Exhibit A.3
Mitchell Act Letters
L June 2002

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Hans Radtke 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200 Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Donald O. McIsaac

Telephone: 503-326-6352 Fax: 503-326-6831 www.pcouncil.org

April 19, 2002

The Honorable Norm Dicks U.S. Congressional Representative 6th District, Washington 2467 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-4706

RE: Mitchell Act Funding Shortfalls and Effects on West Coast Salmon Fisheries

Dear Congressman Dicks:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2002, requesting information about the funding levels for Mitchell Act impacts on West Coast salmon fisheries. We would like to take this opportunity for an immediate response to some of the issues posed in your letter, and to provide some additional, more detailed, technical information on Mitchell Act hatchery funding shortfall impacts in a subsequent letter by mid-summer.

This matter was discussed at great length at the recent Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting in Portland Oregon. The agendum consumed over two hours of time on the Council floor, including public testimony from a large number of individuals concerned about effects on sport, commercial, and tribal fisheries and dialogue from nearly every Council Member. The discussion focused on two central themes:

- The elimination of funding for the mass marking line item in the Administration's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2003 budget.
- The inadequacies of continued level funding to achieve the mitigation obligation for Mitchell Act hatchery production.

Elimination of funding for mass marking hatchery fish causes enormous harm to fisheries and contradicts rational justification of at least a portion of Mitchell Act hatchery production. In recent years, an increasing proportion of salmon fisheries in the Pacific Northwest have been able to successfully target on hatchery fish and avoid normal fishery impacts on wild fish. This is accomplished by mass marking (removing the small adipose fin) of hatchery fish before release from hatcheries. Mitchell Act marking programs support a substantial portion of the selective coho salmon fisheries off Oregon and Washington. Not marking these hatchery fish will make them indistinguishable from wild fish, requiring their release in these selective fisheries. This not only will substantially reduce the allowable quota for each of these fisheries, with the consequent fiscal losses to the businesses and communities in the economic web of these fisheries, but flies in the face of the purpose these hatchery fish were produced for in the first place: to be caught by fisheries. Large subsequent returns to hatcheries far in excess of reproduction requirements represents unacceptable economic waste.

The Honorable Norm Dicks April 19, 2002 Page 2

Continuous level funding for Mitchell Act hatcheries represents a broken federal promise to mitigate for salmon losses due to federally sanctioned development projects not otherwise covered in mitigation agreements. Nearly a decade of level funding has caused the closure of seven hatchery facilities, and together with reductions in others, a 40% reduction in the number of juvenile salmon released. While mitigation agreements for some hydro-electric dams have been honored, such as the ones with private sector developers like Tacoma City and Light Company for Cowlitz River dams and PacifiCorp for Lewis River dams, and other federal projects such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mitigation agreement for John Day Dam, mitigation for the many dams and other impacts to be covered by the Mitchell Act have not been honored. Continuous level funding is causing a slow, insidious decline, a "death from a thousand cuts" as one at the recent Council meeting testified. Also at the recent Council Meeting, one respected tribal representative stated he recalls he and his people being told that they "...need not to worry. When the hatcheries are built, there will be more salmon than there used to be". However, current runs are far short of historic levels.

As Mitchell Act hatchery production decline, so do fisheries that are of great traditional, cultural, and economic importance to the region. Mitchell Act production represents a significant contribution to West Coast fisheries from California to Alaska, and adequate funding of those programs is essential for maintaining the viability of ocean and Columbia River fisheries, and meeting treaty trust responsibilities.

Testimony from Council members noted the concerns about interactions between hatchery and wild fish that can be deleterious to wild fish. However, they noted improvements and reforms that ameliorate harmful impacts, such as sorting hatchery fish out of wild fish spawning areas and brood stock conversions to genetically compatible strains. Marking hatchery fish also provides wild fish protection in selective fisheries and the ability to sort fish in spawning areas. The mitigation promise was to maintain the number of salmon. Today, this must be an aggregate of hatchery and wild fish due to the loss of about half the historically available anadromous salmon habitat in the Columbia basin due to complete blockage by dams, and the degradation of much of the remaining anadromous habitat due to dams (including those with fish ladders) and other associated development within the region.

The Council notes the Columbia River border states have developed funding level recommendations for the FY 2003 budget that address the two issues of focus in this letter:

- \$ 1 M for the Columbia River Hatcheries Mass Marking line item
 - o an increase of \$1 M over the Administration's proposed budget
- \$ 15.723 M for the Columbia River Hatcheries and Facilities line item
 - o an increase of \$2.265 M over the Administration's proposed budget

Please anticipate we will provide additional technical information on the impacts of funding shortfalls by mid-summer. The Council's Salmon Technical Team has been assigned with the task of quantifying the contribution of Mitchell Act mass marking programs to selective fisheries, and will prepare an analysis prior to the Council's June 17-21, 2002 meeting in San Francisco, California. This analysis may include the effects on quotas, seasons, fishing effort, and spawning escapements during years of both low ocean productivity and high ocean productivity. We will also attempt to assess the socioeconomic impacts to industry and community parameters.

The Honorable Norm Dicks April 19, 2002 Page 3

On behalf of the Council and those participating in the large public response at our April Council Meeting, I would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to Mitchell Act mitigation funding for Columbia River hatchery programs. If the Council can be of additional service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D. Executive Director

CAT:rdh

Enclosure

c: Council Members
Mr. Randy Fisher
Salmon Advisory Subpanel
Salmon Technical Team
Mr. R. Z. Smith
Mr. Rob Jones

Briefing Paper PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Hans Radtke EXECTIVE DIRECTOR

Donald O. McIsaac

Mitchell Act Funding

Problems and Consequences

THE PROBLEM:

The Administration's proposed FY 2003 budget for the Mitchell Act eliminates the mass marking program and reduces hatchery releases for commercial, recreational, and treaty Indian salmon fisheries. Continuous level funding for hatchery programs fails to meet the mitigation responsibility of the federal government.

FACTS:

- ✓ The Mitchell Act was passed in 1938 to conserve the fishery resources of the Columbia River. This has included fish screening and hatchery production to mitigate primarily for lost salmon production and habitat associated with construction and operation of Columbia River hydropower projects.
- ✓ Grand Coulee Dam alone, with no fish passage, eliminated over 1,200 square miles of spawning habitat. Dams now block about half of the previously accessible salmon habitat of the entire basin. Turbines and bypass systems kill an average of 3% to 11% of the remaining juvenile salmon that pass each dam; unscreened irrigation withdrawals kill millions more; slow moving water in reservoirs result in water temperatures that exceed Clean Water Act standards, delay migrations, and predator concentrations that kill millions more.
- ✓ The Mitchell Act funded 23 hatcheries and two rearing ponds in 1993. Because of level funding since then, only 18 hatcheries are currently funded, production has declined from 110 million juveniles to 65 million juveniles, and the federal government is not meeting its commitment to mitigate for lost wild salmon with hatchery produced salmon.
- ✓ Mass marking of Mitchell Act hatchery fish fuels selective fisheries, which are the mainstay of recreational fisheries offshore of Washington and Oregon and inside the Columbia River, as well commercial spring chinook in-river fisheries.

IMPACTS:

Proposed funding for 2003 is again static, requiring additional program cuts or hatchery closures, and making compliance with the ESA difficult. Not mass marking hatchery fish will substantially reduce selective fisheries, now the mainstay of salmon recreational fishing in Washington and Oregon.

Reduced releases will cause fisheries to be cut back, affecting

- Economies of coastal communities
- Tribal culture and treaty trust responsibilities
- Traditions and lifestyle for all citizens of the west coast

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

The cooperating state agencies recommend:

- 1. The Mass Marking line item needs to be reinstated at \$1 M.
- 2. The Columbia River Hatcheries and Facilities line item needs to be increased to \$15.723 to avoid cutting any existing programs.

