

SCR

31

COMMITTEE REPORT  
SENATE

FURTHER: None

5/27/81

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. President:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had SCR 31  
Southeastern Alaska troll fishery

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass  do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for \_\_\_\_\_  same title  
 new title
- and recommends \_\_\_\_\_
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent"  New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING  
DO PASS

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MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dutye Scherban  
CHAIRMAN

# Alaska State Legislature

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



POUCH V  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3834  
(907) 465-3035

## Senate

### Committee on Resources

June 8, 1981  
1:30 p.m.

Beltz Room  
211 - Capitol

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp  
Senator Fischer  
Senator Bradley  
Senator Eliason  
Senator Mulcahy  
Senator Sturgulewski  
Senator Gilman

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Hearing:

- SB 588 and HB 350 An Act relating to mineral leasing.
- HB 434 An Act relating to pipelines and merging the Alaska Pipeline Commission with the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.
- HB 507 An Act relating to the fishermen's mortgage and note program under AS 16.10.650 - 16.10.720.
- HB 196 An Act relating to establishment of the Alaska State Climate Center and a State Weather and Climate Program.
- SCR 31 Relating to the southeastern Alaska troll fishery.

Staff discussed SB 588 and HB 350 .

Phil Holdsworth, Alaska Miners Association, stated that the proposed SCS CSHB 350 (res) is supported by his association.

Senator Sturgulewski put forth the motion to move SCS CSHB 350 (res) with individual recommendation.

Karen Corey, Chairman, Alaska Pipeline Commission, stated that she supports HB 434.

Carolyn Guess, Chairman, Alaska Public Utilities Commission, stated she supports HB 434.

Senator Sturgulewski put forth the motion to correct the

typographical errors on page 3, line 2 and page 3, line 20.

Senator Sturgulewski put forth the motion to move the corrected HB 196 with individual recommendations.

Senator Mulcahy stated that CSSB 507 is designed to provide mortgage loans to rural Alaskans.

Senator Mulcahy put forth the motion to move CSSB 507 with individual recommendations.

Senator Eliason requested that SCR 31 be held one day in order to work on the resolve clause.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

SCSCR 31 (Res) "Relating to the Southeastern Alaska troll fishery.

SPONSOR: The Resources Committee

GENERAL: The resolution requests the governor to direct the commissioner of fish and game to investigate and evaluate the research methodology and validity of statistics used in fishery resource management for the troll fishery in Southeastern Alaska and to report his findings to the legislature at the beginning of the Second Session of the Twelfth Legislature. In addition to the report of findings it requests a proposal to rectify any shortcomings that are identified.

1. Salmon trolling is a major economic activity in Southeastern.
2. Board of Fisheries determines the openings based on data supplied by the Department.
3. U.S. Secretary of Commerce determines the openings based on supplied by the Department.
4. Harvest levels are based on data furnished by the Department and should not diminish the number of fish that will be available to be harvested in future years.
5. The Department does not furnish data on methods used to collect biological data.
6. Complete data on salmon runs and returns is not available; there is not a summary of what data is available or missing.
7. Board of Fisheries regulations are based on incomplete data.
8. Board of Fisheries regulations being based on incomplete data may adversely affect the conservation of the resource.
9. Board of Fisheries regulations are imposed without due consideration of the effects of regulatory measures used in the past.
10. The Resolve clause - see "General" above.

# Alaska State Legislature

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POJCH V  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3834  
(907) 465-3833

## Senate

### Committee on Resources

June 9, 1981  
3:30 p.m.

Beltz Room  
211 - Capitol

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp  
Senator Fischer  
Senator Sturgulewski  
Senator Mulcahy  
Senator Eliason  
Senator Gilman

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#### HEARING:

- CSHB 272 (Res) a. An Act relating to survey and improvement of public land.
- CSSSHB 9 (Fin) An Act relating to energy.
- SCSCR 31 (Res) Relating to the Southeastern Alaska troll fishery.

Staff discussed CSHB 272.

Senator Gilman put forth the motion to move CSHB 272 with individual recommendations.

Senator Fischer put forth the motion to move CSSSHB 9 (Res) am with individual recommendations.

Senator Eliason stated that he had rephrased the resolve clause and other technical changes to SCR 31.

Senator Gilman put forth the motion to move CSSCR 31 with individual recommendations.

# 1981 SOUTHEAST ALASKA - YAKUTAT TROLL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Southeast Region

This plan provides an overview of the approach that will be employed to manage the 1981 Southeast Alaska troll commercial salmon fishery. The plan is based upon the best available pre-season information. The management approach may need to be refined during the coming season as in-season information becomes available, however, the current plan should prove valuable for planning by fishermen and industry.

A summary of new and other important fishing regulations for the 1981 troll season are provided. Information describing the troll management system, the salmon resources involved, and the rationale for important regulatory changes are included and should prove of interest to all fishermen.

## Management System

The Alaska ocean salmon troll fishery occurs in waters under both State and Federal jurisdictions, east of the longitude of Cape Suckling. Salmon trolling is permitted only in State waters of the Yakutat and Southeastern commercial fishing areas, which extends from Dixon Entrance in the south to Cape Suckling in the north. The Federal jurisdiction encompasses all waters of the 3-200 mile Fisheries Conservation Zone (FCZ) adjoining the Yakutat and Southeastern areas. All other waters of Alaska, including the FCZ, west of Cape Suckling are closed to commercial salmon trolling.

