

SCOMM

#36:9

IDENTIFICATION	BILL NAME An act relating to herring stripping; and providing for an effective date		BILL NUMBER HB 267
	SPONSOR(S) Fuller		DATE INTRODUCED 3/14/83
			RELATED BILLS PENDING
	REFERRALS Resources		
INITIAL RESEARCH	INITIAL SUMMARY COMPLETED		LEGAL DIVISION SUMMARY
	SPONSOR CONTACTED FOR BACKUP MATERIALS		DEPT OF LAW SUMMARY
			FISCAL NOTE
	AGENCY RESPONSE		OTHER INTERESTED LEGISLATORS NOTIFIED
BACKGROUND RESEARCH	SIMILAR BILLS INTRODUCED IN PREVIOUS LEGISLATURES		OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL PRECEDENTS, REGULATIONS, ETC
	RESPONSES FROM INTERESTED PERSONS AND/OR GROUPS		
HEARING PREPARATION	CHAIRMAN BRIEFED		DATE & PLACE SET 3/22/83
	STAFF MEMO TO COMMITTEE		TELECONFERENCE
	BACKGROUND MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED		PSA/PRESS RELEASE
	LIST OF WITNESSES		SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS/CS DRAFTED

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

RESOURCES

FURTHER:

(7)

(3/14/83)

Date: March 25, 1983

Mr. Speaker:

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF FISHERIES

The ~~COMMITTEE~~ has had HB 267

An Act relating to herring stripping; and providing for an effective date.

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

- ☒ 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
☐ Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- ☐ reports it back without recommendation
- ☐ referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Walter Burrell
Jack McBrack
Jack Fuller
Adeloid Brown
Don

Rep. Adeloid Brown
CHAIRMAN

Hein
13-1033

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FULLER

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 267

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to herring stripping; and providing
7 for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. HERRING STRIPPING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.10.173 and
10 until July 1, 1986, the stripping of commercially taken herring for the
11 purpose of removing and selling the roe product is authorized if the
12 herring is taken from and the carcass disposal process occurs in the Bering
13 Sea.

14 (b) The Board of Fisheries shall adopt regulations in accordance with
15 the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) regarding disposal of herring
16 carcasses for each administrative area where disposal occurs.

17 (c) The provisions of AS 46.03.100 apply to the disposal of herring
18 carcasses under this section.

19 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
20 10.070(c).



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

Department Fish and Game	Sponsor (Principal) Fuller	Bill Number HB 267
Department Position Neutral		
Division Director Steven Pennoyer <i>SP</i>	Date 3/16/83	Commissioner's Signature Don W. Collinsworth <i>DK</i> <i>for</i> <i>DK</i> Date 3-17-83

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE USE

Comments:		
☐ Position Noted	By	Date

SUMMARY

1. a) Related Bills (Similar or Conflicting) SB 180	1. b) Other Agencies Affected by Bill Department of Environmental Conservation
2. a) Organizational Support for Bill Unknown	2. b) Organizational Opposition to Bill Unknown
3. Program Effects of Bill None	
4. Fiscal Impact: ☒ None ☐ Fiscal Note Attached	
5. Amendments Proposed: None	

6. Comments: Stripping of herring roe and in-water disposal of herring carcasses has been allowed for the Bering Sea in the past with no apparent damage to the natural resources of the area. The disposal provision lapsed this year, which will now require that herring carcasses not be wasted. The current non-waste disposal method has been to deliver the carcasses to reduction plants in Kodiak and Seward, but the Kodiak plant will be closed or operating at reduced levels during 1983, making non-wasteful disposal of Bering Sea herring very difficult. The Board of Fisheries does have a regulation (5 AAC 27.093) in place that will govern carcass disposal in the Bering Sea. The Department estimates that the Bristol Bay herring fishery may open as early as the

first or second week in May this year. Therefore, to be effective this season, this bill would have to be signed into law no later than April 30.

March 30, 1983

TESTIMONY ON HB 267, An Act relating to herring stripping.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I am here to testify for HB 267, which passed out of the Special Committee on Fisheries on March 25.