NORM DICKS 6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON COMMITTEE: APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERIOR
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
DEFENSE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 29, 2002

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RECYCLED PAPER



Dr. Donald McIssac Executive Director Pacific Fishery Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200 Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Dr. McIssac:

The hatchery chinook production from Mitchell Act funded facilities on the Columbia River is vital to the well being of the economies of communities along the Washington coast and the Columbia River basin. The fish produced from these hatcheries are an important contributor to maintaining healthy commercial and recreational fisheries and they provide a cornerstone to the business community that depends on commercial and recreational fishing activity. The harvest of these fish has provided jobs in both rural and metropolitan areas that border their migration path. I am writing to the Council at this time to express my deep concern relative to the future funding base for Mitchell Act hatcheries. I would be very interested in your thoughts and opinions about the production levels from these facilities in recent years and the relative importance these fish have on future fishing opportunities under your jurisdiction.

As you know, funding for these facilities has been stagnant for nearly ten years. I am concerned about the cuts in production that have occurred and the corresponding effects on important commercial and recreational fisheries. I would like your assistance in quantifying the decreases in production and your views about what the future effects on fisheries will be if level funding is continued over the next five years.

This is an important issue to the citizens of Washington State and I want you to know that I am committed to working with you to address the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and discussing your thoughts in response to these questions.

Sincerely,

NORM DICKS Member of Congress

Morn Dichs

BRIAN BAIRD.
THIRD DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON THANSFORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, AC 20515-4703

April 12, 2002

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Frank Wolf Chairman Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State House Appropriations Committee Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Serrano:

We are writing to express our support for increased funding for the Mitchell Act hatchery program. Specifically, we are looking for an increase of \$3,265,000 over the President's budget request of \$16,522,000. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important priority as you develop the Fiscal Year 2003 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill.

As you may already be aware, funding for the Mitchell Act was established in 1938 for the purpose of providing salmon for the fisheries that were lost due to the construction of the federal hydropower system. Currently, hatcheries in the Columbia Basin produce over 70 percent of all salmon and steelhead utilized for harvest. The Mitchell Act hatcheries are a vital component of this production.

It is estimated that Mitchell Act hatchery facilities produce salmon and steelhead that generate over 600,000 angler days of fishing in the Columbia Basin, infusing \$30 million and providing 38,000 jobs into northwest communities. Additionally Mitchell Act funded salmon and steelhead hatchery production contributes substantially to Native American and commercial fisheries. Investing a total of \$19,765,000 for these hatcheries in FY2003 will allow for these important economic contributions to continue. Without the \$3,265,000 of additional funding, significant cut backs in hatchery production will occur, which in turn will adversely impact sport, commercial and tribal fisheries, as well as the local communities dependent on this activity. Also, the added funds will allow the continuation of mass marking of hatchery fish which is essential to selective fisheries that allow harvest of hatchery fish and the safe release of Endangered Species Act listed wild salmon and steelhead.

The President's budget for the National Marine Fisheries Service to support Mitchell Act hatchery production has remained at about \$15.4 million for the last five years. If this flatlining of the budget continues for Fiscal Year 2003 there will be more hatchery closures in Washington and Oregon, and up to a 50 percent cut back in the production of the popular and economically valuable spring chinook at several facilities. Over the last 10 years, hatchery budgets have not

increased while costs for fish food, salaries, energy, and maintenance have. We advocate for a modest and fair increase of \$3,265,000 to ensure that the 18 Mitchell Act fish hatcheries in Washington and Oregon will continue to operate in a genetically responsible, recovery oriented and sustainable manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you on this matter during the coming months.

Sincerely, Rep. David Wu



Rachelle Schaaf - Chair Lucie La Bonté - Vice Chair Marlyn Schafer - Commissioner

(541) 247-3296 * P.O. Box 746, Gold Beach, OR. 97444 * (541) 247-2718 (FAX)

Dr. Don McIsaac, Director Pacific Fisheries Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200 Portland, OR 972201384

MAY **7** 2002

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RE: Mitchell Act Comments

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

April 30, 2002

The Curry County Board of Commissioners would like to state its support for increased funding through the Mitchell Act. Without increased funding there could be a dramatic impact to Oregon and Washington fisheries. Salmon fisheries within Oregon have already suffered declines. Recently we are starting to see positive signs of salmon populations rebounding. In Curry County we believe that there will be further declines without the majority of the catch coming from fin clipped Coho originating from the Lower Columbia River Hatcheries. The funding provided by the federal government for these activities is critical to the future of continued fishing of these populations. Without continued fishing there will be a direct impact on local coastal economies such as ours.

The Mitchell Act funding for hatchery operations has only increased slightly from FY 93 to FY 02. As a result of inadequate funding increases significant production cuts started occurring in 1995. Continued inflation without funding increases translates to hatchery closures and a zero rate of return from past federal funding investments. Local economies will be impacted further. Long-term budget declines will also impact National Marine Fisheries Service's ability to mitigate the impacts to stocks for the Columbia River Dams and complete many other important tasks it is charged with.

The President's budget includes a total of \$16,522,000 for the Mitchell Act Program. We are in concurrence with the cooperating fishery agencies that a base program funding level of at least \$24,554,000 is needed. Therefore we strongly support all efforts to increase the level of funding for this program in order for our fishery agencies to continue their important work of keeping our fisheries and communities sustainable.

Sincerely;

Cómmissioner Schaaf 🛭

Chair

Commissioner La Bonte

Vice-Chair

Commissioner Schafer

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April 29, 2002

Board of Commissioners:
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Lloyd D. Whaley
Vice Chairman
S. John Zia
Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth L. Byrtus

Executive Director: C. Russ Crabtree

Norma H. Fitzgerald

Board Members Edmund G. Gray

Port Legal Counsel: Christopher Keusink

Financial Director: Merle E. Mehlhoff

Billing Clerk: Judy Mellus

Administrative Assistant: Nita J. Rolfe

Office Manager: Betty A. Sumner

Harbormaster:
Daniel L. Thompson

Operations Supervisor: Dave Jones

Operations Supervisor: Greg T. Chandler

RV Park Host: Pat Chesterman Mr. Don McIsaac, Director Pacific Fisheries Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200 Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Mitchell Act Comments

Dear Mr. McIsaac:

The Port of Brookings Harbor and the Port Fisheries Committee would like to state, for the record, our support for increased funding through the Mitchell Act. It is well known in our area that without increased funding the result could be a dramatic impact to Oregon and Washington Fisheries, both troll and recreational. Our coastal salmon fisheries have already suffered severe declines and just recently is starting to see some positive signs of rebounding but will decline further without the bulk of the catch coming from fin clipped Coho originating from the Lower Columbia Hatcheries. This makes funding provided by the federal government critical if future fishing is not to be heavily curtailed further and coastal economics are to not continue on their downward spiral.

The Mitchell Act funding for hatchery operations has only increased slightly from FY 93 to FY 02. Consideration should be given to the significant production cuts starting in 1995, which are a result of inadequate funding levels and it can only create the inability for fishery managers to keep up with inflation and cost of living increases. This translates to hatchery closures and a zero rate of return for past investments and degrading of coastal economies, not to mention decline of production of 33 million fish including fall Chinook, spring Chinook, and Coho as well as both summer and winter steelhead.

Mr. Don McIsaac, Director April 29, 2002

Above all else, fisheries decline, coastal economies are impacted and National Marine Fisheries Service, by these long-term budget declines, cannot do their job, which is to mitigate the impacts to stocks for the Columbia River Dams. This agency is charged with numerous tasks that include, but are not limited to the following: 1. Conduct investigations, engineering, biological surveys and experiments as may be necessary to direct and facilitate conservation of the fishery resources. 2. Construct and install devices in the Columbia River Basin for the improvement of feeding and spawning conditions for fish, for the protection of migratory fish from irrigation projects, and for facilitating free migration of fish over obstructions. 3. To perform all other activities necessary for the conservation of fish in the Columbia River Basin in accordance with the law.

As with any federal authorized program, the previous funding levels are the starting point for an administration. The President's budget includes a total of \$16.522 M for the Mitchell Act program. The cooperating state fishery agencies believe that a base program of at least \$24.554 M is needed. After our review and knowing the importance of the Mitchell Act program funding to our state, we collectively, as a Port District and Fisheries Organization, strongly support all efforts to increase the level of funding in order for our fishery agencies to continue to do an extraordinary job as has been done in the past.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and please see that our comments are sent forward to the appropriate federal agencies.