The same stocks of salmon are often harvested in both State and Federal waters. Often times an individual troller will fish in both areas on the same day. A cooperative approach is essential for good management of the Alaskan troll fishery.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries promulgates State fishing regulations while the Secretary of Commerce is the Federal counterpart for regulating fishing activities in the FCZ. The Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meet jointly to insure that compatible management is employed.

Management of the troll fishery, like other Alaskan commercial fisheries, is based upon policies and regulations promulgated by the Board of Fisheries. The authority to issue in-season emergency orders, to adjust fishing season and areas, is delegated through the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to Department fisheries management biologists. This provides the necessary flexibility to regulate the troll fishery in-season in response to resource availability. A similar approach exists in the federal management system as the National Marine Fisheries Service has the authority to institute in-season regulatory changes.

The complicated and widespread nature of the troll fishery necessitates a closely coordinated management program. State management of the troll fishery is accomplished through a management team approach led by the Southeast Regional Finfish Coordinator; and, including a Regional Troll Biologist, five Area Management Biologists, and a Regional Biometrician. The names and locations of people to contact concerning Alaskan troll fishery management are shown at the end of the management plan.

### Salmon Stocks

The troll fishery harvest primarily chinook and coho salmon stocks. Other species of salmon harvested by trollers are normally considered incidental to the taking of the primary target species and will not be addressed in this plan. The troll fishery normally accounts for over 90% of the chinook salmon and 50-75% of the coho salmon taken in the Southeast Alaska commercial fisheries.

Native chinook and coho salmon stocks occur throughout Southeast Alaska. Chinook salmon stocks spawn primarily in the large mainland rivers and their tributaries, the most important of which are the Alsek, Taku, Stikine, Unuk, and Chickamin rivers. Some 28 other river systems in Southeast Alaska are known to produce runs of chinook salmon. Southeast Alaska chinook salmon stocks are all "spring type" in that they enter the spawning streams during the spring and early summer months. Current information indicates that a majority of the chinook salmon harvested in the Alaska troll fishery are produced from spawning streams in Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Results of recent coded wire tagging experiments have identified among others, the upper Columbia River "brite" stock as a major contributor to the Alaskan troll fishery. Several age classes of mature spawners and immature chinook salmon are harvested by trollers during any one fishing season.

By contrast, coho salmon populations occur in most of the 2,000 plus streams in Southeast Alaska which host anadromous fish, and spawn during the fall and early winter months. Most of coho salmon harvested by trollers are of Alaskan origin, are of a single age class, and are caught in the year of spawning.

### Resource Problems

Southeast Alaska chinook and coho salmon stocks are depressed from historical production levels. Chinook salmon stocks are, additionally, depressed coastwide. Annual commercial catches in recent years by all Southeast Alaska types have often exceeded 300,000 chinook and 1,000,000 coho. These harvests, though substantial, are considerably lower than levels produced between 1930 and 1950.

Until quite recently only minor regulatory restrictions have been imposed in the Alaska troll fishery. However, the fishing power of the troll fleet has increased greatly in recent years, relative to the available salmon and a more restrictive regulations have become necessary. The rebuilding of chinook and coho salmon stocks or even main-

taining current production levels will require new management and regulatory approaches.

### Chinook Salmon Management

Current Southeast Alaska chinook salmon escapements are below minimum desired levels. Spawning escapement improvements have not been adequate in spite of significant restrictions imposed in the terminal area troll and net fisheries since the mid 1970's. There are currently no directed gillnet or seine fisheries on chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska. Sport fisheries throughout Southeast Alaska harvest approximately 15,000 to 17,000 chinook salmon each year; however, sport fisheries management will not be addressed in this plan.

#### Spring Trolling Closure

The major management approach for rebuilding Alaskan chinook stocks will be to reduce the harvest of the mature spawning run fish during the spring and early summer fishing period. The specific regulation is to close the Alaskan troll fishery from April 15 through May 14.

This closure corresponds to the time period when the majority of chinook spawners of Alaskan origin would be available to the troll fishery. It should allow increased numbers of spawners to move into the spawning streams or enter inside terminal areas where current fishing regulations provide a high degree of protection.

#### Guideline Harvest Level

To prevent increased fishing pressure on immature Alaskan stocks and stocks of non-Alaskan origin, as a result of the reduced fishing time early in the season, the seasonal chinook salmon harvest ceiling will be 285,000 fish. The harvest level reduction will provide for additional Alaskan chinook salmon escapement in future years to the extent that immature salmon are not harvested. During the 1980 season the harvest ceiling (i.e., optimum yield or OY) was expressed as a range from 286,000 to 320,000 fish.

#### Winter Chinook Salmon Fishery

A distinct fishing season has been established for the traditional winter king salmon fishery. The winter fishing season is from October 1 through April 14. To maintain the winter fishery the seasonal calculation for the allowable chinook salmon catch has been specified to commence at the start of the winter season (on October 1), and end at the end of the summer season (September 20) of the following year.

