>	<u>Off New England</u>	<u>Off Gulf of Mexico</u>	<u>Total</u>
0	0	0	51	0	51
<u>Number of Citations</u>					
0	0	0	1	0	1
<u>Number of Reports of Violations</u>					
0	0	0	88	0	88

Foreign Fishing Fleet Observer Program

A pre-proposal conference (October 11, 1977) discussed the interest of academic institutions in a contract to conduct the observer program in the Northeast Region. Two institutions participated and another sent a representative to observe. Proposals, if forthcoming, are expected by November 10. The New England Council opposes changing the program administration to a contract operation. The decision on the approach that will be taken has not yet been made. Discussions will be held between the Council and NMFS and relative merits of each approach will be carefully evaluated before any final action is taken.

The distribution of observers by country and fishery is shown in the table on the next page. Overall coverage of 14 percent of the foreign fishing fleets was achieved in October.

Joint Ventures

All records of the public hearings on the issue have been received in the NMFS Washington Office together with NMFS Regional Offices' compilations of recommendations made at the hearings. The Regional Offices have also provided their recommendations on appropriate action to be taken on the question of the sale at sea of U.S. harvested fish to foreign buyers.

The hearings record and supplementary information are being considered by an NMFS task group. This group has developed a draft proposed policy on the issue for DOC/NOAA/NMFS consideration. Before publication in the Federal Register, Councils will be given an opportunity to review the proposed policy.

FOREIGN FISHING FLEET OBSERVER PROGRAM - OCTOBER 1977

	Atlantic Herring/ Mackerel Fisheries	Atlantic Squid Fishery	Bering Sea- Aleutian Longline Fishery	Bering Sea Stern Trawl Fishery	Bering Sea Trawl Factory Ship Fishery	Calif.- Oregon- Wash. Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fishery	Gulf of Alaska Longline Fishery	TOTALS
<u>U.S.S.R.</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	4
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	10	2	-	4	16	-	32
<u>JAPAN</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	1	7	-	1	3	12
<u>Vessels</u>	-	9	8	53	4	-	8	9	91
<u>POLAND</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
<u>SPAIN</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<u>Vessels</u>	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
<u>KOREA</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Vessels</u>	-	-	1	4	-	-	7	1	13
<u>E. GERMANY</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Vessels</u>	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
<u>ITALY</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<u>Vessels</u>	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<u>TOTALS</u>									
<u>Observers</u>	-	4	1	2	7	4	3	3	24
<u>Vessels</u>	4	41	19	59	4	7	31	10	175

One Japanese vessel with no observer in the Bering Sea Snail Pot Fishery, not included in totals.

1978 Foreign Fishing Schedule of Fees

A new fee schedule for application to foreign fishing in 1978 was published in the Federal Register on October 7, 1977 (F.R. Vol. 42, No. 195, pp. 54588-54590).

The schedule requires payment of poundage fees of 3.5% of the 1976 U.S. ex-vessel price of the fish. Poundage fees will be charged on the actual catch of all fish allocated to each nation. The following ex-vessel prices will be used for computing fees:

<u>Species</u>	<u>1978 Ex-Vessel Value (per metric ton)</u>	<u>1977 Prices</u>
Butterfish.....	\$622	\$302
Cod, Pacific.....	282	251
Crab, Tanner (Snow).....	441	441
Flounders, Pacific.....	387	318
Hake, Pacific.....	32	34
Hake, Red.....	185	156
Hake, Silver (Whiting).....	184	194
Herring, Atlantic.....	87	73
Herring, Pacific.....	100	161
Herring, River (Alewives).....	96	76
Mackerel, Atka.....	138	130
Mackerel, Atlantic.....	259	255
Mackerel, Jack.....	110	93
Other Finfish, Atlantic.....	334	328
Other Groundfish, Pacific.....	48	45
Pollock, Alaska.....	84	98
Pacific Ocean Perch.....	280	350
Rockfish.....	298	350
Sablefish.....	399	372
Seamount Groundfish.....	172	614
Snails (meat).....	600	600
Squid, Atlantic.....	414	419
Squid, Pacific.....	55	82

In addition to the poundage fees, the schedule provides for the following permit fees:

1. A fixed annual fee of \$1.00 per gross registered ton (GRT) will be charged for any vessel engaged in catching fish;
2. A fixed annual fee of \$0.50 per GRT will be charged for any vessel engaged in processing fish, but not catching, with \$2,500 per vessel the upper limit on this charge;
3. A fixed annual fee of \$200 per vessel will be charged for any other support vessel (but not catching or processing fish).