Sincerely,

Russ Crabtree

Executive Director

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REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL
PACIFIC COUNCIL
WESTERN PACIFIC COUNCIL

NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

GULF COUNCIL CARRIBEAN COUNCIL

June 7, 2002

The Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest, Chairman Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans 1324 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Gilchrest:

The Chairmen of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils met during the week of May 27, 2002 to address several matters of mutual concern. One significant issue that we spent considerable time on was potential changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. At the request of Dave Whaley, Legislative Staff for the House Committee on Resources, we would like to take this opportunity to provide general comments on this matter, and provide specific comments on H.R. 4749 ("Magnuson-Stevens Act Amendments of 2002"). Due to time constraints, we were unable to address the ten amendments to H.R. 4749 proposed but withdrawn on May 23.

Enclosed (Attachment 1) you will find section-specific comments to H.R. 4749, but the Chairmen also wish to take this opportunity to address a few other key issues which concern them. First, we'd like to draw your attention to two bad ideas we hope you will exclude from further consideration: splitting the authority in the MSA for conservation and allocation, and eliminating the role of Governors in making appointments to the Councils. We would also like to draw your attention to problems related to the interaction between the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), as well as to the nexus between legislative initiatives and the funding necessary for fishery conservation and management.

Dividing Conservation and Allocation

We understand there has been discussion in certain arenas about splitting the authority in the MSA for conservation from the authority for allocation, and assigning the conservation decisions to the Secretary of Commerce and the allocation decisions to the Councils. The Council Chairmen strongly disagree with such and approach.

Conservation and allocation are two of the elemental components of fishery management. The Chairmen know from their direct and long-standing experience that decisions regarding these components are inextricably linked. Proponents of a separation strategy presume that the political and societal pressures

confronting decisions-makers will somehow evaporate if a body other than the Regional Councils decide upon biological targets and management goals. To the contrary, such pressures will always be factors in these decisions. While the Council process is not perfect, the Councils are better suited to deal with these complex issues than a centralized bureaucracy which is divorced from the public. Councils are transparent (open to public scrutiny), deliberative bodies in which a multitude of different viewpoints are considered in the context of science-based management. Included in this process are the different scientific views brought to "objective, best science" by federal, state, tribal, academic, and private sector scientists that currently participate in the Council process. Such a broad base of scientific opinion would not be available if the National Marine Fisheries Service alone determines "conservation science."

Additionally, the Council process is also sensitive to the impacts of management on society. Conservation decisions are more often than not allocative. Usually, such management decisions involve a complex suite of interactive decisions which require a balancing between competing uses. Examples include establishing closed areas or Marine Protected Areas. How does one untangle the science of a variety of nearly equivalent protection areas from the allocative decision about which fisheries or communities should bear the greatest brunt of their effects, particularly when other alternatives like annual quotas can achieve the same resulting benefits to fish stocks? Another example is bycatch, when decisions to reduce bycatch for conservation purposes have inherent allocation impacts between fisheries and among fishermen.

Gubernatorial Role in Council Nominations/Appointments

We also understand there has been discussion of diminishing or eliminating the role of the Governors in developing lists of qualified nominees from which the Secretary makes appointments. One of the strengths of the MSA is the recognition of the importance of regional decision making. The Chairmen cannot think of a more effective way of destroying the influence of Councils in representing local viewpoints during development of regional fishery management plans, than to eliminate the Governors' roles in the selection of Council members. This might relegate Councils to the role of minor advisors in a federal fishery management decision-making process and could eliminate the serious participation of the States in this process. This is far from the deliberate concept to throughly involve regional interests envisioned by the framers of the MSA. Problems with Governor's offices that fail to submit nominations, or submit unbalanced nominations, can be addressed by existing Secretarial authority.

The Council Chairs strongly recommend that the current appointment process and mix of authorities embodied in the MSA be retained.

Funding Adequacy Issues

There has been much litigation recently that has been costly, aggravating, and not terribly productive towards the goal of fostering more effective fishery conservation and management. In fact, it has delayed several necessary management actions around the country. Often such litigation is based either on procedural issues (as opposed to substantive issues), or on matters where data are lacking and timelines not met. Adequate data on bycatch, stock status, essential fish habitat, and the socio—economic impacts of alternative fishery management options must be provided to the Councils before the Councils can prepare the requisite plans to avoid litigation. Setting new or additional performance standards for fishery management will only subject the process to further litigation if the information is unavailable to meet those performance standards. This most likely means that Congress has to substantially increase funding for the Services, the Councils and other related partners (e.g. the States) for data collection.

The Council Chairmen are strongly united in their recommendation that any new mandates must include additional funding to NMFS and the Councils if those mandates are to be met. We cannot stress enough the urgency of this matter. It is based on recent experience and reflects the reality of our situation. Council and NMFS staffs are fully engaged at this time and Council Chairmen are concerned that some of the mandates enacted under the SFA in 1996 have not been met simply because adequate funding was not provided. Adding new mandates without additional funding will only compound the problem.

Interaction between NEPA, the Administrative Procedures Act, and MSA

Finally, most Councils have substantial concerns about the interaction of the NEPA and the MSA. In fact, both laws include many of the same requisite features, but often the timelines and procedural requirements vary in ways that make coordination and timeliness extremely difficult to reconcile. The Council Chairmen would also like to raise the problem recently created by federal court interpretation in a West Coast groundfish case, in which the court found that the APA and Magnuson-Stevens Act itself required that the annual specifications and management measures be implemented through a proposed and final rule published in the Federal Register. Prior to this decision, the main focus of public comment was during the Council process, after which NMFS typically published final rules. Now, after the full Council process, NMFS is obligated to publish proposed rules, allow a comment period, respond to comments, and then proceed with the final rule process. This effectively prolongs establishing fishery measures five months or more beyond the final Council action, and can cause such problems as losing the currency of an entire stock assessment cycle. This issue affects all the Councils. We understand Commerce is appealing this court decision, but feel a legislative solution is appropriate to ensure a reasonable review and approval time frame.

The Chairmen believe consideration should be given to treating NEPA and the APA in the same way that the Magnuson-Stevens Act treats the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Councils and their committees are exempt from FACA but all provisions of FACA apply under the Magnuson Act. In this way, the substance of the requirements are met but there is no procedural competition in terms of timelines. This strategy should be considered for NEPA, APA, and the MSA.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. The comments above and those in the following attachment are in addition to those already submitted by the Council Chairmen about a year ago (Attachment 2). The Council Chairmen look forward to working with Congress towards a reauthorization that will remove us from the burden of counterproductive lawsuits and aid us in even more effectively managing the Nation's marine fisheries. We have assigned continuous involvement in this issue to the collective Executive Directors of the eight Regional Councils; please contact Chris Oliver, the Executive Director for the North Pacific Council (Chris.Oliver@noaa.gov; or 907-271-2809) with regard to any questions you may have on this submittal, or any other substance associated with this matter.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Chairmen of the Regional Councils.

David Benton
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, #306
Anchorage, AK 99501

The Honorable Wayne Gilchrest June 7, 2002 Page 4 of 4

Copies to:

Members of the Senate Committee for Commerce, Science and Transportation Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Fisheries Members of the House Committee on Resources Members of the House Subcommittee on fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans Vice Admiral Lautenbaucher, Jr.

Dr. William Hogarth

David Russell

David Whaley

Regional Fishery Management Councils

RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THE REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL CHAIRMEN ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE

MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT
(Based on draft Bill H.B. 4749 dated May 16, 2002, 12:30pm)

MAY 31, 2002

The following is a description of proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) under H.B. 4749 and the positions agreed upon by the Chairmen of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils during their annual meeting May 28-31, 2002, in Sitka, Alaska.

SECTION 3: REPORT ON OVERCAPITALIZATION

Recommendations: This section should be revised to require Secretarial consultation with the Councils in preparation of the overcapitalization report. Also, in subsection (b) page 3, line 6, after the word "financing" add ", government-funded buybacks or other available means."

SECTION 4: BUYOUT PROVISIONS

(Page 3, line 12 through page 4, line 4). Current language provides that the Secretary can only embark on a buyout program if a Council or "the Governor of a State for fisheries under State authority" requests such a program. The proposed language changes the provision so that the Secretary can engage in a program without the request of a Council or Governor, but the Council or Governor may request such a program if they so wish.

Recommend that current language of the MSA be retained. The Chairmen believe that the Secretary should have the concurrence of the Council or a Governor in order to develop a buyout program.