## In-Season Management of Chinook Salmon Fishery

The 1981 troll fishery will be managed in-season to insure that the catch of chinook salmon does not exceed the established guideline harvest level of 285,000 fish. The harvest level applies to the chinook salmon catch by all commercial gear types. The harvest calculation will also include all chinook salmon harvested since the beginning of the winter season on October 1, 1980. Thus, when the summer season opens, on May 15, a portion of the allowable catch would have already been harvested.

The Southeast Alaska troll fishery targets almost exclusively on chinook salmon from October through June, and on both coho and chinook salmon during July, August, and September. The relative degree to which vessels target on coho or chinook from July through September depends on the relative abundance and price of the two species, factors which vary within a season and from year to year.

In managing the troll fishery to keep the total Southeast Alaska commercial chinook salmon harvest from exceeding the OY harvest ceiling, it is desirable insofar as possible to avoid chinook salmon only closures during July and August when the major coho salmon harvest occurs. A chinook salmon only closure during July and August would result in undesirable hook and release mortalities on both mature and immature chinook salmon, hooked incidentally by the fleet while targeting on coho salmon.

Late June is considered an ideal time period to implement any needed major troll fishery restriction to maintain the seasonal harvest of chinook salmon at the desired guideline harvest level. This is because of the relatively low abundance and smaller size of coho salmon during late June and the capability of the troll fleet to fully harvest the available salmon beginning in early July.

To determine the need for a June troll fishery closure and the required length of any closure, the following procedures will be used consistent with the aforementioned considerations.

- (1) The chinook salmon harvest taken during the winter troll fishery from October 1 of the previous year through April 14 of the current year will be determined during the April 1 - May 14 closure.
- (2) The winter troll harvest and a projected incidental net fishery harvest will be subtracted from the established OY harvest ceiling to determine the maximum allowable troll harvest during the summer season of May 15 - September 20. An incidental net fishery harvest of 20,000 chinook salmon will be used as a pre-season projection; however, as the net fishery season progresses the number may be raised or lowered depending on the actual incidental catch rates.

- (3) During the first three or four weeks following the beginning of the summer fishery on May 15, the troll fishery chinook harvest will be monitored to develop an estimate of the weekly catch rate.
- (4) Using the estimated weekly catch rate and adjusting for an expected chinook harvest reduction during the anticipated 10-day mid-season coho closure, an estimate will be made of the summer season chinook harvest expected by approximately September 10 assuming no further closures (see Figure 1 for a graphical presentation of this management strategy). If the summer troll harvest projected in this manner, combined with the winter season troll harvest and the expected net fishery incidental harvest exceeds the OY ceiling, then an appropriate mid to late June closure will be developed. (Depending on the winter troll harvest, mid-May to mid-June harvest rates and actual calendar dates, the closure might occur as late as the first week in July.)

A September 10 target date for projecting total seasonal catches, as opposed to the September 20 summer season closure date, is being employed to allow for a final season adjustment, if needed, based on actual July and August chinook salmon harvest rates.

### Coho Salmon Management

One of the major problems confronting the effective management of the coho fishery is the recent shift of fishing effort from the inside districts to the outer coastal fishing grounds. This has increased the mixed stock nature of the coho fishery. Management problems have resulted because a major portion of the coho catch is occurring in the coastal and outer coastal fishing areas prior to the time that the coho return enters the inside fishing districts where run strength can be assessed. The shift of fishing effort has also changed the historical allocation balance of coho salmon between user groups.

#### Inside/Outside Coho Harvest Objective

The Board of Fisheries adopted as part of the "Southeast-Alaska-Yakutat Chinook and Coho Salmon Troll Fisheries Management Plan" the objective of returning inside district coho salmon troll catches to pre-1978 levels by 1984.

#### Ten Day Troll Closure

In order to curtail fishing pressure on coho salmon early in the season, before the actual run strength can be determined, and to allow more coho salmon to move further along their migration routes and to inside waters, a ten day closure of commercial trolling can be expected in late July or early August.

