

Meeting convenes at Hilton Hotel

North Pacific panel to discuss groundfish

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage and continue as necessary through Friday.

Key issues to be discussed include:

- Halibut management** — The council will consider approving for public review draft halibut management criteria and goals recommended by the Policy and Planning Committee.

- Sablefish management** — Following the May meeting, the council solicited industry recommendations on management options for the sablefish fishery. Fifty-nine proposals were received and will be reviewed by the council, which is expected to approve an options package on effort control for public review.

- Future of groundfish management** — The council will review a draft statement of commitment to examine alternatives to traditional fisheries management techniques, forwarded by the Policy and Planning Committee.

The draft statement includes a plan of action for developing effort controls in the sablefish longline fishery by 1989 and for groundfish in general by 1990, including in the interim a possible moratorium on new entry to the fisheries.

- Bering Sea and Aleutian Island crab plan** — The council is scheduled to initially review a new draft plan for Bering Sea and Aleutians king and Tanner crab management developed by the council's Crab Management Committee. The council also will consider the composition and functions of an interim industry advisory committee to work with the state of Alaska on crab management issues until the new plan is in place.

- Gulf of Alaska groundfish** — The council will give final approval to an amendment which reorganizes and updates the plan and revises the definition of "prohibited species." The amendment will be forwarded for

secretary of commerce review and is scheduled for implementation in March 1988.

- Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish** — The council will review status of stocks and initial apportionments for 1988, with a final decision scheduled for December. The council also will review research on transboundary pollock and other stocks in the Bering Sea and consider strategies for initiating international

cooperation and further research, including participation by U.S. joint venture trawlers.

Among other meetings to be held are the Nonprofit Fishery Foundation at 2 p.m. Sunday; the Scientific & Statistical Committee at 10 a.m., Sept. 21; the Advisory Panel at 10 a.m., Sept. 21; the Reporting Requirements Workgroup at 7 p.m., Sept. 22; and the Finance Committee at 7 a.m., Sept. 24.