Page 4. line 5 through page 5. line 11. The current language of the Act means that a vessel being bought out must surrender the applicable permit for which the buyout is intended. The proposed language means that all permits authorizing participation in any U. S. fishery must be permanently surrendered and the holder of a permit that does not currently own a fishing vessel shall be prohibited from engaging in a buyout program (eliminates old section 312(b)(2)(B)).

Recommend support for the proposed language. The proposed language seems to better reflect the intent that all capacity be removed, without being shifted into another fishery. The Chairmen believe that buyouts should apply to <u>all</u> fisheries, whether or not they have been identified as overcapitalized.

SECTION 5: DATA COLLECTION

(Page 5, lines 17-20). The Secretary shall develop a recreational catch data program "...through the use of information gathered from State-licensed recreational fishermen."

The Chairmen recommend that data from recreational fishermen be included even if a State does not have a marine recreational fishing license.

The Chairmen strongly support better, more timely, collection of data to better meet current management needs, e. g. real time data for implementation of fishery management plan provisions.

Economic Data from processors. Page 6, line 9 through Page 7, line 2. Proposes the Secretary prepare a report to Congress regarding economic data from processors.

Recommendation: The Chairmen do not feel that the requirement for a report, alone, should be all that is adopted in this reauthorization. Councils cannot meet current needs under NEPA. Magnuson, etc. without access to data that describes the full range of the fisheries. The current prohibition prevents councils from being able to evaluate processor sector involvement in the fisheries. In 2001, the Chairmen recommended the elimination of prohibitions on collecting economic data from processors. The Chairmen reaffirm their support for this position. [See attached Chairmen's recommendations dated May 23, 2001]

SECTION 6: ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Chairmen agree that management based on ecosystem principles and ecosystem-wide information will be an important component of future fisheries management planning but sufficient information does not exist to embark on development of such plans at this time. Councils now include ecosystem-based information and ecosystem management principles and considerations in fishery management plans, to the extent they can do so. The effect of management on fishery-based communities is extremely important and ecosystem-based management should consider this factor. Improvements in science and the plan development process are clearly warranted and will come with time but adoption of ecosystem-based management now or in the near future is problematic given our current state of knowledge. The councils should lead in the effort to integrate ecosystem management principles into fishery management plans through the existing FMP amendment process.

For the current reauthorization, the Chairmen recommend that only subsection (b) "Authorization of Research" and subsection (c) "Definitions and Criteria for Management" should be included in this reauthorization and the other subsections should be deferred to a future reauthorization process. The Chairmen believe that subsection (a) is redundant to other provisions of the Act, and that it is premature to develop pilot programs (subsection (e)) because of the current lack of data. The Chairmen further recommend that subsection (c) be revised (Page 8, lines 1-2, "In General") to state:

"The Secretary and the Councils shall—(A) create a definition for "ecosystem" and for "marine ecosystem"; and..."

Unlike the SFA amendments for such things as EFH, where NMFS only consulted with the Councils in the promulgation of implementing rules, this will emphasize that the Councils must be full and equal partners in developing definitions and criteria for management based on ecosystem management principles and ecosystem-wide information.

Recommend that subsections (a), (d), (e) and (f) not be adopted in the current reauthorization.

Recommend that subsection (b) "Authorization of Research" be included in the current reauthorization.

Recommend that subsection (c) be included in the current reauthorization with the revision in (1) stating "The Secretary and the Councils shall—(A) create a definition for "ecosystem" and for "marine ecosystem"; and"

Recommend that subsections (b) and (c) of Section 6 "Ecosystem-Based Management" be enacted only if Congress provides substantive new funding to NMFS, the Councils and the States to engage in the research and development of an ecosystem-based management system.

SECTION 7: OBSERVERS

Recommend support (workload problems notwithstanding).

SECTION 8: OVERFISHING

(Page 11, lines 12-16). This proposal raises a substantive concern. Currently, definition 3(29) of the Act aggregates "overfishing" and "overfished" within the same definition. In attempting to clarify two different (although related) words, the proposal substantively changes the current interpretation of the word "overfished" with respect to the national standard guidelines adopted by the NMFS.

The proposed language would define an overfished stock as one with a size "below the natural range of fluctuation associated with the production of maximum sustainable yield." It is unclear what the "natural range of fluctuation" would be or who would decide that term. Arguably, depending on the level of precision (confidence) one wished to achieve, the "natural range" could produce virtually any number. Conservative individuals could push for a small confidence interval around the estimate meaning "overfished" would be almost equal to Bmsy. A more liberal interpretation would produce a larger confidence interval and a lower "low end" of the natural range (i. e. "overfished" would represent a biomass level much lower than Bmsy). One can just imagine the arguments over this distinction, and therefore this definition should be based on the observed range of fluctuations rather than the natural (i.e., theoretical) range of fluctuations.

The NSGs appear to define an overfished stock as one for which the stock size is less than ½ of the Bmsy "minimum biomass threshold." This is less subjective than the proposed language although still rather constraining on the councils' flexibility to adopt regionally-specific reference points.

Recommend: The Council Chairs support separating 'overfishing' and 'overfished' definitions, but have no further specific recommendation at this time.

The proposed addition of the words "due to overfishing" means that a stock that is not building biomass due to environmental factors but is being exploited at a level of mortality that does not jeopardize the capacity of the fishery "to produce the maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis" would not be considered overfished. Effectively, managers would have done everything possible (maintaining an appropriately low fishing mortality rate) but the stock has not responded due to environmental factors.

<u>Page 11, line 21 through Page 12, line 5</u>. This provision separates, as a reportable distinction, whether a stock is "overfished" due to fishing, or due to other causes. <u>Recommend support</u>: Consistent with the proposed language (Page 11, line 21-Page 12, line 5), we believe the

definition of 'overfished, however it is eventually determined, clarifies that that condition is 'due to overfishing,' consistent with that section.

Additionally, the Chairmen are concerned about interpretations by some parties of the current language regarding rebuilding requirements [Sec. 304(e)(4)(B)]. For example, in recent litigation on the east West Coast regarding groundfish, plaintiffs are focusing on both the terms 'as short as possible,' and 'not to exceed 10-years' as required mandates, regardless of the conditional language or the interpretive NSCs in place. The Chairmen's concern is that ten years may not be appropriate for some species, and respectfully request that language be included in the Act reinforcing the conditional language in Sect. 304(e)(4)(B)(i) and a firm boundary to the maximum allowable rebuilding time frame, such as currently contained in the NSG on this matter.

SECTION 9: BYCATCH

Subsection (a) (Page 12, line 7) proposes to add the word "seabirds" to the definition of regulatory discards. We do recognize the need to protect seabirds and reduce mortality, but question whether placement of seabirds at this place in the definitions actually serves the purpose intended. Therefore, until clarity is gained on this proposal, the Chairmen recommend against the proposed change.

Subsection (b), page 12, lines 10-22. Mandates a time-certain establishment of (and the beginning of implementation of) a standardized bycatch reporting methodology. Also provides an exception in the event such a method cannot be established or implemented within the year. H. R. 4749 modifies this exception by adding "...and the Secretary shall take appropriate action to address those reasons." The general section seems to be an appropriate inducement to proceed, while not locking the Councils or NMFS into another impossible mandate. However, the new clause in the exception means the Secretary alone is responsible for reconciling the deficiencies obstructing establishment and implementation. The Chairmen believe the Councils should play an equal role in this reconciliation.

Recommend support, with the following added language. The Chairmen believe the new exception should be revised at subsection (b)(2), page 12, lines 21-22 to state that;

"...the reasons why, and the Secretary and the Council must reconcile..."

Charitable Donations. Page 12, line 23. Provides for charitable donations of dead bycatch that, under specified conditions, cannot otherwise be avoided. The Chairmen recognize the advantage of such a proposal but also acknowledge the enforcement and administrative burdens the concept may create. The Chairmen offer no opinion at this time.

New Section 408, "Gear Development" Page 13, line 14. This creates a new Section 408 titled "Bycatch Reduction Gear Development" in the early Gilchrest Draft but changed to "Gear Development" in H. R. 4749. Two differences between the Gilchrest draft and H. R. 4749 are that the language for Grant Authority has changed slightly ("...subject to available appropriations...") and in addition to grant funding being used to minimize bycatch, it can also be used to minimize adverse fishing gear impacts on habitat areas of particular concern. While this change seems beneficial in Section 408, note the ramifications later when considering the newly-proposed definition of 'habitat area of particular concern.'