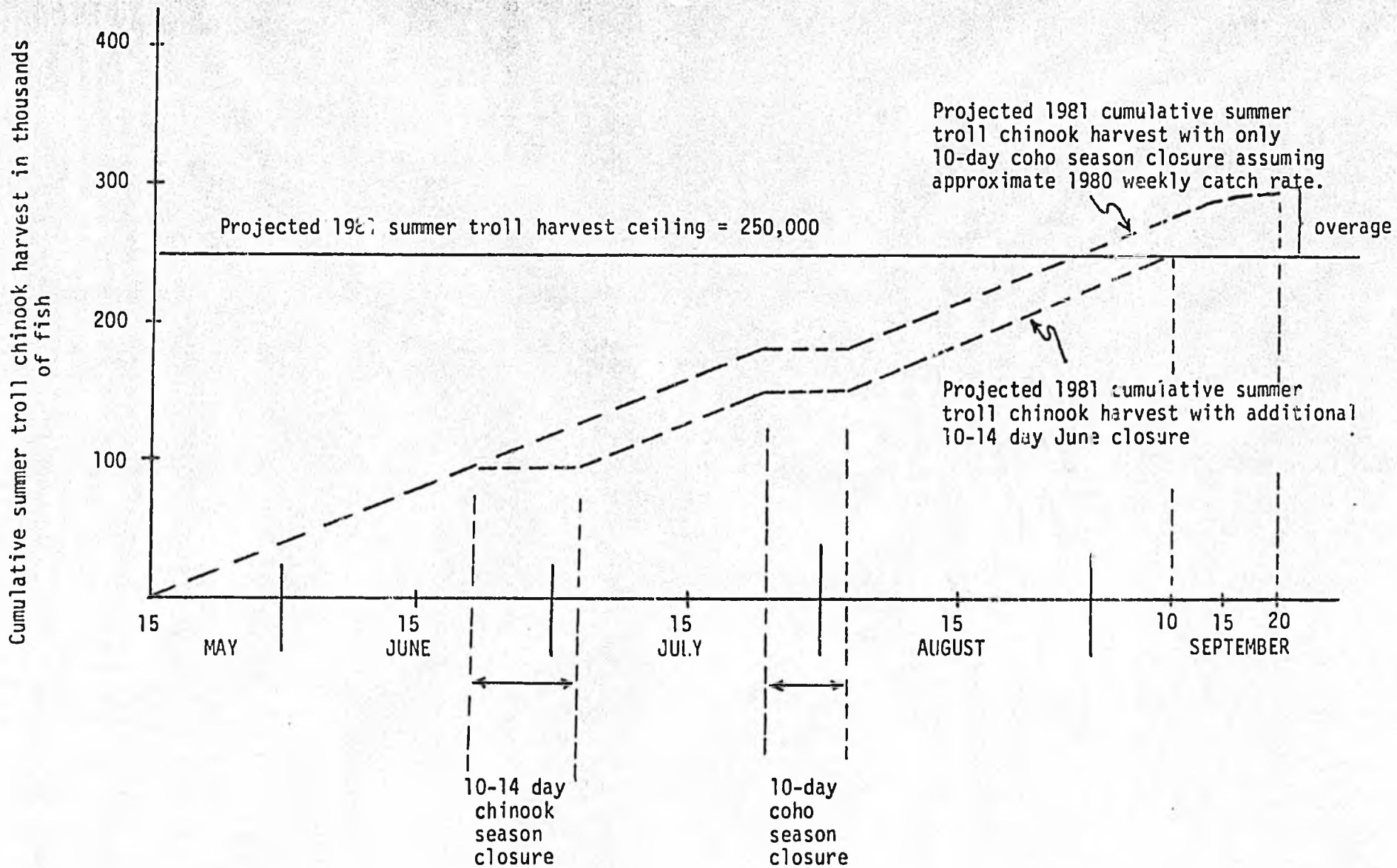


Figure 1. Graphical illustration of procedure for determining duration of June closure of Southeast Alaska troll fishery if needed for management of chinook salmon fishery (ADF&G-4/81).

This closure, as specified by the Board of Fisheries, will take place unless the coho run appears well above average in magnitude and the movement of coho to inshore waters appear to be good. The closure will apply to trolling for all species of salmon. If possible, the timing of the closure will overlap one of the 6 day closed periods specified under the 8 day on 6 day off fishing periods in northern areas.

### Hand Troll Fishery

The hand troll fishery has undergone rapid change in recent years. Individual units of hand troll gear have increased in efficiency due to widespread conversion from the use of sport rods to hand gurdies and the development of a "full time" hand troll fleet. Additionally, the number of hand trollers has increased substantially. The combination of these factors has increased the total catching power of the hand troll fleet. This has resulted in an increased percentage of coho and chinook salmon being taken by hand trollers and a corresponding decrease in the proportion being taken by fishermen using other gear types.

The impending hand troll limited entry system will limit the number of hand trollers to 2,150 units of gear, a level which still has the potential fishing power to continue or even exaggerate conservation and allocation problems. The decision to issue a large number of permits was based on maintaining the traditional nature of the hand troll fishery and making it readily accessible to new entrants.

### Hand Troll - Power Allocation Policy

Recognizing that the 2,150 maximum permit level would result in an expansion of efficiency in the hand troll fleet, the Board of Fisheries adopted a hand troll-power troll allocation policy in 1979 for 80% power troll and a 20% hand troll ratio for troll caught coho salmon. This policy will remain in effect for the 1981 season.

### Hand Troll Management Outlook

To formalize the management of the hand troll fishery, the Board of Fisheries issued a policy statement during the January 1981 meeting, stating that "the hand troll fishery should be managed to preserve its unique historical character and to allow the larger number of people dependent on supplemental returns from hand trolling to continue to participate in the fishery." To achieve this goal while maintaining historical allocation balances between user groups the Board of Fisheries adopted more restrictive hand troll gear regulations. Coupled with the gear restrictions was the removal of time and area restrictions that were specific to handtrollers. The gear regulations (these were changed at a later meeting) specified an aggregate of four fishing rods or an aggregate of one hand troll gurdy and one fishing rod for the 1981 season.