The highest applicable fee will be charged if a vessel participates in more than one of the above activities.

NMFS Office of Information Systems Established

An Office of Information Systems (OIS) was established in the NMFS Directorate in May to provide a headquarters focus for information management matters related to the implementation of P.L. 94-265. The Director of the office is Dr. Hoyt A. Wheeland, and members of the staff are Dr. Lyman D. (Dale) Sortland, Mr. Fred W. Brooks, Mr. Raymond B. Tillery, and Ms. Cynthia Joyner, Computer Systems Analysts; and Ms. Charlotte Butler and Ms. Shirley Sutton, Secretaries. The Office is located in NMFS headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20235 (202-254-7806).

The new office has been charged with developing information systems to serve national-level needs and with coordinating all data management planning and development activities in NMFS. The four fisheries centers are responsible for developing and carrying out the data management and computer services that are necessary to meet area needs (including Councils) and for supporting national-level systems that are developed by the Office of Information Systems. Interregional information management coordination is conducted through a National Data Management Committee, which has members from each center (representing the four Regional Information Management Systems) and from NOAA's Environmental Data Service. Dr. Wheeland is chairman of this committee.

Major task areas on which the new office has embarked are:

1. The development and operation of a Fishery Information Network (FISHNET), utilizing an interactive computer system.
2. The conduct of a comprehensive information management system designed to provide information to fishery administrators in and out of government.
3. The development of a scheme for acquiring and processing economic data that are essential to the preparation and assessment of fishery management plans.

Other tasks in which the OIS is involved deal with such matters as the impact of the confidentiality of statistics on information collection, processing, and dissemination; the need for compatibility in catch/effort statistics management; the development of a data dictionary/data directory for better data base management; the feasibility of preparing indexable abstracts of public meetings and hearings for selective retrieval by computer; the enhancement of the National Fisheries Statistics Information System; and the coordination of the fisheries portion of the NOAA 5-Year ADP and Telecommunications Plan.

Congressional Activities

Fishermen's Protective Act Amendment - S. 1184, a bill to extend the provisions of the Fishermen's Protective Act relating to reimbursement of seized commercial fishermen, has cleared both Houses of Congress and will be sent to the President for approval.

As passed, the bill would extend Section 7(e) until October 1, 1978. In addition, the bill would create a loan program to enable U.S. fishermen to recover losses caused by a foreign fishing vessel or crew within the 200-mile fishing zone. Specifically, the bill would (1) authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make loans for damages claimed in excess of \$2,000 which are reasonably determined to have been caused by a foreign vessel or crew, (2) set the interest rate at an amount not to exceed 3½ percent per year, (3) authorize the Secretary to charge administrative fees of claimants to cover the management costs that will result, (4) grant eligibility only for those claims that have not been substantially resolved and which occurred after July 1, 1976, and (5) provide that the claimant must repay the loan within a reasonable time if the Secretary determined he was at fault.

Confidentiality of Statistics

NMFS has recently received from the NOAA General Counsel's office a draft opinion on confidentiality of statistics. It states that in order to fully facilitate State/Federal cooperation for the collection of fishery statistics under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 1976, certain legal restraints imposed by the Act must be considered. The following are the major considerations for the collection of fishery statistics required to be submitted to the Secretary pursuant to Section 303(a)(5) of the FCMA. Cooperative State/Federal arrangements for collection will need to reflect the legal considerations. The arrangements, however, may take various forms dependent on the local circumstances and State authority for the collection of similar statistics. Important considerations are:

1. The Secretary of Commerce must maintain all identifiable statistics in confidence and cannot release them outside the Federal Government unless so ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
2. Identifiable statistics are those that the disclosure would identify the person who submitted the statistics.
3. The Secretary must collect confidential statistics and in doing so may utilize existing collection methods such as by State agents.
4. These State agents will be considered as Federal agents for the purpose of collection.

5. State agents may also collect similar data to be retained by the State but they must do so consistent with their State authority.
6. State agents may not use the authority of the FCMA to collect fish statistics for State use.
7. Statistics collected by State agents for the Secretary of Commerce must be transmitted to the Secretary or stored for Federal use by an agent of the Secretary.