The bill simply extends the time that herring stripping is allowed to take place in the Bering Sea until 1986. For those of you who may not be familiar with the operation, stripping is the process by which the roe is removed from the carcasses. After the roe is stripped, the carcass is discarded.

In 1979 the Board of Fisheries prohibited herring stripping. This meant that most of the herring were then lightly salted and shipped overseas, bypassing Alaskan processors and labor altogether.

In 1980 legislation was passed which prohibited export of unprocessed herring from the state and allowed herring stripping in the Bering Sea through the 1982 season. This was done to encourage the development of Alaska-based processing facilities and allow processors to ease into the requirement that the whole herring be utilized. Normally herring carcasses are reduced and turned into fish meal or fertilizer. However, there are no reduction plants along the Bering Sea coast, with the closest one being in Seward. It is uneconomical to ship the carcasses to Seward; indeed, the most economical use of the carcasses at this time is to dump them.

Co-operatives in Unalakleet and Kotzebue are gearing up to process their own herring. The Unalakleet co-op stripped herring in 1981, and estimated that \$60,000 was pumped into the local economy, which is a sizable amount for that area. Allowing the stripping of herring until 1986 will give local processors time to build up a base of investment for their developing fisheries as well as create needed jobs and economic benefits for the area. The bill does not affect other areas of the state, just the Bering Sea.

Regulations regarding the disposal of carcasses are still on the books, and the Department of Fish and Game, as well as the Department of Environmental Conservation, has no problem with the bill. Carcasses are taken outside of the 3-mile limit and dumped.

The Fisheries Committee held a teleconference on HB 267. All who testified were in favor of the bill. The co-ops are developing future plans to use the carcasses for dog food or fertilizer for agricultural projects in the area.

STATE OF ALASKA
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date , 1983

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 267
Title: Relating to Herring Stripping
Sponsor: Fuller
Requestor:

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Environmental Conservation
Program Category Affected: Water Quality
BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected:
Environmental Quality Operations

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
200 TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
300 CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
400 COMMODITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
600 LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify Source)	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

Prepared By: Alley Rogers
Division: Water Quality Management
Approved by Commissioner: Richard A. Miller
Department: Environmental Conservation

Phone: 465-2653
Date: 3/23/83
Date: 3/23/83

Distribution:

Original to Legislative Finance
Copy to Office of Management and Budget (for Legislature introduced bills)
Copy to Department (for Governor introduced bills)
Copy to Sponsor
Copy to Requestor (if different from Sponsor)

3/8/83

REP. JOHN G. (JACK) FULLER

DISTRICT 22

ALAKANUK
BREVIG MISSION
CHEVAK
DIOMEDE
ELIM
EMMONAK
GAMBELL
GOLOVIN
HOOPER BAY
KOTLIK
KOYUK

NOME
SAVOONGA
SCAMMON BAY
SHAKTOOLIK
SHELDON'S POINT
SHISHMARF
STEBBINS
ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN



CHAIRMAN, RULES COMMITTEE

MEMBER

FINANCE COMMITTEE
POLICY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
REAA BUDGET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON PERSONNEL

Alaska House of Representatives

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fisheries Committee members

DATE: March 21, 1983

FROM: Rep. Jack Fuller *JF*

SUBJECT: HB 267 re herring stripping
Fisheries Committee teleconference
3:30 pm, March 24, 1983

HB 267 extends the time that herring stripping is allowed to take place in the Bering Sea until 1986. "Stripping" is the process by which herring roe is extracted from the carcass. The herring is first either lightly salted for three - four days or frozen, then processing workers extract the roe. After this process, the carcass is discarded.

A brief background on the bill, taken from hearings on legislation two years ago which first allowed stripping to continue in the Bering Sea, will bring you up to date on the subject. Legislative policy on utilization of herring, as adopted in 1977, states that stripping "is wasteful and does not constitute utilization of this resource for the maximum benefit of the people. Therefore, it is the policy of the legislature that this process should be eliminated to the fullest extent possible." Reacting to the mounting pressure against stripping, the Board of Fisheries prohibited by regulation the stripping of herring effective for the 1979 season. The result of this was that most of the herring from the Bering Sea (Fish and Game estimates 70%) were lightly salted and shipped overseas, bypassing Alaskan processors and labor altogether.