This section must be viewed carefully. It is an attractive proposal but the activity must be properly funded. New subsection (e) adds "Authorization of Appropriations" in the amount of

\$10,000,000 per year. This is much appreciated by the Chairmen but, of course, the funding has to get through the appropriations approval process and the proposal appears to be intended to fund only grants to entities other than NMFS, the Councils and the States. NMFS, Councils and the States need to be funded in this work if the program is to provide useful products.

Recommend: The Chairmen recommend that new Section 408 be enacted only if the Congress provides substantive new funding to NMFS, the Councils and the States and for research and development grants to engage in the research necessary to develop, or justify modifications to, fishing gear that will help minimize bycatch to the extent practicable.

SECTION 10: FISH HABITAT RESEARCH AND PROTECTION

Page 16. lines 7-21. Focuses conservation on those habitats for which sufficient information exists to be effective, or fishing activities for which the Council determines that the effects jeopardize the ability of the fishery to produce MSY on a continuing basis. This appears to be a useful attempt to direct limited resources towards the most important aspects of the EFH issue. H.R. 4749 adds to the required provisions of FMPs a provision to "minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on habitat areas of particular concern caused by fishing." This seems acceptable until one reads the newly-proposed definition of 'habitat area of particular concern' in H.R. 4749.

H.R 4749 adds a new definition of habitat area of particular concern as follows:

- (46) The term 'habitat area of particular concern' means any discrete habitat area that is essential fish habitat and that—
- (A) provides important ecological functions;
- (B) is sensitive to human-induced environmental degradation; or
- (C) is a rare habitat type.

This seems to mean that, once a discrete area is identified as essential fish habitat, any area that meets the tests in (A), (B) or (C) is automatically defined as a habitat area of particular concern, invoking some of the other mandatory measures that councils believe should be discretionary. The Chairmen wonder who decides whether an area meets the criteria in (A), (B) and (C)?

The Chairmen do not believe that such a specific definition is warranted. Effectively, it creates the same concerns that surfaced after passage and implementation of the SFA, e.g., EFH, in practical application (although not original intent), was defined as "everywhere."

The Chairmen recommend support of Section 10 only if the definition of habitat area of particular concern is modified as follows, or deleted.

(46) The term 'habitat area of particular concern' means any discrete habitat area that is a subset of essential fish habitat critical to spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity and that a Council, or the Secretary for any plan developed by the Secretary, has so designated in a fishery management plan or plan amendment.

The Chairmen support authority for the Councils to determine what constitutes an 'adverse impact.'

SECTION 11: DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR OYSTER SANCTUARIES AND RESERVES

The Chairmen have no comment on this issue.

SECTION 12: INDIVIDUAL QUOTA LIMITED ACCESS PROGRAMS

The Chairmen have a number of recommendations to offer on this section but will depart from line-by-line analysis in favor of several broad recommendations. The Chairmen recommend lifting the moratorium [see attached previous recommendations], with the following comments and recommendations:

- 1. Any IFQ developed by a Council should only be able to be terminated by that Council through a fishery management plan or plan amendment.
- 2. There should be no mandatory referenda to approve initiation of, or to ratify final approval of, a plan or plan amendment containing an IFQ. Essentially, the Chairmen believe that the existing council process is the appropriate forum for consideration, development and approval of such plans.
- 3. The issue of processor shares of individual quotas should be determined by the Council developing the plan. The implications of this issue will vary by region.
- 4. The ten-year sunset/review provision should be eliminated. The Councils do not support statutory sunset dates, but do support periodic review. The Councils can change or eliminate their IFQ plans as necessary by plan amendment.
- 5. On the issue of fees, the Council developing the plan should establish the fees, the NMFS should collect the fees, and use of the fees should be only for the FMP for which the fees were collected.
- 6. The Councils reaffirm their position that IFQs are not property rights and termination of a program does not constitute a taking.

SECTION 13: COOPERATIVE EDUCATION & RESEARCH.

The Council Chairmen have no comment on this issue.

NOTE: On page 32, lines 10-11, "New England Fisheries Science Center" SHOULD read, "Northeast Fisheries Science Center."

SECTION 14: HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES.

The Council Chairmen have no comment on this issue.

SECTION 15: PROHIBITED ACTS.

The Council Chairmen have no comment on this issue.

SECTION 16: MEMBERSHIP OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

Page 33, line 23. This proposal would add New York to the member states of the New England Council. This is a regional issue on which the Chairmen have chosen not to offer a collective opinion. The Mid-Atlantic Council supports the proposal. The New England Council believes there is a better way to address the issue. Both Councils are encouraged to pursue their views individually.

Page 34. Line 4. Additional Secretarial member. The Chairmen are uncertain what has prompted this proposal and note a technical error. H.R. 4749 makes substantive changes to the Gilchrest draft. The Gilchrest draft stated such member could not be directly employed or substantively compensated by the commercial, charter, or recreational fisheries. This seemed to leave open choices from academia, environmental organizations, or government. H.R. 4749 removes these qualification criteria, changes numbers of members, and cites an incorrect subsection as the authorizing subsection for how the appointments shall be made. (Section 302(b)(6) is the subsection that authorizes the Secretary to remove an appointed council member for just cause).

Recommend that this provision not be adopted because it unnecessarily adds to membership without a clear purpose. This adversely impacts both organizational efficiency and administrative costs.

The Chairmen believe that the appropriate way for knowledgeable and experienced citizens to become members of a Regional Fishery Management Council continues to be to have the Governors of the States include them on their nomination lists.

SECTION 17: MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

The Chairmen believe the proposed language does not substantively add to the effectiveness of the Act and respectfully request that such language changes not be adopted.

SECTION 18: FOREIGN FISHING

The Council Chairmen have no comment on this issue.

SECTION 19: DRIFTNETS

The Council Chairmen have no comment on this issue.

SECTION 20: SOURCES FOR DATA IN FISHERIES RESEARCH

Recommend support. Adds clarity that fishery-dependent as well as fishery-independent data sources should be used.

SECTION 21: MISCELLANEOUS FISHERY PROTECTIONS IN FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Chairmen believe the proposed addition of a new paragraph (13) to section 303(b) is redundant [see section 303(b)(2)] and furthermore does not substantively add to the effectiveness of the Act. As alluded to in Section 17, such language may assist those who seek reinforcement in litigation. Again, believing that this is counterproductive to effective fishery management, the Chairmen respectfully request that such language not be adopted.

SECTION 22: COOPERATIVE MARINE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

While the Chairmen believe support and funding for marine education and research is worthwhile, The Secretary can enter into such cooperative agreements without this section being passed. The Chairmen believe the list of included research items is too limiting and may constrain the funding of other appropriate areas of research. Consequently, the Chairmen oppose Section 22 in its current limited form.

SECTION 23. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Recommend that the requirements of the SFA in 1996, and any new mandates under a 2002 reauthorization bill be adequately funded by the Congress. The Chairmen respectfully request that, if the Congress wishes to require more attention be paid to these issues, then the Congress must provide sufficient funding. Staffs within State and Federal agencies and the regional Councils are "fully exploited." There is no "free time" to fill with new mandates; in fact, we need funding to cover the "old mandates" enacted in 1996.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM

Analysis of Mitchell Act Mass Marking Contributions to Ocean Coho-directed Selective Fisheries

Introduction

The Mitchell Act, passed in 1938 and amended in 1946, "authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to carry on activities for the conservation of fishery resources of the Columbia River Basin" (Federal Wildlife and Related Laws Handbook, USFWS). Salmon production from the Columbia River Basin represents a significant contribution to West Coast fisheries from California to Alaska. Adequate funding of Mitchell Act programs is essential for maintaining the viability of ocean and Columbia River Basin fisheries and meeting treaty trust responsibilities. Columbia River hatchery coho are the primary contributing stocks to mark-selective cohodirected (selective) fisheries off Oregon and Washington. Mitchell Act funded marking programs produce a substantial portion of the marked coho from the Columbia River Basin.

