

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

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The NPFMC met Aug. 24-25 at the Captain Cook Hotel. Some of the highlights of the meeting included:

- * U.S./U.S.S.R. FISHING AGREEMENT - The Council endorsed a draft agreement between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. for U.S. fishermen to fish for pollock in Soviet waters. A recommendation was made that fisheries research to be conducted by the U.S. be permissive. The draft version would make such research mandatory.
- * JOINT-VENTURES- A request by Robert Davenney of Davenney & Associates and Robert Ely, attorney for the Korean Marine Industrial Development Corporation (KMIDC) was made for the inclusion in the DAH of a projected catch of 130,000 mt of pollock from the Gulf of Alaska in 1979. The Council moved to amend the FMP for GoA groundfish to add 100,000 mt of pollock and bycatch of other species to the reserve for U.S. fishermen.
- * GoA RESERVES RECOMMENDED FOR RELEASE- The Council recommended the release of some reserves of groundfish in the GoA to foreign fishermen for the rest of 1978. The amounts included 8,120 mt of Pacific cod, 6,700 mt of flounder and 2,200 mt of sablefish. The sablefish are to be taken west of 140 West. Reserves of POP and other rockfish were recommended held because of their depleted status.
- * RELEASE OF HERRING- Depressed herring stocks in the Bering Sea has prompted the Council to retain the estimated full DAH of 10,000 mt rather than release it for allocation to foreign fishermen. Nearly 7,000 mt was taken by U.S. fishermen in 1978. The possible under-reporting of foreign catches early in the year was another factor leading to the Council's decision.
- * FOREIGN FEE SCHEDULE-The Council supported recommendations from the Advisory Panel to increase the price of Pacific ocean perch to \$378/ton (the same as other rockfish) and to set two fee schedules for herring, \$991/ton for herring with roe from April 15 to June 15 and \$100/ton for the rest of the year. The Council will ask Washington to reconsider the price of squid as the \$938/ton tag seemed too high for the rather low value species taken in the commercial fishery off Alaska. Foreign fees are assessed at 3½% of the published prices.

* HALIBUT FMP- The Council reviewed a first draft of the Halibut FMP and approved it for public review and comment. The draft provides for seasons and quotas off Alaska similar to the 1978 IPHC regulations, but restricts the fishery to U.S. fishermen. The plan will not be used if a new U.S./Canadian agreement is reached before April 1, 1979.

* TANNER CRAB FOR 1979- The Council has moved to implement the Tanner crab FMP "as is" for 1979, with the plan to take effect Nov. 1, 1978. Additional revision will take place at the September Council meeting, with changes to become effective Mar. 15. Changes in OY's will probably be necessary in some areas, including the Bering Sea, where the number of C. bairdi are expected to decrease through 1982.

* BS/A GROUND FISH OPTIONS-Two additional options were approved by the Council to be included in the Bering Sea/Aleutian groundfish FMP. They provide for a longline sanctuary on both sides of the Aleutians between 172 West and 179 East and for a range of gear type closures in the winter "halibut savings" area.

* BERING SEA SHRIMP- An overview of the shrimp surveys taken this summer in the Bering Sea indicate (1) a relatively small resource compared to the Gulf of Alaska, (2) a shift in shrimp populations to the northwest and (3) larger shrimp than those found in the Gulf.

* SHRIMP WORKSHOP- The Council endorsed a recommendation by the SSC for a shrimp workshop to be held in Kodiak in January. The purpose is to examine fishing and processing techniques and management programs worldwide. Participants will include shrimp experts from all countries with pandalid shrimp fisheries. The workshop planning committee includes Dr. Don Rosenberg and Dr. Lee Alverson of the SSC, Oral Burch of the AP and Jack Lechner, ADF&G plus once Council member.

* ALEUTIAN CLEANUP- The U.S. Corps of Engineers is sponsoring a study for the removal of WW II debris from the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula. The Council agreed that activity associated with a total cleanup could do more damage to the environment than the effects of leaving it in place and recommended that any cleanup be done on a case-by-case basis in areas where human or fisheries development is affected. If a decision is made to clean up, the Council felt there would be only a marginal, direct effect on the fisheries in the area.

* NEW LOOK FOR FMP'S - A change in publication methods for FMP's has been approved by the Council. Future plans are to be published in two volumes. Volume I will be a complete FMP and DEIS; Volume II will be a summary form and DEIS. The change will reduce cost of printing and mailing and make more information available in easier and shorter form. Volume II will be the version sent to the general mailing list. Volume I, with supporting annexes, appendices and other supporting materials will be made available to those needing the research and background materials.

* AP MEMBERSHIP- Shari Gross, UFA Executive Director, and Bob Blake, Cordova Aquatic Marketing Assn., have been named to the Advisory Panel. The appointments were made for two months (until October) at which time the two-year terms of the AP membership expire and all members will be considered for reappointment.

* SSC MEMBERSHIPS- Steve Pennoyer, ADF&G, has been appointed chairman of the SSC effective in October, replacing Dr. Lee Alverson who has said he will not be available to serve another term on the SSC. Dr. Frank Fukuhara (Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center) will replace Dr. Alverson on the SSC. Members Millikan, Miles, Rogers, Robinson, Bevan and Rosenberg will continue on the SSC and Jack Lechner (ADF&G) will replace Carl Rosier.

* INPFC NOMINATIONS- A letter of appreciation has been written by the Council to Mr. Toshio Isogai, Executive Director of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, who is leaving that post soon. The Council endorsed Mr. Roy Jackson, a former executive director of the INPFC, as Mr. Isogai's replacement. The Council also recommended that present commissioners Mr. Elmer Rasmusson and Mr. Bob Thorstenson be reappointed if they so wish. If not, recommendations were made for Harvey Samuelson and Ed Huizer as replacements.

* SEPTEMBER MEETING- The September meeting of the NPFMC will be in Sitka on Sept. 28-29 at the Centennial Bldg., starting at 8:30 a.m. each day.

* PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE- A series of public hearings has been set for three management plans. The September schedule includes:

Juneau, Sept. 22, Baranof Hotel, 9-5:00
Ketchikan, Sept. 23, Marine View Hotel, 9-5:00
Petersburg, Sept. 24, Council Chambers, 1:30-5:30
Pelican, Sept. 25, High School, 10:30-4:00
Sitka, Sept. 27, Centennial Bldg., 9-5:00

The above listed hearings will be for the purpose of discussing the salmon troll fishery in Southeast Alaska. An additional public hearing on the salmon troll plan has been scheduled for Oct. 5 in Ketchikan if it appears there has not been adequate opportunity for all those interested to attend the September hearings.

The October schedule starts with the Ketchikan hearing and includes opportunities for comment on troll salmon and BSA groundfish during the Oct. 7 hearing in Seattle at the Airport Hilton, 9-5:00; Oct. 10 in Kodiak, Elks Club, troll salmon, BSA groundfish and halibut, 9-5:00; Oct. 12, Unalaska, Pan-Alaska Rec Hall, troll salmon, BSA groundfish, halibut, 9-12 noon; Oct. 24, Sitka, Centennial Bldg, BSA groundfish, halibut, 9-3:00; Oct. 26, Seattle, Vance Airport Inn, BSA groundfish, halibut, 9-5:00; Oct. 31, Anchorage, A-W Hotel, BSA groundfish, halibut, 9-5:00.