HB 590, passed in 1980, prohibited export of unprocessed herring and allowed herring stripping in the Bering Sea through the 1982 season. This was to encourage the development of Alaska-based processing facilities and allow processors to ease into the requirement that the whole herring be utilized. Once the ban on stripping is reinstated, processors will have to find some use for the herring carcasses. This means that they will have to be reduced - turned into fish meal or fertilizer - since this is about all that a herring carcass is good for after the roe extraction process. There are no reduction plants along the Bering Sea coast, with the closest one being in Seward.

In 1981 the Unalakleet Co-op processed its own herring for the first time. Due to poor conditions, they were unable to process last year. This year they had intended to strip three to five hundred tons,

but need to be allowed to dispose of the carcasses. Current regulations provide that carcasses be dumped outside of the three-mile limit. The regulations are still on the books and will remain in place for the coming season if this legislation is enacted. It is estimated that the stripping operation will bring in between \$20,000 and \$35,000 to the local economy. This bill would allow them to continue herring stripping until 1986, when they will have enough experience and will have built up enough of an infrastructure to dispose of the carcasses some other way.

Allowing the stripping of herring until 1986 will give local processors time to build up a base of investment for their developing fisheries as well as create jobs and economic benefits for the area. It is a realistic approach to phasing in the local processing industry. Dumping of the herring carcasses at this time is the most economical use of this by-product, where there is no market at all for them. Following department regulations, the herring carcasses are disposed of in an ecologically safe manner far out to sea. This bill will not affect other areas of the state.

Current Statute

Article 3. Herring Spawn.

Section

140 — 170. [Repealed]

172. Legislative policy on utilization of herring

Section

173. Utilization of commercially taken herring

Secs. 16.10.140 — 16.10.170.

Repealed by § 2 ch 91 SLA 1970.

Sec. 16.10.172. Legislative policy on utilization of herring. The legislature finds the following: (1) extensive and valuable herring populations are available for harvest in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the state; (2) commercial markets are available for herring processed in several forms; (3) one processing technique presently employed involves deliberately permitting decomposition of the herring carcass to allow for removal and subsequent sale of the roe product, with the consequence that the flesh is unusable and discarded. The legislature declares that the process referred to in (3) of this section is wasteful and does not constitute utilization of this resource for the maximum benefit of the people. Therefore, it is the policy of the legislature that this process should be eliminated to the fullest extent possible. (§ 1 ch 9 SLA 1977)

Effective date. — Section 2, ch. 9, SLA 1977, provides: "This Act takes effect January 1, 1978."

Sec. 16.10.173. Utilization of commercially taken herring. (a) It is unlawful for a person, as defined in AS 01.10.060 and including a joint venture, to waste or to cause to be wasted any commercially taken herring.

(b) As used in this section, "waste" means the failure to use the flesh of commercially taken herring for reduction to meal, production of fish food, human consumption, food for domestic animals, scientific or educational purposes, or round herring bait. Normal, inadvertent loss of flesh associated with the uses described in this subsection which cannot be prevented by practical means does not constitute waste. The commissioner may authorize other uses of commercially taken herring not inconsistent with the intent of this section and § 172 of this chapter at his discretion upon receipt of a request accompanied by a detailed justification.

(c) For purposes of this section, "flesh" means all muscular body tissue surrounding the bony skeleton of the herring.

(d) The Board of Fisheries may adopt regulations under the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) it considers necessary for implementation of this section. The board may delegate its authority under this section to the commissioner.

(e) The provisions of this section do not apply to herring taken commercially in the Bering Sea (including appurtenant bays, sounds, estuaries, and water of the state) north of 56° North Latitude, until January 1, 1979. (§ 1 ch 9 SLA 1977)

Effective date. — Section 2, ch. 9, SLA 1977, provides: "This Act takes effect January 1, 1978."