### Hand Troll Gear Regulations

The Board of Fisheries reconsidered the 1981 hand troll gear regulations at the spring shellfish meeting. A new management approach was adopted which included a relaxation of hand troll gear regulations that will be effective for the 1981 season. The new management approach specifies a two gurdy or four sport pole hand troll gear limitation and provides that the desired hand troll-power troll coho salmon allocation proportion be maintained by adjusting the hand troll fishing season. No more than one legal limit of hand troll gear (i.e., two troll gurdies or four sport poles) may be onboard any salmon hand troll vessel.

### In-season Management of the Hand Troll Fishery

To maintain the desired allocation balance between troll gear types, the Board of Fisheries directed the Commercial Fisheries management staff to adjust hand troll fishing time. To achieve the desired hand troll harvest proportion, troll landing of coho salmon will be monitored closely through the early portions of the coho season. Any needed adjustment in hand troll fishing time will be accomplished by a hand troll fishing closure after mid-August.

To actually determine the duration of a mid-August hand troll closure if needed to achieve the 80:20 coho catch allocation as directed by the Board, the catch allocation through mid-August will be estimated from in-season catch records. (In past years the percentage allocation between hand and power troll gear by mid-August very closely approximated the total season percentage allocation.) Based on the projected percentage allocation through mid-August and the estimated relative proportion of the total troll coho catch which has already occurred, the duration of the hand troll closure will be calculated.

### Hand Troll Fishing Areas

Area and time restrictions that were specific for hand troll gear have been removed. This means that hand trollers can fish seven days a week in district 1 for the entire season and in all coastal and offshore fishing areas. The 8 on and 6 off fishing periods will remain in effect in the northern areas, where they apply to both hand and power troll gear.

### Summary

This management plan provides an overview of the approach that will be followed to manage the 1981 Alaskan troll salmon fishery. Management of the Alaskan troll fishery has undergone major changes in recent years in response to declining chinook and coho salmon populations. New man-

agement approaches are needed to rebuild chinook and coho salmon to former productive capabilities or to even maintain current production levels.

The major management approach for rebuilding Alaskan chinook salmon stocks will be to close the troll fishery from April 15 through May 14. This closure corresponds to the time period when a majority of chinook spawners of Alaskan origin would be available to the troll fishery. Coupled with the spring spawner closure will be a reduction of the chinook salmon harvest ceiling to 285,000. This compares to a harvest ceiling (i.e., optimum yield or OY) of 286,000 to 320,000 employed for the 1980 season. To achieve the desired harvest level, early season catch levels will be monitored closely and a closure of the troll fishery may be expected in late June to early July if seasonal catch projections indicated that the 285,000 harvest level, by all gear types will be exceeded. The spring spawner closure and the lower seasonal harvest level will also benefit chinook salmon stocks of non-Alaskan origin.

A ten day closure of the troll fishery during the coho season can be expected again during the 1981 season. This closure is designed to curtail fishing pressure on coho salmon early in the season, before the actual run strength can be determined, and to allow more coho salmon to enter the inside waters. The closure will be implemented in late July or early August, unless the coho run appears well above average in magnitude and the movement of coho to inshore waters appears to be good.

A new management approach will be followed for the 1981 hand troll fishery. The hand troll-power troll allocation policy adopted by the Board of Fisheries in 1979 will remain in effect for the 1981 season. The new management approach specifies a two gurdy or four sport pole hand troll gear limitation and provides that the desired hand troll-power troll coho allocation proportion will be maintained by adjusting the hand troll fishing season. To determine the need for any hand troll closure, coho salmon landings will be monitored closely through the early portion of the coho season to project seasonal harvest proportions. Any needed adjustment in hand troll fishing time will be accomplished by a hand troll fishing closure after mid-August.

Coupled with the new hand troll gear regulation was the removal of area and time restrictions that were specific to hand trollers.

This management plan presents only a portion of the troll regulations that will be in effect for the 1981 season. A complete listing of troll regulations is available in the 1981 Finfish Regulation booklet. A special recapitulation of troll regulations entitled "1981 Alaska Commercial Salmon Trolling Regulation Guide" has been developed for the 1981 season and is available at local Fish and Game offices.

## Department of Fish and Game Contacts

The following are Commercial Fisheries Division contacts regarding this management plan:

Dave Cantillon Region I Supervisor	230 S. Franklin St. Rm 301 Juneau
Gary Gunstrom Region I Research Supervisor	230 S. Franklin St. Rm 301 Juneau
Paul Larson Region I Finfish Coordinator	230 S. Franklin St. Rm 301 Juneau
Alan Davis Troll Management Biologist	Box 499 Sitka
Mel Seibel Region I Biometrician	230 S. Franklin St. Rm 301 Juneau
Don Ingledue Area Management Biologist	230 S. Franklin St. Rm 301 Juneau
William Bergmann Area Management Biologist	Box 667 Petersburg
Randy Timothy Assistant Area Biologist	Box 200 Wrangell
John Valentine Area Management Biologist	208 State Office Building Ketchikan
Bob DeJong Area Management Biologist	Box 499 Sitka
Ray Staska Area Management Biologist	Box 431 Haines

Draft Response

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31 - Relating to  
the Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery

Senate Resolution No. 31 raises questions regarding the reliability of catch statistics and methodology used by ADF&G for management of the Southeast Alaska troll fishery. The questions raised are of a fairly general nature and therefore the responses must be fairly general.

