

FISHERIES

BRIEFING

1-28-81

# Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, CHAIRMAN  
VIC F. SCHER, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
BRAD BRADLEY  
DICK ELIASON  
DON GILMAN  
BOB MULCAHY  
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



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## Senate

### Committee on Resources

January 28, 1981  
2:00 p.m.

Beltz Room  
211 Capitol

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#### MEMBERS PRESENT

SENATOR FAHRENKAMP  
SENATOR FISCHER  
SENATOR GILMAN  
SENATOR MULCAHY  
SENATOR STURGULEWSKI  
SENATOR BRADLEY

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

SENATOR ELIASON

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The Committee was briefed on Fisheries by Roger Painter, Executive Director of United Fishermen of Alaska and Richard B. Lauber, Alaska Manager, Pacific Seafood Processors Association.

Roger Painter, indicated that there have been some problems in the marketing of fish because the volume of fish caught has more than doubled and there has been a shift to frozen salmon. Japan is the primary purchaser of Alaska's seafood therefore, their economic difficulties effect Alaska. He also pointed out that the cost of fuel for fishermen and processors has increased causing them further economic difficulties. He further indicated that the marketing of Alaska's seafood needs to be expanded in the United States. He suggested that the strike in Bristol Bay last season was the result of information not being provided to the fishermen about market conditions. He suggested that the State should provide unbiased information to the fisherman which might help avoid another strike.

In discussing the Board of Fisheries, he indicated that the issues they are dealing with are increasingly complex, and the work is demanding. Their last meeting lasted 2 1/2 months. Since their work load is so staggering, he suggested that alternatives should be studied to help the board become more effective.

He said there are serious problems with the processing of fish tickets. Until recently there was a two year lag in processing the tickets. At present, the processing of

tickets is less than a year behind.

He said he would like to see a better definition of subsistence users. He did not want to see the subsistence law repealed because the Federal government might then take the opportunity to assume the management of fisheries.

He indicated that some of the factors inhibiting fisheries development in Alaska are the lack of dock facilities, lightering facilities and transportation systems.

Richard B. Lauber told the Committee that probably the largest problem confronting the seafood processing industry is government regulation. In many instances, the enforcement of these regulations seems to be inconsistent. The attitude of those interpreting the original laws is a severe problem. Government agencies make little effort to follow the original legislative intent.

In describing ARRC he indicated that he felt that a state agency should not control a substantial part of a private enterprise. ARRC should only be a lending agency.

He further testified that he was looking forward to the reorganization of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development because their past performance has not been of a great benefit to the industry.