Continued →

Article 3. Herring Spawn.

Section

175. Removal of herring from state

Sec. 16.10.172. Legislative policy on utilization of herring.

Editor's notes. — Section 1, ch. 27, SLA 1980 provides: "LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND POLICY ON HERRING STRIPPING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.10.172, the legislature finds that in cer-

tain circumstances the processing technique described in AS 16.10.172(3) commonly referred to as "stripping", provides benefits of such importance to the state economy that the benefits may

outweigh the waste involved in the process.

"(b) It is the policy of the legislature that notwithstanding AS 16.10.173 the disposal of herring carcasses is acceptable only if

"(1) the herring is taken from waters in which the herring population is large enough to support a stripping industry

without substantially reducing the availability of the herring for other uses; and

"(2) the stripping process is conducted in an area of the state where local industry either does not exist or, if it does exist, it is insufficient to provide reasonable economic support to the people who live in the area."

Sec. 16.10.173. Utilization of commercially taken herring.

Editor's notes. — Section 2, ch. 27, SLA 1980 provides: "HERRING STRIPPING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 16.10.173 and until July 1, 1982, the stripping of commercially taken herring for the purpose of removing and selling the roe product is authorized if the herring is taken from and the carcass disposal process occurs in the Bering Sea.

"(b) The Board of Fisheries shall adopt

regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) [AS 44.62.010 — 44.62.650] regarding disposal of herring carcasses for each administrative area where disposal occurs.

"(c) The provisions of AS 46.03.100 apply to the disposal of herring carcasses under this section."

Sec. 16.10.175. Removal of herring from state. (a) It is unlawful for a person to remove herring from the state before the herring has been frozen or otherwise processed for shipment.

(b) In this section, "processed for shipment" includes, but is not limited to, icing, stripping or salting of the herring; however, it does not include salting of the herring if five percent or more of the body weight of the herring consists of roe. (3 ch 27 SLA 1980)

Regulation

5 AAC 27.070. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION DOCUMENTS. Repealed 4/14/82.

ARTICLE 3. *referred to*
PROHIBITIONS *in sub-section*
(b) of HB267

Section

- 90. Unlawful possession of herring or herring gear
- 92. Unlawful acts within an adjacent seaward biological influence zone
- 93. Disposal of herring
- 95. General restrictions
- 96. Violation of reporting requirements
- 97. Violation of landing requirement
- 98. Violation of regulations

5 AAC 27.090. UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF HERRING OR HERRING GEAR. (a) It is unlawful for any person to possess unprocessed herring aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial fishing vessel within any statistical area unless the season is open or unless the person is acting under the authorization of 5 AAC 27.030(b). This prohibition does not apply to herring possessed for subsistence or personal bait purposes under applicable cable regulations.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to possess aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial fishing vessel within any statistical area any herring or any gear used in the taking of herring if the herring or herring gear are prohibited by other regulations in 5 AAC 27 governing the area, unless the vessel is acting under the authorization of 5 AAC 27.030(b).

(c) It is unlawful for any person to possess, purchase, sell, barter, or transport herring within the state or within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the state if that person knows or has reason to know that that herring was taken or possessed in contravention of the regulations of this chapter. (In effect before 1982; am 4/14/82, Reg. 82)

Authority: AS 16.05.251(a)(4),(7) and (10)
AS 16.05.720
AS 16.05.900
AS 16.05.920

5 AAC 27.092. UNLAWFUL ACTS WITHIN AN ADJACENT SEAWARD BIOLOGICAL INFLUENCE ZONE. It is unlawful for any person to take, attempt to take, cause to be

taken, or possess herring, or to operate, attempt to operate, or cause to be operated any vessel or gear or to possess any gear or to take, attempt to take, cause to be taken, or fail to take any action in violation of 5 AAC 27.010(b).

