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#36:46

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MEMORANDUM:

TO: Representative Peter Coll
FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg, Legislative Researcher
DATE: January 12, 1984
SUBJECT: Salmon Treaty Update

The following is an update of the most recent developments in the Salmon Treaty negotiations. I have also included an update I did in October for Representative Herrmann.

Negotiations with the Canadians are taking place this week in Seattle, and I will have an update for you again when they are complete. Negotiations with the Canadians began again in the fall of 1983, and the last meeting was held in December. The meetings have emphasized the technical findings of each countries' biologists, in addition to addressing the terms of a new treaty. The Alaskan delegation, and the Department of Fish and Game have also worked towards hammering out agreements with Washington, Oregon, and Idaho in efforts toward developing a single position for the United States to negotiate with the Canadians.

Negotiations resume tomorrow, January 13, 1984, in Seattle. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed extensive technical data, and the Governor has appointed a delegation of 18 Alaskans to attend the meetings. A list of delegates is attached. Delegates will be on hand to discuss their positions and view points with the US negotiator. However, only one representative from the federal State Department will negotiate the US position with the Canadians. Don Collinsworth and Steve Pennoyer, the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner for fisheries, respectively, will attend the negotiations with several other staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Several delegates, and representatives of Alaska's fishing groups are also expected to attend.

Representative Peter Coll
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The Department has not issued a statement of its position, publicly, and in fact I think many aspects are still being hammered out. They are trying to develop an Alaskan position most favorable to resident fishermen, which will also be palatable to the other states and the Canadians. To avoid the heated controversy in Alaska over the treaty that developed last year, the Department tried to include many representatives from fishermen's groups in the process of trying to develop an acceptable position. The sentiment among these representatives from the fisheries industries seems to be that the State is trying to represent their concerns, and that they are now beginning to understand how difficult it is to arrive at a favorable position that has some hope of being accepted by the other states, and of course the Canadians.

Although many officials I spoke with were not sure that a treaty would be signed, most felt relatively confident that the United States and Canada could at least come to an agreement on a fishing management plan, in time for the 1984 season.

I hope you find this information useful, and if I can be of further help, please contact me again.

ATTACHMENTS:

October 1983 Update
A current list of delegates

DLC/dlg



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House of Representatives

Special Committee on Fisheries

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MEMORANDUM

October 10, 1983

TO: Representative Herrmann &
Melvin Monsen

FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg
Legislative Aide

RE: U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty, Update

The following is an update of developments concerning the U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty since the end of the last legislative session. As you know, since the treaty was rejected, there have been no formal negotiations or talks between the two countries. Accordingly, this report addresses:

- . the latest schedule of talks, and efforts toward negotiations, and,
- . preliminary salmon harvest data for the Southeastern Alaska and the Canadian fisheries.

Research for this report included discussions with Steve Pennoyer of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Ed Wojeck of the Alaska Trollers Association.

TREATY TALKS

A government to government meeting will be held sometime during the week of October tenth, in Seattle. This will be the first meeting between the governments of the United States and Canada regarding the treaty since it was rejected last spring. Don Collinsworth, attended by staff biologists, will represent Alaska at the meeting. At this time, harvest and escapement data will be exchanged and reviewed. Collinsworth and representatives from the other states will meet prior to the session with the Canadian government. The government to government talk is not an official negotiating session. However, those parties favoring treaty ratification are hoping to hold formal and perhaps final negotiations in late November.

¹ Steve Pennoyer, Director, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau, 465-4210.
Ed Wojeck, Executive Director, Alaska Trollers Association, Juneau, 586-9400.

Salmon Treaty, Update

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Ted Kronmiller from the State Department resigned and has been replaced by Ed Woolf. Both Chris Dawson and Ed Woolf will be at the talks next week. Kronmiller has gone into private practice, and Wojeck thought there might still be some role for him in the negotiations. Wojeck thought he might "serve Alaska's interest well."

The greatest point of contention leading toward treaty rejection was the Alaska Troller's position. Apparently no developments have yet occurred which indicate that these problems are being resolved, and Wojeck expressed that ATA would continue to oppose any treaty which includes similar restrictions on the troll fisheries.

If formal negotiations resume, the Governor in all likelihood will appoint an Alaska delegation to attend. Names have not yet been suggested, at least not publicly, but the Department of Fish and Game will probably make some recommendations.

PRELIMINARY HARVEST LEVELS

In the table below, I have provided the latest statistics available concerning harvest and escapement data for the fisheries that would have been affected by the salmon treaty. These statistics are preliminary. The full reports are included in Attachment A.

On the left hand side of the table, I have provided those limits that would have applied had the treaty been ratified. On the right hand side I have provided the preliminary harvest levels. In late June, the Governor issued a press release outlining a management plan for the season. In most cases the plan outlined limits similar to the provisions used in the draft treaty. Where this is the case the figure under the salmon treaty column is appended with an asterick.