Contracts Awarded to Universities

Since being formed, Councils have awarded the following contracts to universities:

<u>Council</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
New England	Social Sciences Institute, Univ. of Maine	\$ 18,000	9/29/77	Inventory study of New England ground-fishing fleet
New England	Univ. of Rhode Island	10,000	9/30/77	Development with NMFS of economic data on sea herring
New England	Univ. of Rhode Island	5,000	9/29/77	Survey of New England head and recreational fishing boats
New England	Harvard Univ.	5,000	8/1/77	Herring population assessment
New England	Univ. of Massachusetts	5,000	8/1/77	Econometric study of New England scallop fishery
Gulf of Mexico	Louisiana State Univ.	196,700	11/1/77	Development of draft for shrimp management plan in the Gulf of Mexico
Gulf of Mexico	Florida Sea Grant College	119,125	11/1/77	Development of draft of FMP for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico
Pacific	Oregon State Univ.	120,000	8/1/77	Socio-economic data on salmon fishery development

Additional information about these contracts can be obtained by contacting the respective Council.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Meeting

The 18th meeting of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) was held October 5 and 6, 1977, in Washington, D.C. MAFAC XVIII unanimously adopted recommendations from three subcommittees, and offered counsel on several fishery issues.

The Subcommittee on Joint Ventures recommended consideration be on a case-by-case basis, with Councils having primary responsibility for evaluation and review of proposals. Domestic processors should have a reasonable priority, but recognizing that in some instances, joint ventures may be a vehicle to achieve the objectives of the FCMA.

The Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs recommended that Councils be encouraged to name consumer advocates to Advisory Panels; that NOAA/NMFS back legislation to support voluntary inspection in seafood plants in foreign countries; that the Department of Commerce ceilings be eliminated for inspection work because the program is self-supporting.

The Subcommittee on Marine Recreational Fishing recommended that NOAA/NMFS fund on a high priority basis (1) nationwide surveys to determine marine recreational fishing catch data, and (2) a cooperative State-Federal program of research and management plan development for striped bass throughout its range.

MAFAC also recommended that the policy of requiring discard of prohibited species be continued, that serious attention be given to adopting the concept of reserving a portion of optimum yield (30%) to accommodate potential domestic processing expansion in certain fisheries, and that NOAA take the lead in comprehensive fisheries development programs.

The next meeting (MAFAC XIX) is scheduled for February 1 and 2, 1978, in Washington, D.C.

Next Meeting of Council Chairmen

The third meeting of Council chairmen will be hosted by the South Atlantic Council. The location of the meeting is not known at this time, but in probability will be held March 28-29, 1978.

Secretary's Annual Report to Congress and the President

In accordance with Section 305(f) of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA), the Secretary of Commerce must submit by March 1 of each year, an annual report to Congress and the President on activities relating to the conservation and management of fishery resources that were undertaken under the FCMA during the preceding calendar year. NMFS is responsible for developing this report.

Council input is an important part of the development of the report. Section 601.23(g) of the Final Regulations describes the requirement for Councils to make annual reports to the Secretary. These reports are subsequently incorporated into the Secretary's report to Congress and the President. Council reports are due in NMFS headquarters as soon as possible before the February 1, 1978, deadline.

Fiscal Year 1978 Administrative Grants to Councils

The following reflects fiscal year 1978 administrative grants to Councils (including state aid), effective October 1, 1977 to September 30, 1978:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Grant No.</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FY77 Actual**</u>
NEW ENGLAND	04-8-M01-19	10/14/77	\$ 635,900	\$392.8
MID-ATLANTIC	04-8-M01-14	10/11/77	\$1,072,260*	\$345.6
SOUTH ATLANTIC	04-8-M01-22	10/11/77	\$ 537,852	\$381.5
CARIBBEAN	04-8-M01-13	10/11/77	\$ 682,400	\$334.5
GULF OF MEXICO	04-8-M01-15	10/11/77	\$ 836,200	\$485.7
PACIFIC	04-8-M01-17	10/11/77	\$ 795,400	\$355.2
NORTH PACIFIC	04-8-M01-16	10/14/77	\$ 660,500	\$234.1
WESTERN PACIFIC	04-8-M01-18	10/11/77	<u>\$ 397,200</u>	<u>\$470.7</u>
		TOTAL	\$5,617,712	\$3,000.1

*Reflects a greater emphasis on "in-house" production of FMP's rather than via contracts.