The Southeast Alaska salmon troll fishery is most uniquely characterized by the broad extent of both <sup>its</sup> ~~the~~ boundaries and the origins of salmon on which it operates. Its geographical boundaries range from the U.S. - Canadian border in Dixon Entrance to Cape Suckling north of Yakutat and from the inside waters of Southeast Alaska to areas 15-20 miles offshore lying in the Fisheries Conservation Zone (FCZ). Its biological boundaries - defined primarily by the origins of chinook salmon harvested by the fishery - extend from Oregon on the south through British Columbia to central Alaska on the north

When the troll fishery extends into the FCZ, i.e., coastal waters from 3-200 miles offshore, it falls under federal jurisdiction with management authority vested in the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. State and federal regulations are coordinated through joint meetings of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) in an attempt to keep the state and federal regulations as uniform as possible.

Management of the S.E. Alaska troll fishery would be difficult if only the mixed stock nature of the fishery were considered. However, in addition, stocks of salmon supporting this fishery also contribute to numerous other commercial and recreational fisheries in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Many of these fisheries share similar histories of participation in harvesting these salmon resources. This situation has resulted in numerous attempts to develop coastwide management plans, especially for chinook salmon. The current structure under the regional fisheries management council, viz. the NPFMC and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (<sup>PFMC</sup> ~~PFMC~~) is the most successful attempt to date. Successful resolution of current U.S. - Canada salmon interception problems via a proposed bilateral salmon convention would incorporate Canadian fisheries in a coastwide management plan.

Successful management of the S.E. Alaska troll fishery thus requires resolution of two problems - that of insuring adequate escapements to contributing salmon stocks and allocation of allowable harvest to the numerous user groups. These problems ~~are~~ are common to many fisheries, but are greatly intensified in the S.E. Alaska troll fishery due to the large number of mixed stocks involved, exploitation of both mature and immature fish, the large number of subsistence, commercial and recreational user groups and the large number of managing entities representing two countries, 3 or 4 states, state and federal governments and two regional management councils. All aspects of the management problem have been intensified recently by the general coastwide decline of chinook salmon stocks.

The current chinook salmon management system for S.E. Alaska commercial fisheries consists of an overall yearly catch ceiling combined with a number of time-area-gear (TAG) regulations. The TAG regulations are designed to provide additional protection for mature Alaska-origin spawners, to minimize the harvest of small, immature fish and to allow for general user group allocations.

An annual catch ceiling, or "optimum yield" (OY) as it is termed in NPFMC fishery plans, was first used in 1980 when a ceiling of 320,000 chinook was imposed. The actual 1980 commercial catch was approximately 323,000 fish. *The 1981 catch ceiling imposed by the Board of Fisheries is 285,000.*

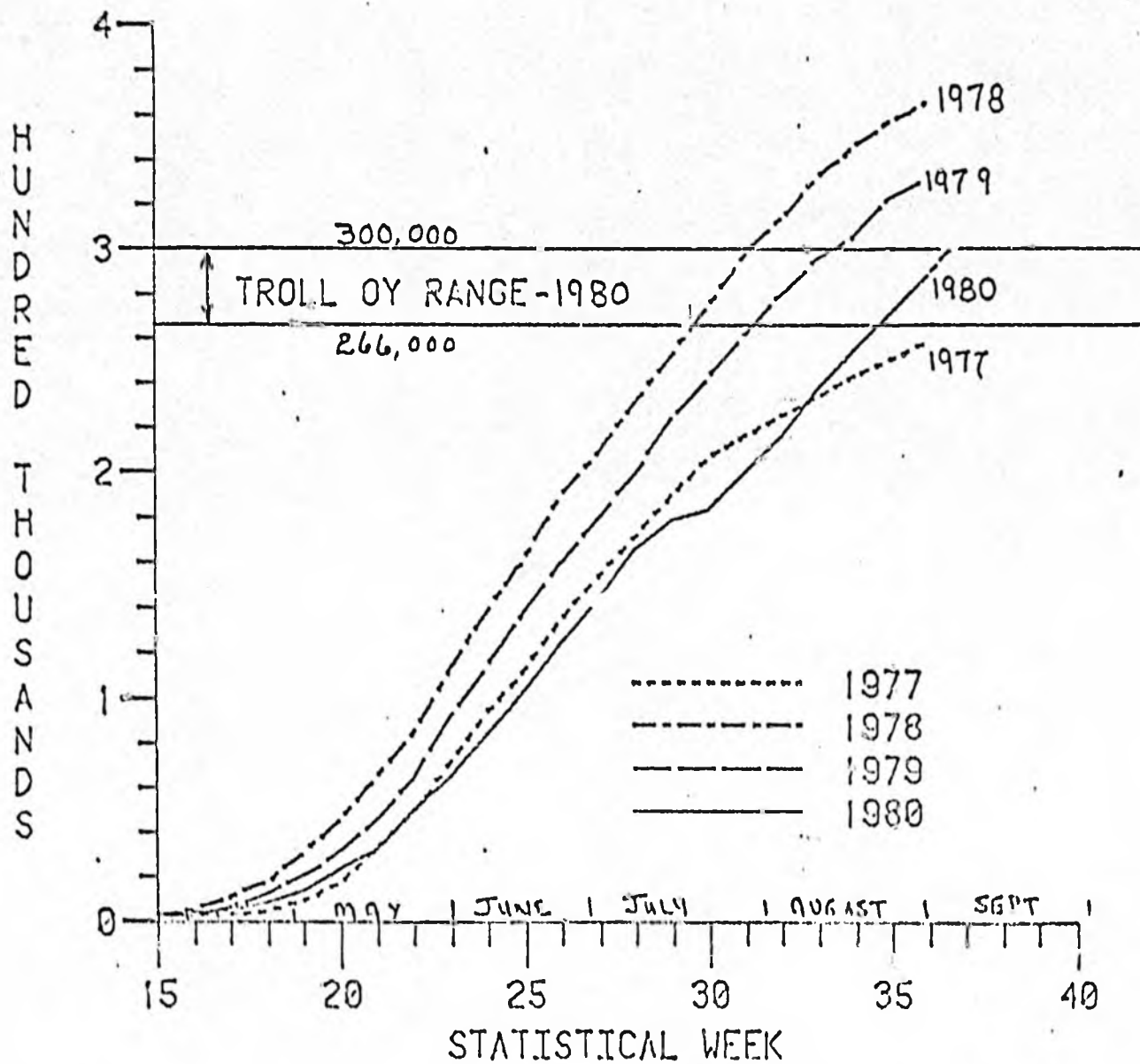
To monitor the catch and prevent it from exceeding the established catch ceiling, ADF&G periodically collects fish tickets from the processors, tabulates catches in the area offices and then sends the tickets to Juneau to be entered into the computer fish ticket system. This system provides estimates of catch with a 10-day to two week lag <sup>the time that the</sup> from actual catches. <sup>were made.</sup> Based on catch rates from the most recent data available, estimates of catches are derived for the lag period to provide an estimate of the expected cumulative catch through the current date.

