

REPORT ON THE MEETINGS OF
THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES
AND THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON FISHERIES

(September - December 1973)



ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

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Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
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House of Representatives

Interim Committee
On Fisheries

Joe McGill, Chairman
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe McGill".

Chairman

I. INTRODUCTION

The Joint House-Senate Interim Committee on Fisheries has completed its series of hearings on fisheries and submits herewith a summary of the testimony it received, with attached legislative proposals. The committee traveled widely throughout the state, holding hearings in Anchorage, Nenana, Soldotna, Juneau, Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Cordova, Kodiak, Naknek, Dillingham and Bethel. Attendance was generally good, providing a cross section of the thinking on the major subjects concerning the particular area.

Generally, attention was directed to local problems, although comments frequently were made in most areas on the following:

1. the limited entry program
2. problems of protection and enforcement
3. rehabilitation of salmon streams
4. the U.S. contiguous fisheries zone limit and its extension
5. the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention
6. sea mammal predation
7. the harvest and sale of herring roe commercially
8. the fuel crisis and its application to fishermen
9. the tagging of salmon in areas of intermingling stocks
10. the conflict between commercial and subsistence fishing
11. the potential pipeline impact on fisheries
12. the effect of logging on fisheries
13. the need for expanded research programs in all areas

The testimony heard in each community will be summarized and then drawn together more concisely in a conclusion, followed by attached proposals for legislation.

II. SUMMARY BY LOCAL AREA

Anchorage (7 persons testifying) - October 11

Mr. Tasher and Mr. M. Taylor commented on limited entry with Tasher in opposition, feeling that it is socialistic, monopolistic, and impractical and will result in expensive litigation, with prohibitively high prices developing for permits. Mr. Taylor was concerned with persons who had bought boats who would not be able to get a permit.

The Cook Inlet fishery was discussed by Sam McDowell, with emphasis on the economic importance of sport fishing. He supported the department's closure of N. District streams this year and stated that the highest and best use for Cook Inlet king salmon was sport fishing.

The prime importance of sport fishing to the tourist industry was stressed by Mike Hershberger. He opposed eradicating char to protect salmon, claiming that if the salmon is managed properly the char will take care of itself. He also felt more research should be done on char before any controls are implemented for fear that other predators could become dominant.

The need for increased enforcement efforts was stressed by Bill Martin, particularly in salmon spawning areas. He cited a case in point of Natives fishing 35 miles up the Togiak River with gill nets. Also the small fines imposed by magistrates was of great concern; he advocated strong minimum fines for violations.

The need for an expanded boundary for the U.S. contiguous fisheries zone was supported by Joe Graham, with the desire for uniform rules for all nationals.

Nenana (14 persons testifying) - October 12

The quota system set up by the Department of Fish and Game for the upper Yukon River was criticized by Senator John Sackett and Mr. Sterling True, fish processor and buyer, with reference to an August closure in the upper waters but not at the mouth. (The conflict appeared to be a discrepancy of quota between the upper and lower regions.) The comment was made that the basis for the quota was wrong as the upper Yukon (central Yukon and Tanana River) fishery has always been in reality a commercial fishery although it has been called subsistence; commercial because dried salmon were bartered and traded and a relatively small percentage went into human consumption. Historically, up to 80 tons were utilized (1 ton = 2000 dried fish).

Others commented on the lack of fish traveling upstream due to lower river fishermen catching them first.

Ron Regnart, Regional Supervisor for Commercial Fisheries, explained the quota system, citing great breakthroughs in marketing and transportation which in the last few years have contributed to an early exceeding of the quota. Increased pressure downriver also has resulted in the early closure upriver for 1973 (from a high of one million fish in the 30's and 40's to a low of 150,000 fish in 1973). There has been a decline in effort (400 fish wheels in the 1930's to 56 in 1973). So most testimony was concerned with the allocation problems between the upriver and downriver take and cited departmental staff proposals before the Nov.-Dec. 1973 board meeting to split the area into three smaller districts in an effort to better manage it.

The Canadian commercial fishing efforts on the Yukon this year were discussed with the extent of their recently developing commercial fishery not known, but sure to increase in the future. It was brought out that the U.S. and Canada are negotiating on the subject presently.

Edmond Gilbert testified that Natives were destroying 800-900 pounds of eggs, polluting the rivers with them. He strongly advocated that "subsistence eggs" be allowed to be sold commercially.

