

New National Fisheries Policy Principles Outlined

Principles of the first National fisheries policy ever developed by any American President, expected to mark the beginning of an era of substantial and sustained growth bringing the U.S. fishing industry to its full potential, were made public on 23 May. Anne Wexler, Assistant to the President, spelled out the principles in a luncheon address at a National fisheries development conference being held in Springfield, Va. The principles were approved by President Carter.

Noting that the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976 provides the basic framework for assuring a continuing optimum yield from the 200-mile fishery zone, Wexler said the goals of that act would be reaffirmed.

Additionally, an active partnership among the fishing industry, state and local governments, and the Federal government will be sought. It will be

based on a mutual desire to limit Federal intervention, protect the environment, perpetuate resources, expand the harvesting and development potential, and meet responsibilities to provide sufficient food. When Federal financial assistance is justified, Wexler said, the Federal government must be prepared to respond.

The former Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce pledged that the Administration would support legislation for the development of new fisheries and would take steps to ensure efficient and better utilization of existing Federal programs for industry assistance and development.

The economic impact of regulations affecting the fishing industry will be analyzed to ensure that all regulatory agencies are aware of the impact, she said, and trade talks to improve the access for U.S. fish products to foreign markets will continue to be held.

Wexler further stated that the principles were being immediately implemented in the release of Saltonstall-Kennedy Funds (see related item below).

New Federal Policy Aids Commercial Fishing

Proposed legislation reflecting a new Federal policy on developing commercial fishing resources to be introduced by the Administration was announced on 23 May by Richard A. Frank, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The legislation will assist in the expansion of many segments of the U.S. commercial fishing industry, he said.

Speaking at the opening session of a two-day national conference on fisheries development in Springfield, Va., the Commerce Department official said the legislation will ensure adequate funding of efforts directed towards development of the industry, and better utilization of U.S. fishery resources, especially those not traditionally harvested by U.S. fishermen.

The new legislation would replace the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act—which earmarks part of the import duties on fish products for general assistance to the U.S. fishing industry—with a new law directed specifically toward devel-

NOAA Releases \$5 Million Saltonstall-Kennedy Funds

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released \$5,743,000 in Saltonstall-Kennedy funds to support regional development of U.S. commercial fisheries, NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank announced on 24 May. The funds supplemented \$2,500,000 released prior to 24 May by the Commerce Department Agency.

Frank said the action was taken in keeping with policy principles announced on 23 May on behalf of President Carter by Anne Wexler, Assistant to the President.

“Most of the funds,” Wexler told a Fisheries Development Conference in Springfield, Va., “will go to support comprehensive regional development programs in cooperation with industry. A small amount will go to the National Marine Fisheries Service facilities to complement regional programs, and to fund programs that are broadly supportive of industry needs—such as export marketing.”

A total of \$3,643,000 was slated to go to the New England Fisheries Development Program; the Mid-Atlantic, Gulf and South Atlantic

and West Coast Fisheries Development Foundations; and the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation; and for development work in the Western Pacific Islands. An additional \$1,035,000 was to be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service for a broad array of projects supporting the above regional programs, and \$725,000 is devoted to fisheries research on sea-food safety.

Also, \$340,000 will be used to support an international study of the Atlantic skipjack tuna resource.

opment of the industry and utilization of U.S. fishery resources. The administration would support appropriations under the new law which would increase funding over current levels. The law would expire at the end of Fiscal Year 1984.

Noting that present Federal policy aims to foster the development of all sectors of the U.S. fishing industry—including fishermen in the 200-mile zone and the Great Lakes, U.S. flag distant-water fleets and U.S. processors and distributors—Frank said achievement of these benefits will require an active and innovative partnership among the industry, state, and local governments, and the Federal government.

“Commitments of time and resources will be required from all of the partners,” he said. “And...the major work of implementing a National development policy must be done on a regional basis.”