**Estimates of administrative expenses and obligations as of November 1977. Figures are subject to change as final close out reports are received. Most administrative grants were for six-month periods or less.

Fishery Management Plans (FMP's)

The following Notices of Availability were published in the Federal Register in October:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Pacific	Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978	DEIS/FMP published 10/28/77 End Public Review 12/11/77
North Pacific	Tanner Crab	FEIS/FMP published 10/28/77 End 30-day Cooling Off Period 11/19/77
"	Groundfish, Gulf of Alaska	FEIS/FMP published 10/28/77 End 30-day Cooling Off Period 11/19/77
"	Salmon Troll Fishery	DEIS/FMP published 10/17/77 End Public Review 11/30/77
Mid-Atlantic	Surf Clam	FEIS/FMP published 10/21/77 End 30-day Cooling Off Period 11/10/77

Status Report on Amending Preliminary Fishery Management Plans (PMP's) and Foreign Fishing Regulations for 1978

Preliminary fishery management plans (PMP's) are being amended based upon experience during 1977, new information on fish stock conditions, and comments from the public and the Councils. The PMP amendments and implementing foreign fishing regulations are expected to be published in the Federal Register on or about November 22, 1977. Regulations will become effective on January 1, 1978.

The PMP for Atlantic Billfishes and Sharks has been prepared and is undergoing NOAA/NMFS review prior to approval and implementation. The PMP for Pacific Billfishes and Sharks is currently being prepared in the Southwest Regional Office in consultation with the Councils.

Administrative Operations

--Inventory of Nonexpendable Property - NMFS recently reminded the NOAA Property and Supply Branch that in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-110, nonexpendable property is the annual inventory responsibility of the Councils, and not the responsibility of NMFS. This inventory should include nonexpendable property purchased by NMFS for the Councils during the interim period prior to receipt of Council grants.

Councils should contact the servicing NOAA procurement office for copies of the requisitions if they are not in their possession.

--Roster of NOAA/NMFS Contacts for Council Operations - The prime contact for the Councils is the appropriate Regional Director and his staff. However, at the Central Office level the following contacts are also available:

<u>Perry Allen</u> , F35, NMFS (202 - 634-7265)	Applications and permits
<u>Henry Beasley</u> , F42, NMFS (202 - 634-7257)	Governing International Fishery Agreements (GIFA's) and other international agreements
<u>Phyllis Bentz</u> , F, NMFS (202 - 634-3875)	Council appointments
<u>Joe Clem</u> , F31, NMFS (202 - 634-7436)	Meeting announcements; charters; Statement of Organization, Practices, Procedures (SOPP's); Council regulations; Council membership; policy questions and interpretations; "Council Memorandum;" and other concerns not expressly outlined elsewhere.
<u>George Knobl</u> , F31, NMFS (202 - 634-7433)	FMP/PMP amendments and approvals
<u>Denton Moore</u> , F31, NMFS (202 - 634-7454)	Regulations for FMP's/PMP's
<u>Bruno Noetzel</u> , F31, NMFS (202 - 634-5432)	Foreign Fees
<u>David Rand</u> , Fx5, NMFS (202 - 634-7444)	Council budget preparation and funding
<u>Ann Terbush</u> , AD113, NOAA (301 - 443-8503)	Grant processing and quarterly grant report submissions.

New England Council

- ° Council member Dr. Virgil Norton resigned on October 3 because of relocation out of the New England area.
- ° The Council solicited and received competitive bids (Requests for Proposals) from various consultants for the descriptive sections of management plans for ocean perch, pollock, and red crab.
- ° The Silver Hake Committee met with representatives of the Mid-Atlantic Council to review management objectives for those fisheries.
- ° The Council negotiated contract studies by the Universities of Rhode Island and Maine, and Development Sciences, Inc., to provide basic groundfish fleet information on the 1978 groundfish plan.
- ° Various Council members are directly involved in the negotiations on the maritime boundary and management of transboundary stocks with Canada.
- ° The Scientific and Statistical Committee met in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on October 18 and reviewed development of management plans for herring, scallops, and silver hake.
- ° The Council held its monthly meeting on October 12 and 13 and began preliminary discussion of management objectives for ocean perch, pollock, and red crab.
- ° The Council held two meetings with members of its Advisory Panel to discuss recommendations for the 1978 groundfish plan.
- ° The Council sent a telegram to the Secretary of Commerce requesting expeditious enforcement of the regulations of the 1977 groundfish plan.
- ° There was a joint New England/Mid-Atlantic Council meeting at the Northeast Fisheries Center (NEFC) at Woods Hole to review the Center's assessment procedures and to discuss common problems, including gear conflicts.
- ° The Council staff had a two-day detailed discussion with NEFC staff on data needs for the herring management plan.
- ° The Council supported the request of the Mid-Atlantic Council for rapid implementation of the mackerel fishery management plan.