Mr. Robert A. Coghill substantiated commercial selling of dried salmon in the area in the past (3-4 tons just 10 years ago). He cited declines occurring with the lack of need for dog food, less initiative, etc. Welfare has provided an easier substitute now.

Rep. Wilson supported the premise that past fishing efforts, called "subsistence", were really commercial in nature. He called for a new quota system to be devised as fishing divisions are not presently equitable, i.e. a quota is needed for each district.

Rearing salmon will be the answer to the problem ultimately, according to Mike Combs. More thought should be given to the Interior as a viable commercial fishery. Rivers like the Yukon certainly have the capability of producing artificially produced fish, particularly with such close proximity to sources of heat. Development of a sheefish and whitefish commercial fishery was suggested also.

Amena Lord thought each area should have its own regulations, and that the Natives should be permitted to sell commercially to supplement their meagre incomes.

Soldotna (11 persons testifying) - October 13

Testimony concentrated on two areas: the incursion on Alaska fishing grounds by foreign nationals (many examples cited), and the great expansion of gear in the Cook Inlet area. Concern for the setnetters and whether their fishery would be classified as "distressed" under the limited entry regulations was voiced also.

Juneau Public Hearing (9 persons testifying) - December

Mike McNiven urged that funds accruing to the state from U.S. Forest Service timber sales should go to rehabilitation of fisheries.

Several persons testified that additional hatcheries, fish farms and other rehab measures were needed to boost the present declining runs. In addition, money was urged for the purchase of new vessels for enforcement purposes and for research into herring stocks.

Bruce Lewis opposed private fish farming as developing into too restrictive a scheme and urged curtailment of sea mammals and eagles where their numbers were affecting the fisheries.

Comments regarding the raw fish tax were made by Ed Johnson, fish processor, and Ray Mathews, gill netter. Johnson opposed increasing it, as several communities such as Kake and Metlakatla were not now subject to the tax. Mathews recommended an increase if he could be sure it would get back into the fishery.

Herring received some attention, with testimony generally deploring the dwindling stocks. Bill Carr urged that the legislature appropriate funds for herring research vessels and that herring numbers merit commercial harvest. Charles Whitey, troller, opposed the commercial harvest of herring, citing decreased stocks.

Juneau Testimony by Board of Fish and Game Members - December 2

Testimony before the committee by board members centered around internal problems relating to the makeup of the board and its advisory committees (and associated staff problems) on the one hand, and external matters such as the increased protection needs, the revision of the penalty structure in the statutes, and an increase in revenues by moderate license fee increases, on the other.

Oscar Dyson and Jim Reardon stressed the need for expanded enforcement efforts, particularly in the area of vessel and equipment purchase. As a measure to increase funds for this and other concerns the feeling was unanimous that sport and commercial fishing license fees should be increased. This was personally endorsed by the commissioner. It was stated that the general fund appropriation for fish and game amounted to less than two per cent of the state's budget; small in relation to the economic benefit the state derives from it.

Gordon Jensen asked that the legislature explore all possible ways that the high seas fisheries problems could be alleviated, especially the off-shore bottom fishery. Pete Lovseth added that the state might impose economic sanctions on Japan, for example, in other areas.

The problem of the mobile processor was brought forth as a serious one: the fact that shore-based processors, who pay local taxes, are shortchanged and that mobile processors can stand outside the territorial waters and harvest the product without controls.

Penalties in the fisheries statutes needed strengthening, according to most board members. Certain misdemeanors deserve felony status and more sentences should be mandatory.

Testimony was heard on the need for a permanent fish and game attorney attached solely to the department, the need for a full-time board staff or secretary, and the revitalization of advisory committees.

Kodiak (9 people testifying) - December 4

Testimony in Kodiak ran heavily to considerations of foreign nationals fishing in Alaska waters, with numerous violations cited, much foreign monofilament net located, and the consensus being that the U.S. territorial limit be extended to 200 miles. Mr. Lloyd Canon urged support for S. 1988, designed to accomplish this. Harold Jons stressed the psychological value attached to a unilateral move on the part of a state extension of its fishing limits, citing the efforts of Massachusetts and Maine. It was stated that the 12-mile limit is not worth patrolling since so much of the fleet works outside it. Jons also explained that the 200-mile limit was designed mainly to protect stocks other than salmon as they tend to "mill" outside the 200-mile limit. It was recommended that the U.S. pursue a policy of the 200-mile limit extension and maintenance of the 175° W. abstention line of the I.N.P.F.C.