In particular, Frank said, the National fisheries development effort will mean:

1) Providing foreign market access through Government negotiations as well as through better information on market conditions and trade opportunities, to increase foreign markets and help reduce the U.S. trade deficit;

2) Facilitating industry access to private venture capital for vessels, processing plants, and support facilities through changes in existing conditional fisheries regulations and possibly through extension of existing tax deferral benefits to shore-based facilities;

3) Reviewing Government regulations applicable to the industry to ensure fair and equitable treatment and an adequate basis for all regulatory actions;

4) Conducting research, and providing information to consumer on the safety and nutritional value of seafoods in the American diet;

5) Satisfying the major fishing industry need in some regions for publicly-financed infrastructure such as ports and harbors;

6) Adopting existing technology and disseminating technological information to allow the industry to modernize

and improve its capital facilities; and,

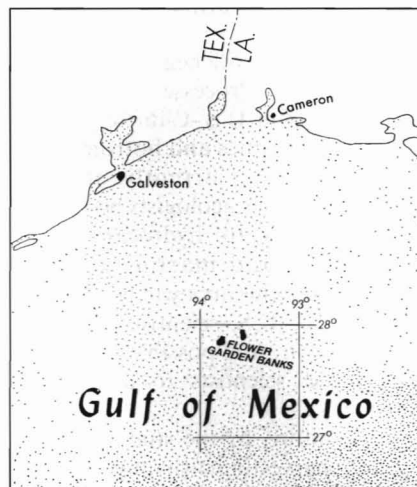
7) Coordinating Federal agency personnel so that industry can work more effectively with those responsible for implementing Government programs.

The program, he said, will enable the fishing industry and state and local governments to better utilize the many existing Federal programs for industry assistance and economic development.

The new Federal policy, according to Frank, was the result of two extensive studies. One was commissioned by then-Deputy Undersecretary of Commerce Anne Wexler, now Special Assistant to the President, and concerned the potential for exporting species not now heavily harvested in major U.S. fisheries. The other was conducted by a Commerce Department task force which examined the problems of fisheries development, analyzed the appropriate Federal role, and reviewed and recommended appropriate policies and programs. Nine different Commerce Department agencies participated on the task force.

NOAA Issues Draft EIS on Flower Garden Banks

One of the first formal steps which could lead to the Flower Garden Banks 100 miles off the Texas-Louisiana coast being designated a Federal



marine sanctuary has been taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Commerce Department agency's Office of Coastal Zone Management has issued a draft environmental impact statement analyzing the pros and cons of sanctuary status for the 175-square mile area which contains the only coral reefs in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Copies of the draft statement and proposed rules governing activities in the sanctuary were made available to the public for comment.

The draft environmental impact statement includes discussion of such aspects as petroleum development, refuse disposal, and protection of the coral in the Banks. The proposed rules, published in April in the *Federal Register*, prohibit destruction and collection of the coral, and restrict oil drilling activities. Copies of the statement and rules may be obtained from the Sanctuary Programs Office, NOAA Office of Coastal Zone Management, 3300 Whitehaven St. N.W., Washington, DC 20235.

Sablefish Tagging Program Continues

Continuation of cooperative efforts, with the Japan Fisheries Agency, to study sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska has been announced by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The tagging experiment began in 1978.

Scientists with the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, Wash., and the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, Shimizu, Japan, will conduct tagging experiments from the Japanese vessel *Ryusho Maru No. 15*. Tagged sablefish will be released throughout a wide study area so their distribution and migratory movements may be determined. The results of the study depend on the cooperation of both foreign and domestic fishermen for the return of tags giving information on the sablefish and their capture.

U.S. Seafood Catch and Value Reaches All-time High in '78

Commercial fishermen in the United States shattered all records for the amount of seafood caught and its value in 1978, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service.

Preliminary data show that com-

mercial fishermen landed 6 billion pounds of seafood with a dockside value of \$1.9 billion. The previous record for landings was 17 years ago,

1962, when 5.4 billion pounds were landed. The previous record value of \$1.5 billion was established in 1977. The leaders in quantity, in order of importance, were menhaden, crabs, shrimp, tuna, and salmon. Most valuable to fishermen and vessel owners, in order of importance, were shrimp, crabs, salmon, and tuna.

Last year also was a banner year for processors of fish portions (see table) with more than 386 million pounds produced. The previous high was in

1977 with more than 355 million pounds. Canned products for human consumption surpassed the 1974 high of more than 963 million pounds with a record approaching 1.1 billion pounds.

The menhaden industry reached an all-time high by producing more than 276,000 short tons of menhaden meal. The previous high was in 1962 when production exceeded 239,000 tons.

