Please file with NOAA Directives Manual 05-60

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority from the Assistant Administrator for
Fisheries to Regional Directors of the National Marine Fisheries
Service

   TO: Regional Directors, Office of National Marine Fisheries Service

   1. <u>Introduction</u> - NOAA Directives Manual 05-60 delegates to the
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries authority to approve, disapprove,
partially disapprove, or issue fishery management plans (FMPs) and
amendments under Sections 304 and 305 of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation
and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1854 and 1855). The Assistant Administrator
may redelegate this authority by publication of a NOAA Circular, with the
approval of the Administrator.

   2. <u>Delegation to the Regional Directors</u> - The Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries delegates the authority to approve, disapprove, or partially
disapprove, FMPs and amendments to the appropriate Regional Director of
the National Marine Fisheries Service. Where an FMP covers more than one
Region, the Assistant Administrator will identify the appropriate Regional
Director in writing to the Regional Directors and Regional Fishery Management
Councils involved. Authority to issue FMPs will be retained by the Assistant
Administrator.

   3. <u>Redelegation of Authority</u> - A Regional Director may redelegate the
authority to approve, disapprove, or partially disapprove an FMP or amendment
only to the Deputy Regional Director.

   4. <u>Reservation of Authority</u> - The Administrator and the Assistant
Administrator reserve the authority to be advised before final action is
taken to approve, disapprove, partially disapprove, or issue an FMP or
amendment. Under Section 3(d) of NOAA Directives Manual 05-60, the Secretary
must be advised in particular instances (generally where the FMP has proved
controversial) before final action is taken.

   5. <u>Effect on Other Instructions</u> - NOAA Circular 83-6 filed with
NDM 05-60 is hereby superseded.

William G. Gordon
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

APPROVED

John V. Byrne
Administrator