In conjunction with extension limits, beefed-up enforcement efforts were urged. Although the past year's efforts in the Kodiak area were applauded, it was felt that, considering the size of the fishery in the Kodiak area and the amount of money it produces, efforts should be strengthened even more. Others felt the vessel Resolution was the only saving feature for Kodiak and that others like it were needed, particularly in the Adak and Dutch Harbor areas of the Aleutian Chain. Most applauded the prospect of "T-boats" coming in (requested in latest budget request) but felt the larger vessels like the Resolution were required for offshore patrol.

Mr. Mike Revard emphasized that many violations that are presently misdemeanors should be classified as felonies and that perhaps monetary penalties should be geared to the value of the illegal catch (i.e. petty and grand larceny division), and also that license revocation should focus on the boat license not individual commercial fishing license.

Testimony also referred to the need for increased expenditure for stream clearing (Diwitt Fields), the Afognak Island logging contract and the desire to have it cancelled for fear of potential degradation (by tannic acid) of crab and shrimp spat.

Mr. Canon testified on the need for research funds generally, and particularly to establish rehab measures: salt water rearing pens, gravel incubators, etc.

Sitka (13 persons testifying) - November 13

Initially, questions were asked about limited entry; these were answered very generally, with direction to address specific questions to the limited entry commission in Juneau.

Protection was a frequent subject, with several persons citing both the need for more adequate patrolling offshore and problems associated with illegal harvest at the mouths of salmon streams and abuse on the spawning grounds (shooting, snagging and roe stealing). The case of abuse in Stargaven Creek by the ferry landing was given by way of example. John Dapevich, Mayor, urged the committee to push for a high endurance Coast Guard cutter for the Sitka area.

Herring and herring roe were discussed at length with much concern at the general lack of feed for salmon. Also, opposition to the harvest and local sale of herring roe to the Japanese, with the subsequent waste of the fish carcasses, was expressed. The creation of a state department of salmon hatcheries was suggested to accord proper emphasis to this subject.

Concern for the ebbing halibut fishery was voiced by Ann Hansen; quotas have been dropped each year. The need for extra research to rebuild the halibut fishery was stressed.

Other testimony urged adoption of a 200-mile limit (John Boyles, Mr. Brookman), more coordination of advisory committees (Art Retroboard, Jr.), longer terms for regular board members, a fish hatchery located in Sitka (Brookman, Dapceovich), the emerging fuel crisis, state subsidies for bottom fishery exploration, salt water rearing pens, and an expanded stream rehabilitation program in all of Southeast, with the salmon rearing program under the direction of an independent expert not associated with the Department of Fish and Game.

Wrangell (8 persons testifying) - November 14

The committee heard testimony from members of the ANB-ANS convention. Many persons were concerned with the effect of limited entry on them, particularly whether the canneries would monopolize the permits, and that the maximum 7 per cent buy-back assessment of the gross would work a hardship on the poor people. They suggested that the maximum be 7 per cent of the net, and that children be able to buy permits within their family.

Enforcement was criticized from the standpoint that officers check licenses during fishing periods and while sets are being made, thereby creating loss of fishing time and profits. Also criticized was the lack of vessels to properly cover the Lynn Canal area, particularly in the Sumner Straits and Haines areas (Gill Gunnerson). Mr. Herb Bratley stressed greater high seas protection.

Concern was voiced over the recent influx of Canadian fishermen sport fishing in the Haines area (586 of them).

Several persons urged the committee to stop the harvest of herring eggs for commercial purposes (Diane Nelson).

Andy Hope urged Native-administered fish farms on land owned by the Native corporations. This was cited as an excellent opportunity for both Native and white to coordinate efforts in this area.

Petersburg (10 persons testifying) - November 14

Testimony was strong on the present fuel shortage and whether fishermen would occupy a preferred category as far as allocation was concerned, and also the problem of new entry into the fisheries and whether new boats would qualify for fuel supplies.

Herring was in need of more attention, according to several persons present. Displeasure with the type of equipment the Department of Fish and Game is using to determine magnitude of herring stocks was voiced. It was felt that no one really knows their numbers and that research and management techniques be perfected (Bob Thortenson, Fred Haltiner, Lay Petersen). There was opposition to taking herring roe on kelp and to disposing of herring after removing eggs.

Gordon Jensen advocated the initiation of tagging studies in areas where salmon fishing occurs on intermingled stocks (Icy Straits, west coast of Prince of Wales Island).

