

North Pacific fishery panel to meet Jan. 16

A revised plan for managing the king and Tanner crab resources of the Bering Sea and Aleutians will be considered next week by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for final approval.

The council will meet Jan. 16-19 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. The meeting will convene at 9 a.m. Jan. 16.

In addition, members of the council will screen proposals for amendments to the groundfish fishery

management plans for the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and give direction for further development.

Following up on emergency action taken in December, the council will approve a regulatory amendment to revise the directed fishing definition for sablefish in the Bering Sea.

In other action, the council will:

- Meet jointly with the International Pacific Halibut Commission on Jan. 16 to explore long-term halibut

management alternatives and to review early season dates for the Aleutian Islands.

- Discuss proposed amendments to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act and prepare recommendations for an upcoming meeting of Regional Fishery Management Council chairmen.

- Establish a plan for continuing to develop recommendations received last spring from the Future of Groundfish Committee for long-term manage-

ment alternatives for the groundfish fisheries off Alaska.

- Receive a report from the newly appointed Sablefish Management Committee. The committee has been charged with identifying areas of concern and options that might accompany two management alternatives, individual fishing quotas and license limitation for the hook and longline sablefish fisheries in the waters off Alaska.