Mid-Atlantic Council

- o The Council held its October meeting at the Swope Center, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on October 19-21, 1977.
- o Dr. Robert Edwards, Director of the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center, and members of his staff, hosted one day of the meeting by reviewing stock assessment activities conducted by the Center.
- o The New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils met in joint session on October 20 to review and discuss topics of mutual concern. Areas covered included ways of improving inter-Council coordination, status of management plans, discussion of joint venture proposals, and progress on advisory panel charters.
- o Because of many common problems, and the lack of timely and forthright answers, a motion was made and unanimously carried by both Councils, that a letter be written to the Secretary of Commerce with copies to Mr. Frank (Administrator, NOAA), Mr. Schoning (Director, NMFS), and regional Congressional delegates, asking for more definitive and expeditious consideration on advisory panel charters.
- o The Mid-Atlantic Council reviewed the status of the Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Plan and moved to telegraph the Secretary of Commerce in an attempt to determine why no action has been taken on it to date. The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Fishery Management Plan (FEIS/FMP) was forwarded to the Secretary in August urging that emergency regulations be imposed and that final regulations be implemented October 1. Surf clam landings during August and September amounted to over 8 million pounds which equals 27 percent of an annual quota recommended in the plan.
- o Draft mackerel and squid fishery management plans were reviewed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils and both approved for public hearings. Hearings are tentatively scheduled on the east coast during the first two weeks of December.
- o The Council reviewed progress of a Gear Conflicts Committee and moved to seek public suggestions on how to resolve conflicts between fixed and mobile gear users. Meetings have been scheduled in Ocean City, Maryland (Sheraton Fountainebleau at 9:00 A.M.), and Asbury Park, New Jersey (Asbury Avenue Pavillion at 8:00 P.M.), on November 16, and at the Southampton Inn, Southampton, Long Island, New York, on November 17 at 7:00 P.M. to obtain public views on the subject. Suggestions received at these meetings will be considered in future management plans.

- o Status of Canadian negotiations were reviewed by the Council. Council discussed ways of obtaining industry advice in future negotiations and yet still be able to reimburse travel and expenses since Government has not approved an advisory panel charter.
- o The Council reviewed status of the butterfish fishery and will at its next meeting establish management objectives. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Fishery Management Plan (DEIS/FMP) for butterfish will be prepared to achieve objectives set and is scheduled for Council review by June.
- o The Council requested information on foreign fishing violations by the next meeting to assist in decisions on 1978 permit requests.
- o The Council directed staff to meet with neighboring Council staffs and NMFS in the development of a position paper on how to intergrate management plans and the planning process. Continued development of species plans on a piecemeal basis will likely proliferate specific sets of rules, data requirements, and regulations which may be unnecessary and overly complicated to follow on a practical basis. Efforts are to be directed at standardizing licenses and reporting requirements, and other plan provisions to provide continuity between plans and to minimize record keeping by U.S. commercial and recreational fishermen who must abide by the plans.
- o Future Council meetings:

November 9 and 10	Dover, Delaware
December 14 and 15	Red Bank, New Jersey

South Atlantic Council

- o The Council did not hold a meeting in October.
- o The Council was one of the hosts of The Governor's Conference on Fishery Management Under Extended Jurisdiction, in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 11-12. Members of the South Atlantic Council and representatives of its advisory groups attended. An estimated 200 individuals registered for the conference.
- o Norman Angel was designated as South Atlantic Council representative on the Mid-Atlantic Council's Squid Plan Committee.
- o Members Norman Angel and Peggy Stamey attended a joint meeting of New England and Mid-Atlantic Council members at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, October 18-20, to receive a briefing in the status of development of the mackerel and squid fishery management plan (FMP's).