Authority: AS 16.05.251(a)(4),(7) and (10)
AS 16.05.720
AS 16.05.900
AS 16.05.920

5 AAC 27.093. DISPOSAL OF HERRING. In statistical areas N, T, W and Q, herring carcasses may be disposed of only as follows:

(1) any vessel with less than 5 metric tons of herring on board may only dump herring carcasses in waters more than five fathoms in depth;

(2) any vessel with five metric tons or more of herring on board may only dump herring carcasses in waters more than three miles from the mainland;

(3) or as specified by a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Authority: AS 16.05.251(a)(7)
AS 16.10.172-16.10.173

5 AAC 27.095. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS. A person shall obtain a permit from the department before taking herring during the period June 15 through February 28 in statistical areas K, L, M and N. (In effect before 1982; am 4/14/82, Reg. 82)

Authority: AS 16.05.251(a)(2) and (7)

5 AAC 27.096. VIOLATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) It is unlawful for any person to file a fish ticket representing the catch governed by the fish ticket as having been taken in a particular statistical area when in fact the catch or part of the catch were taken in another statistical area.

(b) It is unlawful to file any fish ticket containing information which has been purposely falsified.

Authority: AS 16.05.251(a) AS 16.05.900
AS 16.05.690 AS 16.05.920
AS 16.05.720

5 AAC 27.097. VIOLATION OF LANDING REQUIREMENT. It is unlawful for any vessel

Sec. 46.03.100. Waste disposal permit. (a) A person who conducts an operation which results in the disposal of solid or liquid waste material or heated process or cooling water into the waters or onto the land of the state must procure a permit from the department before disposing of the waste material or water. The permit must be obtained for direct disposal and for disposal into publicly operated sewerage systems.

(b) This section does not apply to a person discharging only domestic sewage into a sewerage system. (§ 3 ch 120 SLA 1971; am § 3 ch 220 SLA 1976)

Effect of amendment. — The 1976 amendment in the first sentence of subsection (a), substituted "an operation" for "a commercial or industrial operation," inserted "or heated process or cooling water" and "or onto the land," and added "or water" to the end of the sentence.

Sec. 46.03.110. Waste disposal permit procedure. (a) An application for a permit shall be made on forms prescribed by the department or on forms prescribed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and shall contain the name and address of the applicant, a description of his operations, the quantity and type of waste material sought to be disposed of, the proposed method of disposal, and any other information considered necessary by the department. Application for permit shall be made at least 60 days before commencement of a proposed discharge.

(b) Upon receipt of a proper application the department shall publish notice of the application in two separate publications of a newspaper of general circulation within the general area in which the disposal of waste material is proposed to be made. The notice may also be published in other appropriate information media. The notice shall include a statement that a person who wants to present his views to the department in regard to the application may do so in writing to the department within 30 days of the second publication of the notice. The written response entitles the writer to a copy of the application.

(c) When the department receives an application, the commissioner shall immediately send copies of the application to the commissioner of fish and game, the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of commerce and economic development and the commissioner of health and social services.

(d) The department may specify in a permit the terms and conditions under which waste material may be disposed of. The terms and conditions shall be directed to avoiding pollution and to otherwise carry out the policies of this chapter. No permit may be effective for a period in excess of five years from the date of issuance.

(e) If the department has certified a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit under sec. 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (33 U.S.C. sec. 1341), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency has issued that permit to a person, the department may waive the requirements of this section, and adopt the federal permit as the permit required under § 100 of this chapter. (§ 3 ch 120 SLA 1971; am § 6 ch 104 SLA 1971; am § 116 ch 218 SLA 1976; am §§ 4, 5 ch 220 SLA 1976)

Effect of amendments. — The first 1976 amendment substituted "commissioner of commerce and economic development" for "commissioner of economic development" in subsection (c).

The second 1976 amendment inserted "or on forms prescribed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency" in the first sentence of subsection (a) and added subsection (e).

Referred
to in Sub-
Section (c)
of HB 267



Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

805 West 3rd Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 279-6519

March 17, 1983

Representative Fuller
Juneau

Representative Fuller:

The Bering Sea Fishermen's Association supports House Bill No. 267 which will significantly benefit all Western Alaska herring fishermen who are trying to increase their economic returns from the roe herring fishery. The dumping of herring carcasses after the stripping operations represents the most economical use of that by-product for Western Alaska, given the present level of infrastructure development. Furthermore, the carcasses can be disposed of in an ecological and safe manner following current ocean dumping guidelines.