Mitchell Act funding levels have remained essentially level since 1993 while costs associated with hatchery production, marking, screens and fishways, facilities maintenance, and research have steadily increased. Responding to the resulting shortfall, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have all made considerable program reductions and are currently facing further program cuts. Reductions in mass marking programs will likely affect the amount of fishing opportunity and the level of fishery related impacts in Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) area fisheries. The Council directed the Salmon Technical Team to assess the effects to Council area fisheries of not mass marking coho production from Mitchell Act funded hatchery facilities.

Methods

The Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) for coho was used as a tool to predict the potential effects of not mass marking future coho broods produced in hatcheries funded by the Mitchell Act. Two years were chosen to demonstrate the modeled fishery contributions of these marked coho stocks in years with low (2001) and high (2002) Columbia River hatchery coho abundance.

One of the input parameters of the FRAM is a scalar of coho stock size by production area and mark type, relative to an historic base period abundance. The FRAM was utilized during the Council regulatory processes of 2001 and 2002 where coho stock scalars were input to reflect stock strengths under current mass marking levels at Mitchell Act facilities. These FRAM inputs were then adjusted to reflect coho stock strengths, had currently mass marked coho stocks from Mitchell Act facilities been released without a mark to assess how these changes would effect modeled impacts to various coho stocks. Quotas in all coho-directed selective fisheries were then each reduced at the same rate until modeled impacts to Oregon Coastal natural (OCN) coho were similar to impacts levels originally estimated during the 2001 and 2002 regulatory processes. Coho-directed selective fisheries included in this quota reduction exercise are the Oregon ocean recreational coho fishery from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, the North of Cape Falcon ocean recreational coho fishery, and the North of Cape Falcon ocean non-treaty commercial troll coho fishery.

For 2001, the regulations and FRAM run for the final fisheries package were used. At the time of the analysis the 2002 fisheries were still in the regulatory process and had not been adopted. Alternatively, the FRAM run and proposed regulations from Option I of the March Council meeting were used for 2002.

Results

Table 1 shows the 2002 FRAM results in terms of ocean escapement, total exploitation rate, or other management criteria for key coho stocks in Council area fisheries under three scenarios; (1) the original regulation package considered in Option I in March and full mass marking at Mitchell Act facilities, (2) the original regulation package and no coho mass marking at Mitchell Act facilities, and (3) reduced quotas in the regulation package and no coho mass marking at Mitchell Act facilities. Table 2 shows the same type of comparisons for the 2001 final regulation package.

Fishery regulations for both year 2002 and 2001 would likely have resulted in either increased impacts to several key coho stocks or reduced fishing opportunity through reduced coho quotas.

Specifically, OCN coho impacts would have increased in 2001 and 2002 if Mitchell Act facilities had maintained the same production levels without mass marking coho and fishery regulations and selective

fishery coho quotas had remained the same. In 2001, estimated OCN coho impacts increased from an exploitation rate of 14.6% to 16.3%. In 2002, the estimated OCN coho exploitation rate increased from 7.4% to 8.4%. Several other key coastal coho stocks, including Queets Wild and Northern California, exhibit minor increases in impacts under this scenario through either decreased ocean escapements or increased marine exploitation rates.

Alternatively, if Mitchell Act facilities had maintained the same production levels without mass marking coho and fisheries were managed to keep impact levels on OCN coho constant, coho quotas in Council area selective fisheries during 2001 and 2002 would have been reduced by about one-third. Table 3 shows coho quotas as adopted or considered in 2001 and 2002 and quotas required to achieve the same OCN coho management objectives without mass marking at Mitchell Act facilities.

Discussion

This method was chosen as a way to show the effects of not mass marking the Mitchell Act funded coho production and does not represent recommendations for Council action.

This analysis focused on OCN coho, because in 2001 and 2002 management objectives for this stock were often the limiting factor in determining the regulations for Council area fisheries. However, other coho stocks have been the limiting factor in previous North of Cape Falcon fisheries. Washington coastal coho stocks are frequently the driving stocks in these fisheries, and the results may be different if other stocks are limiting. Also, in any given year the mix of coho stocks are different in relative abundance, and each year's stock mix would change the outcome. Selective fishing opportunities for mass marked hatchery coho in Council area waters started in 1998, but were limited in size and area until 1999. Therefore, this analysis was limited in the range of years available for consideration.

Council area salmon fisheries are influenced by the abundance of Columbia River Basin coho stocks. In particular, coho-directed selective fisheries in Washington and Oregon rely heavily on mass marked Columbia River Basin hatchery coho. Ending mass marking of coho at Mitchell Act facilities would significantly reduce the Council's ability to maintain sport and commercial fishing opportunities while minimizing impacts to coho stocks of concern.

TABLE 1. Projected key coho stock escapements (thousands of fish) or management criteria for Council proposed fishery options, 2002. all

	Droiontod Oppo		/q : - ti- O ze qiO	
ion mone a	riojected Ocean Escapement		or Other Criteria	
		Option I with	Option I with	
		marking of	coho directed	
Key Stock/Criteria	March Option I	Mitchell Act coho	fisheries (no mass-marking)	Spawner Objective or Other Comparative Standard as Noted
Interior Fraser (Thompson River)	5.8% ^{c/}			510% Total exploitation rate for all U.S. fisheries south of the U.S./Canada border.
Skagit	40% (7.0%) 77.6	40% (7.3%) 77.4	40% (6.8%) 77.9	 560% 2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate 30.0 MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP.
Stillaguamish	41% (9.1%) 14.0	41% (9.5%) 13.9	40% (8.9%)	 235% 2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate 17.0 MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP.
Snohomish	40% (8.9%) 83.5	40% (9.5%) 83.1	40% (8.9%) 83.9	 2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate 70.0 MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP.
Hood Canal	53% (7.0%) 22.5	53% (7.3%) 24.6	53% (6.8%) 24.8	 245% 2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate 21.5 MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP.
Strait of Juan de Fuca	20% (5.9%) 21.7	20% (6.2%) 18.5	19% (5.7%) 18.6	 2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate 12.8 MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP.
COASTAL NATURAL:			The state of the s	
Quillayute Fall	18.2	18.0	18.3	6.3-15.8 MSY adult spawner range (not annual target). Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Нон	6.7	6.6	6.7	2.0-5.0 MSY adult spawner range (not annual target). Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Queets Wild	10.1	6.6	10.1	5.8-14.5 MSY adult spawner range (not annual target). Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Queets Supplemental	1.5	1.5	1.6	
Grays Harbor	49.6	49.2	49.7	35.4 MSP level of adult spawners. Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Oregon Coastal Natural (threatened)	14.6%	16.3%	15.0%	≤15.0% ESA jeopardy standard for marine and freshwater fishery exploitation rate. ≤12.5% To meet Council guidance for protection of Oregon state ESA endangered lower Columbia coho.
Northern California (threatened)	9.4%	%9.6	%9.6	≤13.0% ESA jeopardy standard for surrogate R/K hatchery coho marine fishery exploitation rate.
HATCHERY:			The state of the s	
Columbia River Early	91.3	91.1	104.1	38.7 Minimum ocean escapement to attain hatchery egg-take goal of 19.6 early adult coho, with average conversion and no mainstem or tributary fisheries.
Columbia River Late	46.8	43.9	63.2	19.4 Minimum ocean escapement to attain hatchery egg-take goal of 15.2 late adult coho, with average conversion and no mainstem or tributary fisheries.

- Projections in the table assume a West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) mortality of 2,000 coho; Southeast Alaska Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 370,000 chinook per Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) agreement; WCVI troll catch of 97,500 chinook (includes chinook in the fall of 2001). á
 - Ocean escapement is the number of salmon escaping ocean fisheries and entering freshwater with the following clarifications. Ocean escapement for Puget Sound stocks is the estimated number of salmon entering Area 4B that are available to U.S. net fisheries in Puget Sound and spawner escapement after impacts from the Canadian, U.S. ocean, and Puget Sound troll and recreational fisheries have been deducted. Numbers in parentheses represent Council area exploitation rates for Puget sound coho stocks. For Columbia River early and late coho stocks, ocean escapement represents the number of coho after the Buoy 10 fishery. The escapement numbers provided for OCN coho are spawners in Stratified þ
- Annual management objectives may be different than FMP goals, and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders. Total exploitation rate includes Alaskan, Canadian, Council area, Puget Sound and freshwater fisheries and is calculated as total fishing mortality divided by total fishing mortality plus spawning Reported exploitation rates are for ocean fisheries only. Random Survey (SRS) accounting. escapement

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TABLE 2. Projected key coho stock escapements (thousands of fish) or management criteria for Council proposed fishery options, 2001.