Concern was expressed for increased enforcement efforts, with reference to Canada's 62 protection vessels in B.C. compared with our own 3 or 4 (Jensen). Complaints were heard that Public Safety enforcement personnel lack an expertise and working knowledge of the fishery (F. Haltiner). W. Alex mentioned problems with suspended sentences and weak fines, and the need for mandatory punishment for intentional violations. Mr. Don Power reiterated that enforcement officers need more training on the technical aspect of the fisheries: how to check and measure nets, etc. He commented: "most people feel they will never show up."

Mr. Geralt Lynd felt that Alaska should provide a "Dr. Kissinger" on fisheries who would confer on international fisheries problems, as apparently the Governor's Office has been unsuccessful.

Testimony covered extending the U.S. zone of fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles or the edge of the continental shelf (Chris Christensen), a policy whereby the Board of Fish and Game could review the department budget so that it would have input and influence, the prospect of imposing economic sanctions on the Japanese if they persist in devastating our stocks offshore (Christensen), better guidelines on what procedures advisory boards should follow (Haltiner), the full-scale implementation of a gravel incubation program (Haltiner), an exploratory king crab location program in Southeast (Lay Petersen), and investigation of the economic climate for rockfish and red snapper.

Some concern was also directed to the predator problem, specifically sea lions in September offshore out of Yakutat (John DeBoer) and generally in all of Southeast at certain times of the year.

Ketchikan (6 persons testifying) - November 15

Rehabilitation of salmon streams occupied more time than any

other subject, with recommendations that programs be increased and research be expanded. Mrs. Holman (Deer Mountain hatchery) urged that the legislature appropriate more money for incubators. Support was indicated for a bill authorizing private fish farming.

Mr. D. Hassingan advocated the establishment of rangemarkers in fishing zones and areas to lessen the possibility of violations.

Other areas touched on in testimony were problems relating to the fuel crisis, inadequate protection (Rollo Bray), the proliferation of drag web, drift web, and monofilament showing up on our coastline, the repeated instances of trawling within our coastline, the conflict with Canada over whether Canadian fish are intercepted at Fox Pass, the recommendation for more "biologists without desks" (Jensen), and extension of fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles.

Cordova (10 persons testifying) - December 2

Among the main topics stressed here was a statutory change to stiffen penalties for fisheries violations, making the more serious intentional ones felonies with stiff fines and mandatory sentences (Mr. P. Isleib). Also mentioned were protection problems in the Copper River Delta area with the lack of manpower for adequate enforcement cited, combined with the lack of aircraft for implementation of enforcement. The statement was made that protection is a "big laugh" here (Pete Blake). The opinion surfaced that protection was much better 10 years ago and that prospects for the future were dim with the pipeline requirements for security personnel (William Smith).

Subsistence fishing problems received comment, particularly the upper Copper River dip net fishery where many persons drive great distances, seeking the recreational value of the fishery more than subsistence use. Much abuse in this area was cited.

Sea mammal predation was of concern in the Cordova area, with seals cited as a major problem. Several thousand are "barred-up" in mid-May and they travel 100 miles up the Copper River after hooligan, taking salmon out of the nets, etc. (Isleib). "In five years the seals will have reproduced to the numbers they were in the early 1940's, approximately 40-50 thousand." (C. Sempler).

Rehabilitation was high on the list of priorities but aquaculture in the private ownership realm was feared, particularly in view of the problems of disease in Oregon and Washington establishments. The feeling was to approach it with caution (Isleib).

Limited entry was discussed, with specific reference to 7 per cent assessment of the gross provision and the six-month transfer provision. Testimony was received that the former was suspect as overheads vary among the fishermen and so many intangibles are involved. Regarding the latter (transfer provision), six months was questioned as too long to be workable. Thirty-sixty days was recommended as more realistic (Bill Hall).

Other recommendations were for the establishment of a major fisheries college in Alaska since it contributes so much to the economy (Bruce Massey), an I.M.S. research station in Cordova, the concept of "regional budgeting" by the Department of Fish and Game (W. Smith), the establishment of more salt water rearing pens and gravel incubators, and more stream clearing and cleaning operations (Newt Johnson), a bond issue for expansion of the Cordova boat harbor with seaplane stalls (J. Poor), and concern over the present unavailability of fuel.

Naknek (7 persons testifying) - December 5

Support for the advisory board concept was voiced, with special reference to the importance of maintaining a board in the Naknek area (G. Bergram). It was also recommended that the legislature should approve funds for the Board of Fish and Game to travel to Bristol Bay and, in fact, to each of the "prime concern" areas.

