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COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER:

3/25/81

(11)

Date: March 19, 1982

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had HB 400

"An Act relating to the maximum length of salmon seine vessels; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

[] do pass [] do not pass

[] do pass with attached amendment(s)

[] replace with CS for HB 400 (RESOURCES) [] same title [] new title

and recommends _____

[] AND attaches a "Letter of Inter." [] New Fiscal Note
individual

[] reports it back without ~~out~~ recommendation

[] referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] NO REC
[Signature]

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

HUBERT G. McCALLUM
BOX 2, SAND POINT, ALASKA 99661

February 22, 1982

Representative Eric Sutcliffe
House of Representatives
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Sutcliffe:

It has been brought to my attention that a certain group of fishermen in Alaska would like to have the 58 foot salmon purse seine vessel limit repealed.

The retention of the 58' limit is of crucial economic importance to fishermen in the Sand Point Community for the following reasons:

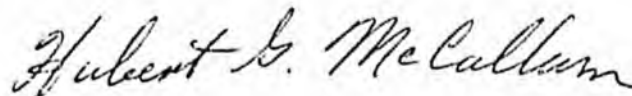
First, the 58' limit seiner law was enacted in the interest of conservation. This interest remains valid today.

Second, our present investments are in 58' limit seiners. We would be forced by competition to invest in a larger vessel, which, in turn, would not be compatible with the present purse seine length of 250 fathoms, thus creating a need for a larger and more expensive purse seine.

The Sand Point Advisory Committee voted unanimously to retain the 50 foot keel, or registered length; or 58 foot over-all length.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in presenting our point of view on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Hubert G. McCallum, Member
Sand Point ADP&G Advisory Committee

February 19, 1982

Honorable Eric Sutcliffe
Chairman, House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Eric:

The members of our association are very concerned about House Bill 400, the bill repealing the limit on 58 foot seiners.

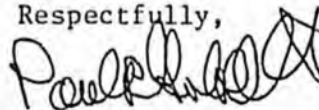
The points we would like to make are:

1. The fishery fleet presently has a tendency to be overcapitalized, repealing the 58 foot limit would only amplify that. Instead of income going to the communities, a lot more would be diverted to lending institutions for interest and principal payments;
2. All the salmon can be harvested by the 58 foot size and small^{er} boats;
3. The only other viable second^{ary} fisheries are crab - overcrowded already; shrimp - resource depleted; halibut - tremendously overcrowded;
4. Fear of the king crab fleet buying permits en masse and fishing their boats as catcher processors;
5. The boat harbors in the state are primarily designed for 58 foot and smaller vessels and are already overcrowded;
6. The only area pushing for repeal is Southeast Alaska where less than 50% of the seiners are privately owned, whereas virtually all seiners in the rest of the state are privately owned;
7. A large value loss per vessel will be realized on 56 foot boats (\$100,000-\$200,000 est.).

We would like to see the 58 foot limit left on Title 16, and no authority be given the Board to repeal the law on an area by area basis which would in effect give the whole state a de facto repeal of the 58 foot limit.

We are unanimously and adamantly opposed to the repeal of the 58 foot limit.

Respectfully,



Paul Gronholdt
President
Peninsula Marketing Association

713 400

January 14, 1982

John Oaksmith
716 Totem Way
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

The Honorable Eric G. Sutcliffe
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch "V", State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: Alaska 58' Seine Vessel Size Limit

Dear Eric:

As you sort through the vast amount of bills I am sure that you will have, I'm positive that you will run across some sort of bill that will ask for the repeal of the 58' size that Alaska seiners have at the present time.

The original law was passed in the thirtys so the California, Oregon and Washington state fleets could not participate in the Alaskan seine fishery.

Some of my thoughts on why the law should be changed are:

1. We now have Limited Entry to "protect" the Alaskan fishermen from the outside fleet.
2. Some of the 58' Limit boats coming out of the yards in recent times are becoming alarmingly more topheavy. The owners are putting more equipment topsides because they don't have the room for the gear necessary for mutliple fisheries.

A vessel here in SE, the "JOHNNIE A", is a 58' (49.9' on the keel) combination vessel that is as wide as a 108' Marco boat. There is a large Jacobsen Brothers crane instead of a boom and it is used for crabbing as well as seining. The boat cost was around \$1.3 million and looks like "4 pounds of ___ in a ? pound bag". Icing down in the winter could be a real problem in the winter time, not necessarily for the present owner, but to a skipper or if he sold the vessel.

3. Most boats in the fisheries in Alaska are having to be used as multi-purpose vessels with inflation and interest costs on the rise. The seiners are starting to use their vessels for dragging and crabing more and more. Being from Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, I don't have to tell you how unstable most "converted" vessels are in the crab industry and the same is basically true for the drag fishing industry. The 58' Limit boats are still being designed for the inside waters and for use during the summer months. If a larger

size were to be used (or could be used), a seiner could safely fish his vessel on the outside during the winter months and therefore, supplement his fishing income as well as develop a small size offshore bottom fishery.

I really believe that down the line, some lives could be saved by a change in this law. The main arguments that I hear at the present time against the repeal is from the present owners of 58' Limit boats. They just don't want it to happen. Sometimes, I feel as if I can see some of their points, but it just comes down to the fact that "change is bad". I don't believe that is true. The entire fishing community as a whole would benefit from a change to a larger size as well as the development of a small bottom fishery. The Fish and Game Advisory Board has stated for the past six or seven years that it is up to the Legislature to change the law every time the resolution has been brought before them. A size I feel that would be fair and still large enough to meet the requirements would be 70' to 75' in length. This would also leave more room below decks for refrigeration equipment and properly insulated holds.

Should you have any questions regarding this, please let me know. I hope you are successful in the coming session in accomplishing what you want to do. It was very enjoyable to see you and Kathy when I was in Juneau last week. If I can be of any personal help to you, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thanks.

Best regards,



John Oaksmith