

Council to set offshore policy for fisheries

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, charged with the responsibility for developing management plans for fisheries within the 200-mile zone off Alaska, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries will meet in joint session on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23-24, 1982, in the Alaska Room of the Westward Hilton Hotel, to discuss fisheries of mutual concern.

The Council will meet alone on Thursday, March 25, at the Westward Hilton and will continue its meeting, if necessary, on Friday, March 26, in the Council's headquarters conference room at 333 West Fourth Avenue, Suite 32, Anchorage.

The Council and Board will hear staff reports on the salmon resource and receive public testimony on 1982 proposals for king crab, Tanner crab, and troll salmon management. The Council and Board will take final action on proposed 1982 amendments to the Southeast Alaska Troll Salmon Fishery Management Plan, which include alternatives for optimum yield, time and area closures, gear restrictions, reporting requirements, and heads-on requirements.

The Council and Board will also discuss the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King Crab Fishery Management Plan and consider king and Tanner crab management proposals for 1982. The Alaska Board of Fisheries will establish 1982 State regulations for the king and Tanner crab fisheries off Alaska.

The Council plans to take final action on Amendment No.11 to the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, which includes proposals to reduce the optimum yield for sablefish, allow only hook and line gear for sablefish east of 140 degrees West, close the sablefish fishery from November 15 to March 15 -wide, open Davidson Bank to foreign longlining, establish domestic reporting requirements, and includes a new method for specifying groundfish Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH) and establishing reserves.

The Council also will discuss Amendment No.1 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery Management Plan and the concept of fishery development zones for areas of heavy fish concentrations traditionally favored by domestic fishermen. The Council also will consider applications from ships of foreign nations to participate in joint ventures off Alaska and hear reports on domestic and foreign fisheries, enforcement and surveillance, and joint venture operations.