Testimony was received on the raw fish tax, that the Bristol Bay borough has in the past been so dependent on this, and that it was only \$15,000 this year and may be zero next. Recommended was a plan whereby tax could be received based on an average of what the borough got over the last five years. This would minimize the "up and down" effect (J. Hammond).

Much concern was voiced over stopping the False Pass salmon fishery in an effort to protect Bristol Bay stocks (G. Bergram, T. Mitchell). The proposal was made to adopt a management policy whereby "no fishing occur in areas where adequate escapement needs are not met", even if it means a complete closure of an area or the Bay itself (J. Hammond, T. Mitchell).

The limited entry program was discussed, with concern that all fisheries in an area be considered collectively when being considered for the distressed category, i.e. not just drift gill net in Bristol Bay, but the total impact of gill nets, set nets and hand-lines on the fishery (J. Hammond).

The results of the sliding gear scale in Bristol Bay were noted, with reference to the drastic diminishing of gear from 1972 to

1973. Also recommended was that the sliding gear scale be modified in relation to set nets, and that favoritism of drifters be stopped. The idea should be that both have the same fees, quotas and length of gear fished (A. Ashman).

Other reference was made to: the disastrous employment conditions in Bristol Bay from poor fishing seasons and that the state should not import non-local persons for local jobs if the locals are qualified (R. Johnson); enlisting support from the environmentalists for fisheries improvements (Al Menasplin); the reduction of interim-use permit fees for fishermen in distressed areas, with cost-of-living differentials related to the area a fisherman fishes, not to where he resides (H. Shauback); the need for more enforcement vessels (A. Ashman); and the need for an effort to be made to directly confer with Japan and Canada on foreign fisheries matters since I.N.P.F.C. is ineffective.

Dillingham (7 persons testifying) - December 6

Among top priority for discussion in the Dillingham area was the predator issue. The frequency and number of beluga whales in the bay was noted, with much opposition to the federal sea mammal protection bill in this regard. The Nushagak area was specifically referred to as a problem area for belugas. An immediate control program was urged, employing, if possible, the latest sound scaring devices. This would require several species being exempted from control of the marine mammal commission. (G. Bartman, H. Samuelson, J. Bennett, L. Smith, F. Roberts, A. Ball) Trout as predators were emphasized with similar comments on their control as with the beluga problem. Some advocated placing a bounty back on trout and imposing one on belugas (H. Samuelson). J. Nicholson urged more research be done on trout and char predation, as they are taking large numbers of smolt.

The high seas fishing abuse by other nationals was covered, with urging of a 200-mile limit that would start at the edge of the continental shelf, not the shoreline (H. Samuelson).

Limited entry was mentioned, with concern that members of a permit holder's family will be excluded from the fishery when they should have the right to participate (H. Samuelson).

The need for increased enforcement was stressed, particularly in the closed areas and with more frequent gear inspection.

Other comments suggested a closure of the False Pass fishery and the need for an expanded hatchery program.

Bethel (6 persons testifying) - December 7

Much of the problem in the Bethel area revolves around the change from a subsistence economy to a cash economy; specifically, whether, by regulation change, to allow the commercial sale of subsistence harvested salmon roe. Local testimony supported this, but the difficulty of framing the regulation change in the right manner was emphasized by the regional supervisor of the Department of Fish and Game. Testimony supported the subsistence sale of roe on the Kuskokwim only. Comments were received that now the roe is either wastefully destroyed or sold illegally (an estimated \$15,000-25,000 worth sold illegally). (\$175,000 worth of salmon roe is taken from the subsistence fishery in the commercial area at \$1.25 a lb.) Generally, authority for sale of subsistence roe and fish skins on the Kuskokwim is recommended. It was not felt that this would result in a harvest of salmon only for the roe. The people need both, it was emphasized. (R. Baxter, A. Edge, E. Hoffman, Sr., C. Kairaiuak, T. Williams)

The problem of no continuous year-round enforcement officer was discussed. Local people feel protection is too spotty at the present.

Testimony was heard on sheefish, that their numbers are declining and that more department research is needed on their patterns of movement and population fluctuations. There is a possibility that, properly managed, sheefish could support a commercial fishery.

C. Kairaiuak supported more funding for research in the upper Kuskokwim, particularly spawning studies. T. Williams advocated change in license issuing procedure for Bethel so that licenses are issued for a longer time prior to the opening of the season; the situation at present is very burdensome as persons must wait in long lines all at the same time.

