

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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**OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION TO THE
WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

October 24, 2001 WPFMC Council Meeting
Agendum 6.A : Pelagic Fisheries, Pacific Council HMS Fishery Management Plan

Jim Lone, Chairman

- Opening Remarks
- Purpose of this Presentation
- Chronology of Events 1994 - 2001

Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director

- Need for a Pacific Council HMS FMP
- Overview of Draft FMP Content
- Schedule of Upcoming Considerations

Discussion

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF A FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES IN THE PACIFIC

1994

- December - The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) requests the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to designate them as the single Council responsible for management of pelagic fisheries in the Pacific. WPFMC alternatives are:
 1. Status Quo
 2. Coordinated Data Collection
 3. Joint Fishery Management Plan
 4. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Management
 5. Single Council Designation
- The WPFMC favored a single Council designation.
- The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) opposed that approach, because it was not in the best interests of West Coast fisheries.
 - ★ See September 1997 Briefing from PFMC.

1996

- July - After input from affected Councils and industry groups, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concluded that single Council designation was not necessary at this time.
 - ★ See July 31, 1996 letter from NMFS.
- The WPFMC continued to maintain that a comprehensive fishery management plan (FMP) with single Council designation was necessary.

1997

- June - Management of HMS in the Pacific was raised again at the Council Chairs' meeting in Puerto Rico.
- As a result of the discussion, Mr. Rollie Schmitt asked Dr. Bill Hogarth (NMFS Southwest Region) to work with three Pacific area Councils to develop a recommendation on how to proceed.
- September - At the PFMC meeting, NMFS Southwest Region presented a paper outlining options for PFMC involvement in highly migratory species (HMS) management. Those options included:
 1. Status Quo
 2. WPFMC's Proposal
 3. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Management
 4. A Joint FMP
 5. A West Coast FMP
 - ★ See August 1997 Option Paper from NMFS.
- PFMC established a HMS policy committee to address HMS concerns and coordinate with the other Councils.

- November - PFMC appointed a representative to attend meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Multilateral High-Level Conference (MHLC) and recommended establishment of an inter-Council coordinating committee.

1998

- June - PFMC appointed members to an advisory subpanel (HMSAS).
- September - Representatives of the three Pacific area Councils met to discuss collaboration on HMS management in Washington, D.C. NMFS Southwest Region presented a straw man approach for coordinated management. The objectives of the approach were:
 1. To Achieve Effective Coordination and Management
 2. To Ensure Comprehensive Data Collection
 3. To Ensure the Ability to Take Timely Action
 4. To Ensure Public Process
- The WPFMC did not support the approach proposed by NMFS, because they believed the joint actions required would increase work load, increase costs, delay implementation of regulations, and weaken the authority of the WPFMC.

1999

June - PFMC voted to begin development of a HMS FMP and wrote the WPFMC and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) inviting their participation.

- ★ See June 23, 1999 letter from PFMC.
- The WPFMC was not inclined to participate at that time.
- The NPFMC expressed support for participation.

PFMC ACTIONS SINCE THE DECISION TO DEVELOPMENT A HMS FMP

1999

- June - Began development of FMP
- September - Appointed a HMS Plan Development Team (HMSPDT)
- October - A scoping session was held in fishery-dependent communities along the West Coast

2000

- March - A control date was set for limited entry

2001

- March - The Council reviewed the first draft of the HMS FMP
- June - The Council reviewed the second draft of the FMP
- November - The Council will adopt the final draft of the FMP for public review

2002

- January/February - Public hearings will be held
- March - The Council will adopt the final FMP

Talking Points
Overview of Pacific Council
Draft Fishery Management Plan for Highly Migratory Species
October 24, 2001

Need for a Pacific Council HMS FMP

1. West Coast specific reasons
 - a. Inconsistencies in the regulations for HMS between West Coast States
 - b. US - Canada Albacore Treaty
 - c. Limited Entry
2. International reasons
3. Inter-Council reasons

Overview of Draft FMP Content

1. Framework approach
 - a. Fixed element concept
 - b. Flexible element concept
2. Framework content examples
 - a. Definition of allowable gear for commercial fishing
 - b. Coordination process
3. Immediate regulation examples
 - a. Options to require permits for commercial and recreational vessels
 - b. Longline regulations for fishing on the high seas, outside the EEZ
(if longlines are selected as allowed commercial fishing gear)