Production of all fish meal was more than 362,000 tons, surpassing the 1962 high of slightly more than 312,000 tons.

Production of breaded and battered, and unbreaded fish portions, by months, 1977 and 1978.

Month	1977				Total
	Cooked		Bread- ed raw	Un- breaded	
	Bread- ed	Batter- ed			
	Thousand pounds				
Jan.	8,299	2,720	13,253	2,565	26,837
Feb.	8,762	3,632	12,645	2,407	27,446
Mar.	9,932	5,979	17,303	2,976	36,190
Apr.	8,221	4,665	15,420	2,587	30,893
May	7,448	4,483	15,600	2,656	30,187
June	4,807	5,586	15,786	2,771	28,950
July	5,429	2,973	11,963	3,064	23,429
Aug.	7,993	5,555	12,995	2,617	29,160
Sept.	7,756	5,507	15,922	1,908	31,093
Oct.	9,456	5,616	15,787	2,778	33,637
Nov.	7,849	5,604	13,888	2,474	29,815
Dec.	6,807	5,783	13,090	2,126	27,806
Total	92,759	58,103	173,652	30,929	355,443
	Thousand dollars				
Value	74,698	51,304	178,598	37,160	341,760
	1978				
	Thousand pounds				
Jan.	9,162	5,242	11,579	2,821	28,804
Feb.	8,317	6,775	12,019	2,353	29,464
Mar.	9,729	9,389	18,328	3,389	40,835
Apr.	8,136	6,825	17,042	2,337	34,340
May	8,467	5,292	16,383	3,217	33,359
June	6,284	6,775	17,720	2,578	33,357
July	3,943	3,700	11,904	2,485	22,032
Aug.	6,765	9,079	15,962	3,311	35,117
Sept.	5,756	10,289	15,604	2,745	34,394
Oct.	8,428	8,305	15,770	2,663	35,166
Nov.	6,912	7,375	14,915	2,520	31,722
Dec.	5,781	7,471	12,762	2,007	28,021
Total	87,680	86,517	179,988	32,426	386,611
	Thousand dollars				
Value	73,835	94,479	206,715	37,008	412,037

¹Revised.
²Preliminary.

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U.S. AND CHINA REACH ACCORD ON OCEAN AND FISHERIES AGREEMENTS

Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps signed on 8 May an historic agreement in Beijing, People's Republic of China, which will bring close collaboration between oceanographers and fishery scientists of the United States and China for the first time.

Five specific areas of activity will begin under the agreement and an annex.

A Marine Data Exchange will begin, including help to China to establish a Chinese National Marine Data Center. U.S. experts will visit China for 2-3 weeks in the autumn of 1979 to initiate this work, and a Chinese delegation will return the visit in early 1980, following which further visits will be arranged.

Cooperation will begin on Marine Sedimentation Processes, to develop plans for a joint U.S.-Chinese study in sediment dynamics and bottom-layer oceanography. Currently of great interest to marine geologists because of potential links to hydrocarbon accumulation and marine resource development, this area will be explored in a visit of U.S. scientists to China later this year, and possible later visits by Chinese scientists to the United States.

Aquaculture, or the study of growing and harvesting fish and shellfish under controlled conditions, will be the

subject of visits by U.S. scientists to China in early 1980, and a return visit by Chinese scientists later in the same year, looking particularly at NMFS laboratories at Milford, Conn., and Sandy Hook, N.J. The Chinese have very extensive knowledge in this field.

Tuna Fishery Activities will be observed by a delegation of Chinese specialists on a visit to the United States in the spring of 1980.

Marine Environmental Services—including wave prediction, storm surge prediction, tsunami ("tidal wave") warning, and sea-surface temperature prediction—will be observed by Chinese specialists in the United States in 1980. Because of the diverse nature of these services, the group may split into subgroups, each spending 2-3 months in the United States.

The agreement also provides for activities that have been agreed upon in principle, but that require further arrangements. These include Chinese study of moored data buoy systems and ocean instrumentation systems, marine environmental monitoring and prediction exchanges, a mutual program of numerical computer modeling of marine systems, air-sea interaction and physical oceanography visits, and long-term cooperative studies on the biology of fish, emphasizing techniques valuable to aquaculture.