III. CONCLUSION

From the previous discussion, several problems appear to run statewide. Such a consensus is at least some indication of their importance and it is the hope of the committee to meet these problems and issues satisfactorily during the 1974 legislative session. Not necessarily in order of priority they are as follows:

A. Protection and enforcement: Nearly all communities visited by the Joint Committee, with the exception of Kodiak, presented testimony regarding the lack of adequate enforcement of present state statutes and regulations. The following were central to the problem:

- (1) limited personnel;
- (2) personnel not familiar with the particular fishery that the law applies to;
- (3) obsolete or inadequate numbers of inspection and patrolling vessels;
- (4) grossly lenient statutory sentencing structure;
- (5) inability of the state to procure convictions, local juries unwilling to convict, etc.

B. Unilateral extension of the U.S. contiguous fisheries zone to 200 miles: The universal agreement among the communities visited was that the U.S. should unilaterally extend its fisheries limits to at least 200 miles. In line with this, it was urged that

- (1) S. 1988 (W. Magnuson's bill (U.S. Senator, Washington) advocating a 200-mile limit on all species of fish and protection anadromous fish wherever they range) be given full support;
- (2) U.S. Coast Guard cutter numbers be increased to adequately patrol the extended fisheries zone;
- (3) if possible, state economic sanctions be imposed on Japan unless it ceases its flagrant violations of I.N.P.F.C.;
- (4) bottom fish be included under the category of fish that cannot be fished east of 175° under I.N.P.F.C.;

- (5) Bristol Bay stocks of red salmon be given protection west of 175° under I.N.P.F.C.

C. Predator control: Testimony frequently included concern for increasing predation on herring and salmon stocks by sea mammals and, in some areas, by trout and char. Generally, the relaxation of bounties and less independent harvest pressure on these species, combined with decreasing salmon and herring stocks, has produced a situation of alarm in some communities. The recent passage of federal legislation to protect sea mammals has further complicated the problem. The main concerns were as follows:

- (1) increased research on and control of trout and char predation on salmon smolt in inland lake systems;
- (2) seal and sea lion predation in Southeast Alaska;
- (3) beluga whale predation, particularly in the Northwest;
- (4) that Alaska be exempted from the prohibitions of the federal Act against taking the above species of sea mammals.

D. Research and rehabilitation: Of top priority in most communities was the need for expanded rehabilitation programs for salmon, particularly for development of the new rearing and incubation programs, and the restocking of barren streams. Associated with this was support for more funding for research into new developing fisheries, specifically bottomfish, sheefish, whitefish, and shellfish. Central to this general area were the following concerns:

- (1) support for an extensive program of stream clearing;
- (2) the adequate funding of a maximum effort to implement present salt-water rearing and travel incubation programs;
- (3) funding of research into an exploratory king crab location program in Southeast Alaska;
- (4) investigation of the economic climate for the commercial marketing of rockfish and red snapper;
- (5) feasibility of authorizing private fish farming;

- (6) establishment of a major fisheries college or department of fisheries within the University of Alaska.

E. Commercial sale of (1) herring roe and (2) salmon roe, by subsistence users.

- (1) Testimony heard in Southeast Alaska communities generally opposed the commercial sale of herring roe in view of what was felt to be declining salmon stocks and the lack of a concrete determination on herring population due to inadequate herring research and management techniques.
- (2) Sale of salmon roe commercially by subsistence users was supported by Bethel and Nenana area residents, and presumably would be by other Northwest Alaska communities on the Yukon or Kuskokwim Rivers where the economy is shifting from a subsistence to a cash one. It was universally felt among the people that all salmon would be utilized and no waste would occur. As things stand now, much of the roe is either destroyed or sold illegally. The recommendation was for the Department of Fish and Game to classify, on a permanent regulatory basis, particular limited areas where subsistence roe or dried salmon could be sold.

F. Changes relating to the Board of Fish and Game: Comments pointed to concern that

- (1) new lifeblood be infused into advisory committees, in an attempt to make them more effective management tools; increased coordination with the board was suggested as a means to effect this result;
- (2) there is a need for a board staff or, at the very least, a full-time board secretary;
- (3) board input to the department regarding the department budget is needed;
- (4) the legislature appropriate funds to allow the board, prior to each board meeting, to visit so-called "prime concern" areas, to allow each board member more familiarity with priority problems.

G. Sport and commercial fishing license fee increase: Comments from the board, the commissioner, and the general public indicated a need and willingness to increase license fees for both sport and commercial fishing licenses.