Achievement of established catch ceilings within the 99% accuracy experienced during the 1980 season is probably not indicative of expected future performance, however, actual catches would generally be expected to fall somewhere within 5-10,000 fish of the catch ceiling.

The use of a chinook catch ceiling established prior to the season differs from the approach used in most salmon fisheries. The more

commonly used approach is to regulate the harvest on the basis of in-season run strength assessment with the objective of achieving established escapement goals. (Another exception would be the ~~take less~~<sup>Fixed Quota</sup> gillnet fishery which operates ~~as~~<sup>as a</sup> a percentage quota, less than 10%, of the expected sockeye harvest for Bristol Bay.) The more common management approach is generally not applicable to the S.E. Alaska troll fishery due to the current inability to separate the mixed stock catch into individual stock component catches and to predict run strength and effect of subsequent fisheries on the individual stocks.

The catch ceiling approach was developed jointly by the Board of Fisheries and the NPFMC in response to general coastwide chinook conservation and catch allocation problems which have intensified in recent years and required some immediate action in the form of catch limitations for the troll fishery. Within Southeast Alaska, all directed gillnet fisheries for chinook salmon have been closed since the mid-1970's and recreational fisheries continue to be significantly restricted.



SOUTHEASTERN-YAKUTAT CUMULATIVE TROLL KING SALMON LANDINGS (ADFG-80)