Schedule

Council to consider releasing draft FMP for public review

- Thursday, November 1, 2001 San Francisco, California

Proposed Public Hearings

- Monday, January 28, 2002 Long Beach, CA
- Tuesday, January 29, 2002 Monterey, CA
- Wednesday, January 30, 2002 Newport, OR
- Thursday, January 31, 2002 Astoria, OR
- Friday, February 1, 2002 Westport, WA

Council to consider adopting final FMP

- March Council Meeting Sacramento, CA

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August 22, 2001

Ms. Kitty Simonds
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
(808) 522-8226

Dear Kitty,

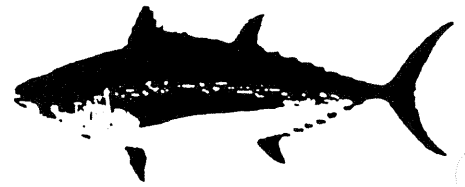
With the clarity brought about by hindsight, FISH has come to realize that it was a mistake, in 1994, for us to have opposed the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's petition for sole authority to manage HMS in the Pacific region. FISH has always understood that responsible management of HMS can only be accomplished through international cooperation, and has supported the establishment of domestic authority in preparation for such management. Our belief that the WPFMC and the Pacific Fishery Management Council could jointly accomplish this end was in error. To date, our experience with the PFMC's ongoing development of an HMS FMP is that they show little interest in HMS, domestically or internationally, and that the only reason they continue to host the development of this FMP is because the NMFS Southwest Region has funded it in order to establish the federal authority under which they can more easily implement regulations relating to HMS fisheries that interact with certain protected species.

Consistent with our intent to see HMS taken seriously, and managed responsibly, FISH supports a restructuring of the Southwest Region that would establish a Western Pacific Region, and relocate the Pacific Islands Area Office. Clearly, such a Region is best situated, culturally, historically, and geographically, to facilitate international representation of U.S. interests regarding Pacific HMS, as well as formulate and administer domestic HMS management for the Pacific region. If we can be of any help in this regard, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully,

Chuck Janisse, on behalf of FISH

WESTERN FISHBOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION®



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August 22, 2001

Kitty Simonds, Executive Director
Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Honolulu, HI
Via Facsimile: 808.522.8226

Re: NMFS Restructuring

Dear Kitty:

It is a core reality that any future Pacific HMS regulations – whether state, federal, or international – will affect WFOA's US members, who are based out of Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii, at the local level. There is significant concern over what forms this potential management may take, how effective it will be in the international context and – most importantly, which federal entities will be administering any new regulations that will apply to the US albacore fleet.

As you already know, WFOA has therefore been working in the highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries management arena in a variety of different arenas for quite some time now. Among other things, WFOA has invested a considerable amount of time in the Multilateral High Level Conference to secure a practical, cost-effective Western and Central Pacific Convention to help protect the future of the albacore and other HMS fisheries in the Pacific, as well as other bilateral and multilateral management planning processes (i.e., relating to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and US/Canadian albacore treaty). We have also been very active participants in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) development efforts over the past 24 months, and we have strongly advocated the concept of entering into a joint FMP process with the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WPFMC) throughout this process.

The reason why I am writing to you today is to express concern over recent (and somewhat vague) news of a potential restructuring of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest region, and to once again reiterate WFOA's strong desire for WPFMC to take a leadership role in any federally administered Pacific HMS management efforts. WPFMC has critically important experience in addressing HMS fisheries issues, and advanced knowledge of often unique circumstances faced by high seas fleets. While we do not know exactly what will happen with the NMFS Southwest region or what the possible impacts to ongoing Pacific HMS management efforts may be, WFOA firmly believes that WPFMC's active involvement in Pacific HMS FMP development and implementation can enhance current efforts while also having a stabilizing effect during what appears to be uncertain times.

WFOA will naturally continue to work with whatever system is put before us, yet in light of recent news it would seem very timely for WPFMC to become proactive on the HMS management front. There are very intelligent and dedicated people in the NMFS Southwest region, and it would be a major loss if current events resulted in reassignments to other programs; meanwhile, there are those of the same caliber in Hawaii, and perhaps an opportunity to further enhance all US efforts to ensure proper stewardship of the Pacific HMS fisheries and resources. Please feel free to call with any other questions you may have, and as always WFOA will work with WPFMC on these issues and attend any council meetings or other forums where issues affecting the albacore fishery may arise.

Sincerely,



Wayne Heikkila
Executive Director

cc: Wayne Moody, president
WFOA Board of Directors
Tana McHale, Fisheries Consultant
Peter Flournoy, WFOA counsel
John LaGrange, AFRF president
Vidar Westpestad, AFRF consultant