There are several specific reasons why we support this Bill:

1) The ability to dispose of the herring carcasses allows fishermen and Western Alaska processors to strip the roe from the herring and therefore realize a greater profit. By stripping the roe themselves, the local economies benefit by the extra labor payments, extended use of the local fish plants, tendering of the carcasses out to sea, the processing profits, and the gain in expertise and consequent gain in local control of their fisheries. Kotzebue and southern Norton Sound have locally controlled processing facilities which could be used for a roe stripping operation, and the Kokechik Bay, Goodnews Bay, Security Cove, and Togiak fishermen could also strip herring roe with some planning.

Unalakleet stripped herring roe at their plant in 1981 at a labor cost of about \$70/ton. Using this labor cost as an assumption, the ability to strip 300 - 500 tons of herring would mean an influx of between \$21,000 and \$35,000 in wages to the local economies.

The utilization of the local processing plants (Kotzebue and Unalakleet) would help spread the overhead costs of those facilities over more time, and therefore make them more efficient. The herring stripping operation is relatively simple; the round herring can either be frozen in the round (an option for Unalakleet) and then thawed and stripped, or it can be brined and then stripped (an option for both plants).

The brining/stripping process offers an excellent market alternative to Togiak gillnet fishermen who sometimes find that their usual buyers (floating freezer

ships) are plugged and therefore refuse to buy the gillnet herring. Because it is a relatively low capital investment operation, an enterprising processor could set up a brining/stripping operation which could act as a safety valve and relieve some of the pressure on the buyers who freeze herring in the round. Some of the herring tenders in Togiak - who stay on the grounds for the opening of the salmon season - would be logical processing platforms for the stripping operation.

In the extreme case, the fishermen of Goodnews Bay and Security Cove might have herring roe stripping as their only option if, because of exclusive registration, freezer/processors decide not operate in those two areas.

2) By taking the herring roe from a raw state to a semi-processed, preserved state, the fishermen and local processors would also have improved their marketing position. They can now hold on to their product until they can come to an agreement with a buyer of their choice, rather than having to sell it immediately and in a lower-value state. The quality of the roe is also better after stripping (the unacceptable eggs are culled in the stripping process) and this also brings a better price.

3) In the case of Unalakleet, Stebbins, St. Michael, and Shaktoolik, where some if not all of the stripping will be done by the freeze-thaw-strip method, the ability to dump most of the carcasses makes it possible to use some of the carcasses for human or dog food. The better quality carcasses could be air dried in the same way that tom cod carcasses are currently used.

4) Most fishermen and local processors won't have the facilities available to freeze the herring prior to stripping. For these people, the brining method is the only option. After brining, the carcasses are too salty to be good for anything except meal. There are currently no meal/reduction plants in Western Alaska, and the closest one is in Seward. One estimate of the freight costs of getting the salted carcasses to Seward from Togiak is \$300/ton, and even then the meal plant would pay nothing for the carcasses. The market price for herring carcasses in Japan is \$0.10 - 0.15/lb., but the freight costs to Japan would be around \$0.20/lb. It therefore appears that there is no viable market at the present time for the herring carcasses from Western Alaska.

Regards,

Henry V. Mitchell
Henry Mitchell

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON FISHERIES
March 24, 1983
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Rep. Herrmann, Chairman
Rep. Fuller, Vice-Chairman

Members Absent: Rep. Grussendorf
Rep. Bussell
Rep. Goll
Rep. McBride
Rep. Zharoff

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HB 267: "An Act relating to herring stripping; and
providing for an effective date."

HB 242: "An Act making an appropriation to the
Fishery Industrial Technology Center for
salmon quality control education; and
providing for an effective date."