- o The Snapper-Grouper Plan Development Team met in Charleston, South Carolina, October 25-26, to review first draft of inputs to the profile (Phase I) and to set tentative goals for the plan. A summary of the profile will be presented to the Council at its November meeting. The Council's Snapper-Grouper Steering Committee, along with selected Advisory Panel members, met in Charleston, South Carolina, October 28, to review the tentative goals developed by the Plan Development Team and to develop plans for full Council goal/objective setting at the November meeting.
- o Executive Director Premetz represented the South Atlantic Council at MAFAC XVIII, in Washington, D.C., October 5-6. The Council representatives briefed MAFAC members on status of FMP development and on issues and problems unique to the Councils. NOAA Administrator Richard Frank briefed attendees on the several options for reorganization of NOAA before him. Council representatives stressed need for lodging full responsibility in region with single individual, e.g., the Regional Director, and for strong Central Office oversight for purposes of research quality control.
- o Jim Andrews, NMFS Enforcement Management Information System (EMIS) Project Director, briefed Council staff on the operations of the foreign fishing application and permit files contained in the EMIS. A portable terminal designed to give Council access to the system was demonstrated. Further details will be forthcoming.
- o Executive Director Premetz was guest speaker at the Charleston Lion's Club on October 3. His topic was the impact of extended jurisdiction on United States fisheries. Following the speaking engagement he was interviewed by one of the local television stations. The interview was aired that evening on the news.
- o Dr. Davis (Council staff) represented the Council at a meeting of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, in Washington, D.C., October 26.
- o Dr. Davis accompanied a contingent of Caribbean Council members on a visit to Curacao Pioneering Co., a company operating 26 tuna longliners from the Island of Saint Maarten. Useful firsthand information on foreign longlining in the Caribbean Sea was obtained.
- o The joint Gulf of Mexico Council and South Atlantic Council Mackerel Plan Requests for Proposals was finalized by staffs, and will be available for prospective bidders by November 4; with proposals due in Gulf Council headquarters by December 16.

- o Council's Finance Committee considered and approved acceptance of 7.05% cost of living pay increase for Council members and staff. Council FY 1978 administrative grant includes 5% for this purpose. Grant will be adjusted upward to provide the additional 2.05% required.
- o The next Council meeting, including a joint session with the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Councils, will be held in Orlando, Florida, November 14-17. The Inter-Council Billfish Steering Committee meets the afternoon of November 14.

Caribbean Council

The following summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held October 18-20, 1977, in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Summary prepared, with Council concurrence, by Charles A. Oravetz, Southwest Regional Office, NMFS.

- o The Council reviewed the draft fishery management plan for spiny lobster prepared by a task team set up by the NMFS Southeast Fishery Center. Detailed options for management were selected from among those offered in the draft; some of which included a 3½ inch minimum minimum carapace length, no possessions of egg bearing females and closed areas. The question of licensing boats as a management tool for lobsters was referred to a special committee for further study. A second draft plan will be prepared for use in public hearings.
- o The Virgin Islands Office of the Council is now established in the Federal Building in St. Thomas. It is occupied by Dr. Jack Damman, Chief Scientist for the Council and Ms. Shirley Hall, an employee of the Government of the Virgin Islands assigned as back-up support for Virgin Islands employees working on Council business. Ms. Hall will provide some clerical support for Dr. Damman.
- o Council Chairman Hector Vega scheduled a series of briefings during October and November for recreational fishing clubs in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to further explain P.L. 94-265 and Council functions. He will be assisted by other Council members as well as Mr. Roberto Moreno. The clubs will be advised not to invite foreign recreational fishermen to participate in billfish tournaments or otherwise fish in the fishery conservation area until the legal status of the vessels under P.L. 94-265 can be clarified.
- o Executive Director Omar Munoz scheduled two meetings with committees of the Puerto Rican Legislature to explain P.L. 94-265 to members and to discuss a House resolution pertaining to the protection of coral in "State waters."
- o Council Chairman Hector Vega will chair a small ad hoc committee, including Jose Suarez and Tony Chioromitaro, to identify specific research needs pertaining to Council plans and activities so they may be considered in the FY 1980 NMFS budget.