In addition to the information below, it is useful to note that oceanographic conditions affecting the runs were very unusual this year. The Alaska Troll fishery was opened for 60 of 190 days this year for Chinook fishing, the all time shortest season. A total catch of 1.3 million coho was reported for the Alaska troll coho fishery, the third largest recorded catch.

COMPARISON DRAFT U.S./CANADA SALMON TREATY PROVISIONS WITH
WITH 1983 PRELIMINARY HARVEST DATA

<u>FISHERY</u>	<u>DRAFT TREATY PROVISIONS</u>	<u>ACTUAL CATCH</u>
TROLL/CHINOOK ¹		
Alaska:	243,000	270,000
Canada:	868,000	
TAKU/SOCKEYE		
Alaska, ² Gillnet:	no limit	30,903
Canada:	3,000	16,015
/PINKS		
Alaska, Gillnet:	no limit	63,731
Canada: ^{2,3}	3-5,000	1,874
/COHO		
Alaska, ⁴ Gillnet:		22,830
Canada: ⁴		7,830
STIKINE/SOCKEYE ⁵		
Alaska, Gillnet:	55%	174
Canada:	45%	15,789
/COHO ⁶		
Alaska, ⁷ Gillnet:	55%	14,238
Canada:	45%	1,134
ALSEK/SOCKEYE ⁸		
Alaska, Gillnet:		19,131
Canada:		
NOYES IS/SOCKEYE		
Alaska, Purse Seine:	160,000	647,000
TREE POINT/SOCKEYE		
Alaska, Gillnet:	130,000	130,000
DIXON		

(*) indicates that the provisions of the Governor's management plan issued in June 1984 are similar to those in the draft treaty.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau, Alaska.

COMPARISON DRAFT U.S./CANADA SALMON TREATY PROVISIONS WITH THE 1983
PRELIMINARY HARVEST DATA, Contined

1. The draft treaty provided for a total Alaska Chinook catch of 263,000 of which 243,000 was the commercial allocation for all gears. The total commercial catch was actually 290,000 for 1983.
2. The allocation is for the Taku sockeyes and and pinks originating in the Taku River.
3. Pink runs were very poor in the Taku.
4. Poor escapement of Canadian Taku Coho.
5. disregard.
6. disregard.
7. poor runs indicated by poor catch despite absence of fishing limitations and closures.
8. The Alsek was to be managed to protect early sockeye runs and this was done. Canadian subsistence sockeye catches not yet in.

alaska department of fish & game

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Bill Sheffield
Governor

Don W. Collinsworth
Commissioner

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 1983

GOVERNOR SHEFFIELD APPOINTS 18 TO TREATY ADVISORS GROUP
JUNEAU--Governor Sheffield announced today 18 appointments to the newly created "treaty advisors group" to help formulate the Alaska position on impending salmon treaty discussions with Canada.

Negotiations are scheduled to resume in November on the harvest of Pacific salmon by Canada and the U.S. A draft treaty was rejected last year after dissatisfaction on the provisions from many user groups. Sheffield, along with Commissioner Don Collinsworth of the Department of Fish and Game, is seeking views from commercial seiners, trollers and gillnetters, and from sport angling interests in order to ensure all interests are fairly recognized during fish treaty discussions.

"The issues that will be negotiated by the delegations representing the two countries are extremely complicated," Sheffield said, "and, in my belief, require advanced discussion by those who will be most impacted by the final treaty."

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"Since this salmon treaty between the United States and Canada will have far reaching ramifications on Alaskan fisheries resources, I am most pleased to appoint this capable and diverse group."

Named to the advisory group from Ketchikan were Bruce Wallace, a seiner; Joe Demmert, seiner; Ole Hayes, seiner; Barry McClellan, a troller, and Larry Dalton, a gillnetter.

Juneau appointees are Ed Wojeck, representing trollers, Geron Bruce, a gillnetter; Jev Shelton, a gillnetter, and Warren Wiley, representing sport fishing interests.

The Governor also named Sitka fishermen Walt Pasternak, a troller, and Charlie Carlson, a seiner. Gary Slaven, a Petersburg troller was named along with John Winther, of Petersburg, who sits on the the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC). Appointed from Wrangell were Harry Sundberg, a member of the Board of Fisheries, and Bruce Eagle, a gillnetter. Bob Dolan, a gillnetter from Custer, Washington; Jim Campbell, NPFMC member from Anchorage, and Gordon Williams of Angoon, chairman of the Southeast Regional Fish and Game Council, complete the group.

"Their expertise and involvement in the fishing industry will prove most beneficial to myself and Commissioner Collinsworth in helping us to formulate Alaska's official position in the treaty negotiations," Sheffield said.

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