NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 30-107 ***DECEMBER 26, 1995***
Administration and Operations
IMPROVED COORDINATION OF REGULATORY POLICY ISSUES
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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1335 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
THE DIRECTOR

DEC 26 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Directors
Office Directors

FROM: Rolland A. Schmitten

SUBJECT: Improved Coordination of Regulatory Policy Issues

Following its assessment of the NMFS regulatory process, the Regulatory Effectiveness Charter Team recommended, and the Transition Board approved, several actions to improve the Agency's coordination of regulatory policy issues. This memorandum implements several of those recommendations.

Fishery Management Council Meeting Prebriefs

Council meeting prebriefs are intended to air issues expected to arise at each Council meeting and to provide an opportunity for early input from many organizational units, both at the Headquarters and field levels, including fisheries management, enforcement, legal, policy, and protected resources staff. Because prebriefs are a critical early decision and information point in the regulatory process for Magnuson Act actions, the participation should be broad.

Therefore, the following Headquarters and Regional Office entities are expected to participate in all Council prebriefs: F, F/CM, F/PR, F/RE, F/EN, F/HP, and the appropriate Regional Director and Regional counterparts to the Headquarters Offices listed above. I am also requesting that GCF and GCEL, both at the Regional and Headquarters levels, routinely attend, as well. Other NMFS Headquarters Offices should attend as appropriate.

Council Prebrief Memos

Prebrief memos prepared by the Regional Office in advance of each Council prebrief should be concise, identify important issues, including those dealing with enforcement and protected species, and provide the anticipated Regional Director's position, with the supporting rationale stated briefly. These memos need not be

lengthy, but they must contain the substantive issues to be discussed, with particular emphasis on controversial or problematic decisions to be made. Prebrief memos should be distributed to all participants as far in advance of the prebrief meetings as possible.

Predecisional Briefing Process for Other Regulatory Issues

The use of the same type of information-exchange strategy as described for the Council prebriefs should be applied to all other substantive NMFS regulatory actions, such as threatened and endangered species listings.

Therefore, each NMFS Office Director should develop a predecisional briefing process that includes broad participation of organizational entities, both at the Regional and Headquarters levels, as appropriate to the issues being discussed.

Post-Council Meeting Reports

The reports routinely prepared by each Regional Director within 3 days after each Council meeting have proven very useful in keeping others informed of upcoming events and schedules, as well as the directions the various Councils are taking in management of the fisheries. These reports can often provide a broader perspective of fisheries management, on a national basis, and point out problems individual Councils are dealing with, and the management approaches they are considering. Because these reports could prove useful to other Regions and Headquarters Offices, their distribution should be expanded.

Therefore, the post-Council meeting reports should be distributed to all Regional Directors, Science Directors, and Headquarters Office Directors, as well as other appropriate staff.