- ° The Council will attend the joint meeting of the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils in Orlando, Florida, in lieu of a regular Council meeting in November. The Council will hold a meeting in San Juan on December 6-8, 1977.
- ° The Chairman of the Advisory Panel, Bob Schultz, reported that he continues to experience difficulty in securing active participation from Puerto Rican and Virgin Islands fishermen in serving as panel members and in attending meetings. Reasons cited for nonparticipation were-- can't miss the fishing time; nothing happening in the Council yet; per diem does not cover expenses; and can't speak English well enough. Mr. Schultz and Chairman Vega have set up a program to overcome these problems.
- ° The Council expressed interest in the potential effect of a major oil spill on marine resources as a result of a freighter sinking and a minor oil spill at St. Croix during the Council meeting. A report from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and NMFS on oil spill preparedness was requested during the December meeting.

Gulf of Mexico Council

The following is a summary of the highlights of the Council meeting held October 4-6, 1977, in Mobile, Alabama. Summary prepared, with Council concurrence, by Charles A. Oravetz, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS.

- ° Council elected John Mehos Chairman and Ted Ford Vice Chairman.
- ° The Chairman summarized the recent Council chairmen's meeting in Portland, Oregon. Minutes of meeting were distributed to members.
- ° Council approved the Request for Proposals (RFP) developed by the Joint South Atlantic and Gulf Mackerel Committee and endorsed planned development of the mackerel plan by contract to be issued in February 1978.
- ° Council identified agenda items for joint meeting in Orlando, November 15-17. Council scheduled a meeting for January 10-12, 1978, in Biloxi, Mississippi.
- ° Council voted to pay 7.05% cost of living raise to Council staff.
- ° The Billfish Committee chairman reported on the (1) Inter-Council Billfish meeting, including the meeting scheduled for November 14 in Orlando, where Gulf and South Atlantic Council Scientific and Statistical and Advisory Panel Committees will identify goals and objectives for billfish plan; and (2) the recent Japanese billfish talks.

- Council will seek clarification on policy of non-enforcement of a law regarding billfish taken incidental to tuna longlining.
- Council passed a motion to raise amount of payment of fringe benefits for staff from 18% to 20%. Staff is investigating alternate insurance coverage because of problems with existing agent.
- Management committees were appointed for swordfish, coastal herrings, sharks, corals, and spiny lobster.
- Council appointed Bob Jones to represent Council at upcoming Bahamas fishery negotiations and Lyle St. Amant if additional Council representation is permitted.
- State Department reported that recent discussions with Cuba have established access for U.S. sportsfishermen in Cuban waters upon purchase of a 10-day permit beginning April 1, 1978. More specific information will be sent to NMFS by the State Department.
- Council appointed a committee to interface with the South Atlantic Council on joint FMP development.
- Council appointed a Mollusk Scientific and Statistical Special Committee.

Pacific Council

- During its October 13-14 meeting in San Francisco, the Council amended the second draft of the 1978 ocean salmon fishery management plan (FMP) to incorporate additional management options, and approved the revised draft for the public hearing process. Copies of the plan are available from the Council office or from the Northwest Regional Office, NMFS.
- Public hearings on the draft fishery management plan/environmental impact statement (FMP/EIS) are scheduled from November 19-22, 1977, in Seattle, Monterey, Astoria, Lewiston, Coos Bay, and Eureka, Washington. The Council is expected to approve a FMP/EIS on ocean salmon at its December 15-16, 1977, meeting in Portland, for submission to the Secretary of Commerce.
- The Council also reviewed the second draft of the anchovy FMP during its October meeting, and recommended several amendments to the draft. A new draft is expected to be approved for the public hearing process at the November 14-15 Council meeting. Under this schedule, hearings could be held early in 1978 to gather public input into the plan before the Council adopts a final FMP in March 1978.
- The location of the November 14-15 Council meeting has been changed from Seattle to Los Angeles, California, since the major item on the November agenda will be a discussion of the anchovy plan.