WITNESS REGISTER

Tim Towarak
Teleconference
Unalakleet, Alaska

Doug Humes
Teleconference
Anchorage, Alaska

Edwin Anderson
Teleconference
Dillingham, Alaska

Dallas Cross
Teleconference
Anchorage, Alaska

Tstia Wilson
Teleconference
Unalakleet, Alaska

Paul Johnson
Teleconference
Unalakleet, Alaska

PREVIOUS ACTION

HB 267: 3/14/83 - First Reading.
Committee referrals - Fisheries and Resources Committees.
No previous action in Fisheries Committee.

HB 242: 3/9/83 - First Reading.
Committee referrals - Fisheries, Resources, Finance and Rules Committees.
No previous action in Fisheries Committees.

ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE#27
Recording
Number 0001

Chairman Herrmann called the teleconference hearing to order. She announced the first order of business and the subject of the teleconference to be HB 267; relating to herring stripping; effective date.

Rep. Fuller, the prime sponsor of HB 267 explained the bill and the reason it was introduced.

Number 0014

Rep. Fuller stated that HB 267 extends the time that herring stripping is allowed to take place in the Bering Sea until 1986. Stripping is the process by which herring roe is extracted from the carcass. After this process, the carcass is discarded.

Number 0061

Tim Towarak, Planner of the Unalakleet Native Corporation, and Vice Mayor of Unalakleet came on the network and stated that the fishing co-op in his area supports HB 267. He further stated that it would be very costly to have to ship the stripped carcasses out of the Norton Sound area and would not be worth it to strip the herring in the Norton Sound. Mr. Towarak said that the herring carcasses are too small to be sold as bait or food, and the prices would be higher if they weren't forced to ship the herring out of Norton Sound for stripping.

Number 0170

Rep. Fuller said SB 180; relating to herring stripping, is similar to HB 267 and that it

had been passed out of Senate Resources Committee.

Number 0184

Doug Humes of Anchorage stated that he is with the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and supports HB 267. Mr. Humes said the bill would allow the fishermen to have more control over the fishery by being able to have more control over the processing, and felt the most economical use of the carcass would be to dump them.

Number 0230

Rep. Fuller thanked Doug Humes for his testimony and explained a point of information; as long as the herring carcasses are dumped outside the 3 1/2 mile zone, the Department of Fish & Game didn't see any problem. The carcasses aren't totally wasted, there are other creatures that benefit from eating them.

Number 0245

Edwin Anderson of Dillingham came on the network and stated that he supports HB 267. It gives the local people an opportunity for providing employment and would enable them to take care of their catch in the cases where the processors aren't available or are filled up.

Number 0267

Dallas Cross of Anchorage stated that he was originally from Kotzebue and supports HB 267. Mr. Cross said the people in the Kotzebue area are trying to develop a herring fishery and further stated that everything the Legislature could do to help them is appreciated.

Number 0291

Tstia Wilson of Unalakleet stated she supports HB 267 for reasons already stated by the previous speakers.

Number 0301

Paul Johnson of Unalakleet said he is a commercial fisherman and supports HB 267. Mr. Johnson said the herring fishery is a fairly new fishery in his area and that it would allow them to do the stripping and would provide for a better price.

Number 0320

Chairman Herrmann thanked the participants for testifying and closed the teleconference.

Number 0330

Chairman Herrmann called for a recess at 4:10 p.m. to a call of the chair.

Tape #28
Recording
Number 0014

Chairman Herrmann reconvened the Special Committee on Fisheries meeting on March 25, 1983, at 7:45 a.m., and indicated the following members present:

Chairman Herrmann

Vice-Chairman Fuller

Representative Bussell

Representative Grussendorf

Representative McBride

Chairman Herrmann stated the purpose of this meeting was to pass the following bills out of committee:

CSHB 242: "An Act making an appropriation to the Fishery Industrial Technology Center for salmon quality control education; effective date."

HB 267: "An Act relating to herring stripping; effective date."

Number 0035

Rep. Fuller moved that CSHB 242 be passed out of committee. All members were in favor except Rep. Bussell.

Number 0053

Rep. Fuller moved and asked unanimous consent that HB 267 be passed out committee. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

Number 0060

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chairman Herrmann adjourned the meeting at 7:48 a.m.