	Projected Oce	an Escapement	Projected Ocean Escapement or Other Criteria		
	March Option	Option I with no mass-marking of Mitchell Act	Option I with 1/3 reduction of coho directed fisheries		
Key Stock/Criteria		coho	marking)		Spawner Objective or Other Comparative Standard as Noted
Interior Fraser (Thompson River)				≤10%	Total exploitation rate for all U.S. fisheries south of the U.S./Canada border.
Skagit	43%(5.0%) 46.9	43%(5.3%) 46.6	43%(4.8%)	≤60% 30.0	2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate MSP level of adult snawners Identified in FMP
Stillaguamish	45%(9.0%) 18.1	45%(9.5%) 18.0	44%(8.6%)	≤35% 17.0	2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP
Snohomish	43%(9.0%) 96.5	43%(9.5%) 95.8	42%(8.6%) 97.1	≤40% 70.0	2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP
Hood Canal	45%(8.8%) 40.6	46%(9.5%) 40.2	45%(8.5%) 40.8	≤45% 21.5	2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP
Strait of Juan de Fuca	37%(10.1%) 15.2	37%(10.8%) 15.1	36%(9.8%) 15.3	≤40% 12.8	2001 Annual management ceiling: total exploitation rate MSP level of adult spawners Identified in FMP
COASTAL NATURAL:					
Quillayute Fall	20.6	20.3	20.6	6.3-15.8	MSY adult spawner range (not annual target). Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Hoh	7.6	7.5	7.6	2.0-5.0	MSY adult spawner range (not annual target). Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Queets Wild	10.6	10.5	10.7	5.8-14.5	MSY adult spawner range (not annual target). Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders.
Queets Supplemental	0.0	0.0	0.0	•	
Grays Harbor	46.6	46.3	46.8	35.4	MSP level of adult spawners. Annual management objectives may be different and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders
Oregon Coastal Natural (threatened)	7.41%	8.40%	7.26%	<15.0% <12.5%	ESA jeopardy standard for marine and freshwater fishery exploitation rate. To meet Council guidance for protection of Oregon state ESA endangered lower Columbia coho.
Northern California (threatened)	3.03%	3.15%	3.01%	≤13.0%	ESA jeopardy standard for surrogate R/K hatchery coho marine fishery exploitation rate.
натсневу:					
Columbia River Early	651.3	634.6	745.6	38.7	Minimum ocean escapement to attain hatchery egg-take goal of 19.6 early adult coho, with average conversion and no mainstem or tributary fisheries.
Columbia River Late	268.7	242.5	305.1	19.4	Minimum ocean escapement to attain hatchery egg-take goal of 15.2 late adult coho, with average conversion and no mainstem or tributary fisheries.

Projections in the table assume a WCVI mortality of 2,000 coho; Southeast Alaska TAC of 181,400 chinook per PST agreement; WCVI troll catch of 63,400 chinook (includes chinook in the fall of 2001). a⁄

early and late coho stocks, ocean escapement represents the number of coho after the Buoy 10 fishery. The escapement numbers provided for OCN coho are spawners in SRS Ocean escapement is the number of salmon escaping ocean fisheries and entering freshwater with the following clarifications. Ocean escapement for Puget Sound stocks is the estimated number of salmon entering Area 4B that are available to U.S. net fisheries in Puget Sound and spawner escapement after impacts from the Canadian, U.S. ocean, and Puget Sound troll and recreational fisheries have been deducted. Numbers in parentheses represent Council area exploitation rates for Puget sound coho stocks. For Columbia River accounting. þ

rate includes Alaskan, Canadian, Council area, Puget Sound and freshwater fisheries and is calculated as total fishing mortality divided by total fishing mortality plus spawning Annual management objectives may be different than FMP goals, and are subject to agreement between WDFW and the treaty tribes under U.S. District Court orders. Total exploitation escapement.

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TABLE 3. Marked coho in Council Area selective fisheries as originally considered or adopted and as reduced to meet management objectives for OCN coho in the absence of mass marking at Mitchell Act hatchery facilities.

1		2001		2002
	March Option I	March Option I with 1/3 Reduction (no mass-marking of Mitchell Act coho)	March Option I	March Option I with 1/3 Reduction (no mass-marking of Mitchell Act coho)
North of Cape Falcon Sport				
Neah Bay	23,400	15,600	11,500	7,700
La Push	5,350	3,600	2,700	1,800
Westport	83,250	55,500	38,350	25,600
Columbia River	112,500	75,000	54,450	36,300
North of Cape Falcon Non- Indian Commercial	63,000	42,000	20,600	13,700
Oregon Coast Sport	55,000	36,700	25,000	16,700
Total	342,500	228,400	152,600	101,800

PROPOSED AGENDA

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Crowne Plaza Hotel 1221 Chess Drive Foster City, CA 94404 (650) 570-5700 June 17 - 21, 2002

JUNE 2002 COUNCIL MEETI		L MEETING A	ING AGENDA SUMMARY		
Monday, June 17	Tuesday, June 18	Wednesday, June 19	Thursday, June 20	Friday, June 21	
No Council	Closed Executive Session	Highly Migratory Species	Marine Reserves	Groundfish Management	
Session Council ancillary	Administrative Matters	Management		Management	
meetings begin Sunday (see last pages of detailed	Groundfish	Groundfish	Groundfish	Coastal Pelagic Species Management	
Council agenda for daily schedule).	Management	Management Management			
surredule).	4 p.m. Public Comment Period (for items <u>not</u> on the agenda)	Habitat Issues		Administrative Matters	

Notice to Public

Please note the actual order and timing of agenda items may vary somewhat from the proposed agenda. For example, items not completed on the scheduled day will be carried over to the next day. Items may be moved to an earlier time than shown on this proposed agenda. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion. However, such issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting unless they are emergency in nature. Formal Council action will be restricted to those nonemergency issues specifically identified as **Council Action** in the agenda. Public comments on items not on the agenda will be accepted at 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

To present verbal testimony at this meeting, please complete a registration card, and specify the agenda item on which you wish to speak. Cards are available at the entry desk inside the Council meeting room. After public comment begins on each agenda item, additional cards will not be accepted on that item. Verbal testimony is limited to five minutes for individuals and ten minutes for groups or individuals representing organizations. Please identify yourself and whom you represent at the beginning of your testimony.

Written comments or materials received at the Council Office by June 11, 2002 will be included in the materials distributed to the Council for consideration at this meeting. Comments received by May 31 will be mailed to Council members prior to the meeting. After June 11 it is the submitter's responsibility to provide Council staff with an adequate number of copies to assure coverage of the Council (a minimum of 40 copies). Each copy must include the Agenda Item Topic Number in the upper right hand corner of the front page.

Financial interest statements for the appointed Council members are available for inspection at the documents table in the Magellan Ballroom.

DETAILED COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

SUNDAY, JUNE 16 THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 21

ANCILLARY SESSIONS

Various technical and administrative committees, advisory bodies, work groups, and state delegations will meet throughout the week. See the SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS at the end of this agenda for a complete listing of these meetings.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2002

CLOSED SESSION 8 A.M. Magellan Ballroom

(Closed to all except Council members, their designees, and others designated by the Council Chair to discuss litigation and personnel matters.)