- ° Plan development proposals on Dungeness crab, pink shrimp, and squid were referred to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for review during the last Council meeting. A SSC report on the proposals is expected at the November Council meeting.
- ° The hiring of a seventh staff person, a secretary-bookkeeper, has been authorized by the Council.
- ° A memorandum of understanding between the Council and the Northwest and Southwest Regions, NMFS, has been endorsed by the Council. The memorandum outlines responsibilities for Council support activities by region.
- ° The Council endorsed the billfish preliminary fishery management plan (PMP) as written, including provisions for no retention of billfishes within 100 miles of the U.S. coast. The Executive Director will communicate with the Western Pacific Council on coordination of billfish FMP development.
- ° In a letter to Richard Frank, Administrator of NOAA, the Council conveyed its strong support for the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and urged that the committee be continued.
- ° The Council has strongly protested the use of catch data submitted by foreign nations in determining whether they have reached their quotas. The Council asked the Northwest Regional Director, NMFS, to make known to Washington its endorsement of accepting U.S. observer estimates in making such determinations.

North Pacific

The Council did not meet in October and will not meet in November. The next meeting will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, December 1-2, 1977.

- o Public hearings on the troll salmon plan will be held in November in the following locations:

- November 14 - Juneau, Alaska
- November 15 - Ketchikan, Alaska
- November 16 - Petersburg, Alaska
- November 17 - Sitka, Alaska
- November 18 - Pelican, Alaska

- o The Council printed and submitted to the Secretary the Final Draft Fishery Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for:

- 1. Tanner Crab off Alaska
- 2. Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery

Western Pacific Council

- o The United States Coast Guard (USCG) reported that its new 82-foot cutter, HARRIS, will arrive in Guam and be ready for foreign fishing surveillance in November 1977.
- o One Council member from American Samoa was authorized to attend the South Pacific Commission's Fisheries Meeting scheduled in Suva, Fiji, November 25-27, 1977. Either Mr. Reed or Dr. Wass will attend.
- o The Council held extensive discussions on the draft lobster FMP prepared by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The Council adopted the plan, following minor amendments and requested that it be edited and resubmitted within one month.
- o The recent NMFS proposed changes in the billfish PMP were reviewed and rejected by the Council. Strong sentiment was expressed by the Chairman and various members that the Western Pacific Council maintains its original position that no foreign billfishing be allowed within 100 miles of Hawaii, 50 miles of Guam, and 12 miles of American Samoa.
- o NMFS representatives reviewed the proposed NOAA reorganization and the Council expressed strong support for raising the status of fisheries to the Assistant Administrator level.
- o Chairman Yee reported that Administrator Frank has been invited to attend the Council's January meeting scheduled for Saipan, NMI.
- o The Council did not meet in October. The above reflects additional highlights from the Council's September 29-30 meeting in Kaanapali, Maui. The next meeting is scheduled for November 28-29, 1977, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Meetings of Regional Fishery Management Councils

F31:CJCJORDAN
November 11, 1977
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Month	New England	Mid Atlantic	South Atlantic	Caribbean	Gulf of Mexico	Western Pacific	Pacific	North Pacific
NOVEMBER 1977	● 11/9-10 Peabody, MA Council	● 11/9-10 Dover, Delaware Council, SSC		No Meeting				
	● 11/29 Peabody, MA SSC		● 11/15-17 Kissimmee, FL Council; SSC; AP		● 11/15-17 Kissimmee, FL Council		● 11/14-15 Los Angeles, CA Council; SSC	● 11/29-30 Anchorage, AK SSC
DECEMBER 1977	● 12/7-8 Peabody, MA Council		No Meeting	● 12/6-8 San Juan, PR Council	No Meeting	No Meeting		● 12/1-2 Anchorage, AK Council; SSC; AP
	● 12/20 Boston, MA SSC	● 12/14-15 Highlands, NJ Council					● 12/14-16 Portland, OR Council; SSC	
JANUARY 1978	▲ 1/10-11 Council				▲ 1/10-12 Biloxi, MS Council	▲ 1/9-12 Saipan Council	▲ 1/11-13 San Diego, CA Council; SSC	
	● 1/17 Peabody, MA SSC		▲ 1/24-26 Charleston, SC Council					
FEBRUARY 1978	▲ 2/14-15 Council						▲ 2/8-10 Renton, WA Council; SSC	
			▲ 2/28-3/2 FL Council					
MARCH 1978								
			▲ 3/28-30 Charleston, SC Council					

SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee
AP - Advisory Panel
● - PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER
▲ - Partially Closed Session
○ - PENDING--Council referral to NMFS
◻ - PENDING--NMFS referral to Fed. Reg.

(1)