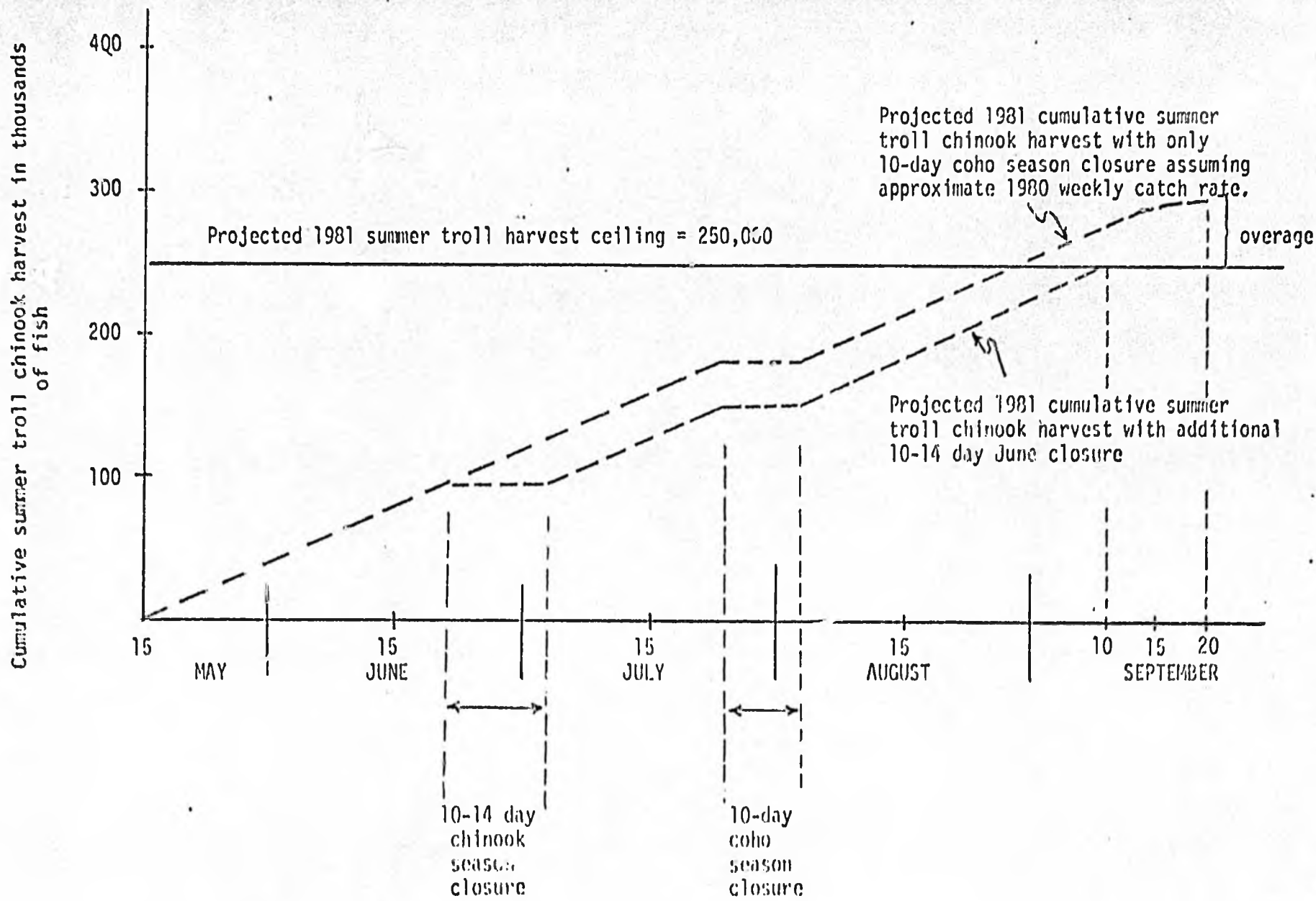


Figure . Graphical illustration of procedure for determining duration of June closure of Southeast Alaska troll fishery needed for management of chinook salmon fishery (ADF&G-4/81).



JUNEAU, ALASKA

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

June 3, 1981

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman  
FROM: Senate Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries  
SUBJ: SCR 31 "Relating to the Southeastern Alaska troll fishery".

The subcommittee has taken testimony and reports SCR 31 back to the committee as a whole with the following recommendations.

Members	Recommendation
Senator Mulcahy <i>Bob Mulcahy</i>	<i>Do Pass</i>
Senator Eliason <i>John Eliason</i>	" "
Senator Gilman <i>Gilman</i>	<i>Do Pass</i>



JUNEAU, ALASKA

# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

June 3, 1981

#### Senate Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 PM. All members of the subcommittee were present.

The first item on the agenda was SCR 31 "Relating to the Southeastern Alaska troll fishery". (tape reading 017)

Lewis Schnaper, from the Alaska Trollers Association, testified first on SCR 31. He said that the Alaska Trollers Association supported the "whereases" in the resolution; however there were reservations about the Commissioner of Fish and Game being able to clean his own house, so to speak. He felt that perhaps the study should be contracted out. (tape reading 025-207)

SCR 31 was moved with individual recommendations.

The next item on the agenda was HB 507 "An Act relating to the fishermen's mortgage and note program". (tape reading 211)

The first person to testify was Roger Painter, Executive Director of United Fishermen of Alaska. He spoke in favor of the bill, and said that the main point of this bill was to make the Commissioner of Commerce decide on guidelines to determine eligibility for the program. (tape reading 217-331)

HB 507 was moved with individual recommendations.

The next item on the agenda was CSHB 460 "An Act relating to the fisheries and salmon enhancement taxes". (tape reading 360)

Ervin Jones, of the Department of Revenue, was the first person to testify on the bill. He stated that the Department supported the bill, but a couple of changes should be made. (tape reading 363-578)

Rick Lauber, representing the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, was the next person to testify on the bill. He said that the bill poses serious problems to processors, in that in its present form it would grant a 3% bonus to foreign processors because of lack of salmon enhancement tax when fish is shipped out of state. He said this created unfair competition to the processors, and that it was detrimental to the aquaculture associations that should receive the tax. (tape reading 583-722)

Roger Painter, Executive Director of United Fishermen of Alaska, testified next on the bill. He stated that there was a loophole in Sec. 2 of the bill, where the tax liability on custom packed fish was not applied on anyone. He also mentioned that the bill was unworkable without the effective date clauses that were defeated in the House.(tape reading 724-870)

Lewis Schnaper, of the Alaska Trollers Association, testified in support of this bill.(tape reading 871-069)

Hank Ostroskey, a commercial fishermen from Naknek, testified next on the bill.(tape reading 209-302)

Chairman Mulcahy announced that work on a draft would be done, and that the bill would be brought up on Friday, June 5 at 3:00 PM. .

Chairman Mulcahy adjourned the meeting at 4:15.(tape reading 364)