GENERAL SESSION

9 A.M.

Mitchell Act

Legislative Committee

Budget Committee

National Policy Items Magellan Ballroom Personnel business - Ed, vacancy

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks, Introductions

2. Roll Call 3. Executive Director's Report

4. Council Action: Approve Agenda

REME Chairman's 5. Council Action: Approve March and April 2002 Minutes mail out during

Hans Radtke, Chair Don McIsaac Don McIsaac Hans Radtke

Hans Radtke

John Coon

B. Administrative Matters

1. Appointments to Advisory Bodies, Standing Committees, and Other **Forums**

A. Appointments to Advisory Bodies

i. Consider Eliminating Tribal Salmon Advisory Subpanel Seats

ii. Scientific and Statistical Committee National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center Position

iii. Groundfish Management Team Tribal Scientist

iv. Miscellaneous Issues

1/b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies

C. Council Action: Consider Membership Revisions and Appoint **New Members**

C. Groundfish Management

NMFS Report on Groundfish Management

র্ Agendum Overview

b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies

C. Public Comment

d. Council Discussion

. Stock Assessments for Bocaccio, Canary Rockfish, and Sablefish

✓a. Agendum Overview

b. Overviews of 2002 Stock Assessment Review Reports

Canary Rockfish

ii. Bocaccio

iii. Sablefish

John DeVore

R. Methot/K. Piner Alec MacCall Michael Schirripa

Bill Robinson

2



combine agendo itemo 2 and 3

C. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Public Comment e. Council Discussion and Guidance Rebuilding Analyses for Bocaccio, Canary Rockfish, Yelloweye Rockfish, Widow Rockfish, and Whiting Agendum Overview D. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Public Comment d. Council Action: Adopt Rebuilding Analyses Preliminary Harvest Levels and Other Specifications for 2003 Agendum Overview D. Preliminary Estimates of Acceptable Biological Catch, Optimum Yield, and Economic Analysis Agendum Overview D. Recommendation of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Public Comment Council Action: Adopt Proposed Specifications for Public Review	John DeVore John DeVore Jim Hastie
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD 4 P.M. Public comments on fishery issues <u>not</u> on the agenda are accepted at	this time.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2002	
GENERAL SESSION Staff Mee 8 A.M. Magellan Ballroom (2) 10001 R.	eting suite
fand bungs	Hans Radtke
A. Call to Order (reconvene)	
6. Commencing Remarks	Don McIsaac
M. Highly Migratory Species Management 1. NMFS Report on Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management 2. Agendum Overview 1. Agendum Overview	ville to NMPS & ands request
a. Agendum Overview	Svein Fougner
/b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies /c. Public Comment /d. Council Discussion	port
7.5 7.6. Public Comment 4. Council Discussion 4. Agendum Overview 7. Report of the HMS Plan Development Team 7. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies 7. Agendum Overview 7. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies 7. Reports and Comment 7. Reports and Comment Team 7. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies 7. Reports and Comment 7. Reports and Comment Team 8. Reports and Comment Team 9. Reports and Comme	Dan Waldeck
ℂ. Groundfish Management (continued)	
Adoption of Draft Rebuilding Plans for Public Review for Pacific Ocean Perch, Lingcod, Cowcod, Widow Rockfish, and Darkblotched Rockfish A. Agendum Overview B. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies C. Public Comment	John DeVore
√c. Public Comment d. Council Action: Adopt Draft Rebuilding Plans for Public Review	

FMP Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) Kit Dahl /a. Agendum Overview b. Presentation of Draft Alternatives Developed by the Ad Hoc Groundfish Jim Lone FMP EIS Oversight Committee Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies d. Public Comment e. Council Action: Consider Adoption of Draft Alternatives for the FMP PSEIS Draft Amendment 17 (Multi-Year) Management D. Waldeck/Y. de Reynier /a. Agendum Overview D. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Public Comment ✓d. Council Action: Adopt Draft Amendment 17 for Public Review E. Habitat Issues ✓1. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Issues Jennifer Gilden a. Agendum Overview Paul Heikkila b. Report of the Habitat Committee (HC) c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies d. Public Comment e. Council Action: Consider HC Recommendations and Take Reception - Bayview Room 5:15 Action as Necessary Wednosday THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2002 **GENERAL SESSION** 8 A.M. Magellan Ballroom Hans Radtke A. Call to Order (reconvene) Don McIsaac 7. Commencing Remarks F. Marine Reserves Review of Proposal for Marine Reserves in State Waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Jim Seger a. Agendum Overview 3.0 b. Status of the California Department of Fish and Game Process LB Boydstun Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies d. Public Comment e. Council Action: Develop a Response to the California Fish and Game Commission Update on Other Marine Reserves Processes Jim Seger a. Agendum Overview b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Public Comment d. Council Discussion C. Groundfish Management (continued) 8. Proposed Management Measures for 2003 John DeVore a. Agendum Overview Phil Anderson b. Ad Hoc Allocation Committee Report c. Recommendations of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies e. Public Comment

Council Action: Adopt Proposed Measures for Public Review

9. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments John DeVore √a. Agendum Overview b. Quota/Species Monitoring Update Jim Hastie Jc. State Regulations in the Pink Shrimp Fisheries P. Anderson/B. Bohn/LB Boydstun d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Me. Public Comment f. Council Action: Consider Inseason Adjustments 10. Groundfish Stock Assessment Priorities for 2003 John DeVore A. Agendum Overview b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies e. Public Comment d Council Discussion and Guidance FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2002 * Potential move C.10 GENERAL SESSION 8 A.M. Friday morning Magellan Ballroom Hans Radtke A. Call to Order (reconvene) Don McIsaac 8. Commencing Remarks C. Groundfish Management (continued) 11. Scoping for Delegation of Nearshore Management Authority /a. Agendum Overview b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies Tom Barney c. Public Comment d. Council Discussion on Jederal FMP amendment G. Coastal Pelagic Species Management 1. NMFS Report on Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Management Svein Fougner a. Agendum Overview b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies c. Public Comment d. Council Discussion 2. Amendment 10 to the CPS FMP Dan Waldeck a. Agendum Overview b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies c. Public Comment d. Council Action: Adopt Amendment 10 to the CPS FMP 3. Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment and Harvest Guideline Dan Waldeck a. Agendum Overview b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies c. Public Comment d. Council Action: Review Stock Assessments and Adopt Harvest Guideline for Pacific Mackerel B. Administrative Matters (continued) 2. Council Staff Work Load Priorities Don McIsaac a. Agendum Overview b. Council Discussion and Guidance September 2002 Council Meeting Draft Agenda a. Consider Agenda Options Don McIsaac b. Identify Priorities for Advisory Body Consideration c. Council Action: Adopt Draft Agenda for the September 2002 Meeting

5 hours total for Inday

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2002		
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	1 p.m.	Balboa Room
Groundfish Management Team	1 p.m.	Alexandria II Room
Scientific and Statistical Committee	1 p.m.	Syracuse Room
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2002 Det up	JAM.	
Council Secretariat	8 a.m.	Stanford Room
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.	Bay View Room
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m.	Alexandria II Room
Habitat Committee Don 8000	8 a.m.	Drake I Room
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8 a.m.	Syracuse Room
Legislative Committee Dom	10 a.m.	Alexandria I Room
Luncheon-Dom/Hans/Don Hansen Budget Committee Chairman's Orieting 2:30 Suite 631	1 p.m. - SJIC if available	Alexandria I Room
LIZ CLOTTE EVENING MAG	- 10M	→ 11 8GBEEN - FOO OU
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2002	McIsauc - Meeting	to work load = 7 mg, 4
Council Secretariat	7 a.m.	Stanford Room
California State Delegation	7 a.m.	Drake II Room
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.	Drake I Room
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.	Bay View Room
Habitat Committee	8 a.m.	Drake I Room
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.	Bay View Room
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m.	Alexandria II Room
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8 a.m.	Syracuse Room
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	10 a.m.	Drake II Room
Enforcement Consultants	Immediately following Council session	Alexandria I Room
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2002		
Council Secretariat	7 a.m.	Stanford Room
California State Delegation	7 a.m.	Drake II Room

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.	Drake I Room
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.	Bay View Room
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.	Bay View Room
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m.	Alexandria II Room
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel	10 a.m.	Drake I Room
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Alexandria I Room
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2002		
Council Secretariat	7 a,m.	Stanford Room
California State Delegation	7 a.m.	Drake II Room
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.	Drake I Room
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.	Bay View Room
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.	Drake I Room
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8 a.m.	Bay View Room
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m.	Alexandria II Room
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Alexandria I Room
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2002		
Council Secretariat	7 a.m.	Stanford Room
California State Delegation	7 a.m.	Alexandria II Room
Oregon State Delegation	7 a.m.	Alexandria I Room
Washington State Delegation	7 a.m.	Bay View Room
Groundfish Management Team	8 a.m.	Alexandria II Room
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Alexandria I Room

PFMC 06/05/02