

HCR

38

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER

2/11/88

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE _____

Mr. President:

Resources _____ Committee considered CSHCR 38 (RES)

Pacific Salmon Commission to increase Alaska's chinook salmon quota

and recommended

[] replace with _____ CS _____) [] same title
[x] or adopt _____ CS _____) [] new title

[] attached amendment(s) and

[x] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendation

[] individual recommendations

[] further referral to _____

[] letter of intent adopted _____

Committee [] attached or [x] adopted fiscal note(s)
[] new [] updated or [x] previous
[x] zero [] fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Julius Stenmark
Paul J. Stacey
Jim Duncan
Paul Frink

John B. ... - Do Pass

chairman signature and recommendation

[] Committee Backup attached

TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

DATE/TIME

2/17

Debra

SPONSOR

(5) RES

SUBJECT

Guides/Outfitters

LIO'S

(moderator)

TESTIFY

OBSERVE

TESTIFY

OBSERVE

ANCHORAGE

()

Michael Hodgking
Dept of LAW

PETERSBERG *

()

BARROW *

()

SITKA

()

BETHEL

()

SOLDOTNA
(VESTA)

DELTA JUNCTION *

()

VALDEZ *

()

DILLINGHAM *

()

LTC'S

FAIRBANKS

()

HOMER

GLENNALLEN *

()

WRANGELL
MAW

JUNEAU

()

OFFNETS

~~OFF1~~

KETCHIKAN

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OFF2

OFF3

KODIAK

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OFF4

KOTZEBUE

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OFF5

MAT-SU

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OFF6

NOME

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VTS'S ON BACK

* SESSION ONLY

VTS'S	W	U	O	TOTAL		W	U	O	TOTAL
AMB - AMBLER					MET - METLAKATLA				
ANA - ANAKTUVUK PASS					MOS - MOSQUITO LAKE				
AND - ANDERSON					NAK - NAKNEK				
ANG - ANGOON					NEN - NENANA				
CAN - CANTWELL					NEW - NEWHALEN				
CHS - CHISTOCHINA					NIK - NIKISKI				
CHI - CHITINA					NOR - NOORVIK				
COP - COPPER CENTER					NOT - NORTH TONSINA				
COR - CORDOVA					NOW - NORTHWAY				
CRA - CRAIG					PEL - PELICAN				
DOT - DOT LAKE					PTH - POINT HOPE				
EAG - EAGLE					SAV - SAVOONGA				
FTY - FT. YUKON					SDP - SAND POINT				
GAK - GAKONA					SEW - SEWARD				
GAL - GALENA					SLW - SELAWIK				
GAM - GAMBELL					SHS - SHISHMAREF				
HNS - HAINES					SLA - SLANA				
HEA - HEALY					SKG - SKAGWAY				
HOO - HOONAH					STP - ST. PAUL				
HPB - HOOPER BAY					TOG - TOGIAK				
HYD - HYDABURG					TOK - TOK				
KAK - KAKE					OOK - TOOKSOOK				
KAT - KAKTOVIK					UAK - UNALASKA				
KEN - KENNY LAKE					UNK - UNALAKLEET				
KLA - KLAWOCK					WAI - WAINWRIGHT				
MEN - MENTASTA					YAK - YAKUTAT				

JOHN SUND, REPRESENTATIVE
2504 2nd Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 225-5552

While in Juneau
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4919

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Coghill
Chairman, Senate Resources Committee

From: Representative John Sund *JS*

Date: February 11, 1988

Subj: Scheduling Request - HCR 38

This is a request to schedule HCR 38 "requesting the Pacific Salmon Commission to increase Alaska's quota for chinook salmon" as soon as possible.

In order for the resolution to be most effective it would be helpful if it was passed by the Legislature and delivered to the Pacific Salmon Commission next week at their meeting in Vancouver B.C. (February 11th - 19th).

One of the major issues on the negotiating table will be the Alaska chinook quota. Even though it will take a unanimous vote by both the U.S. and Canada sides of the treaty-established Commission, we feel it should be the number one negotiating concern.

Please find back-up attached which shows the record abundance of chinook salmon in Washington and Oregon, the economic hardship faced by Alaskan fishermen caused by the quota, and information describing the make up and responsibilities of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

Elizabeth

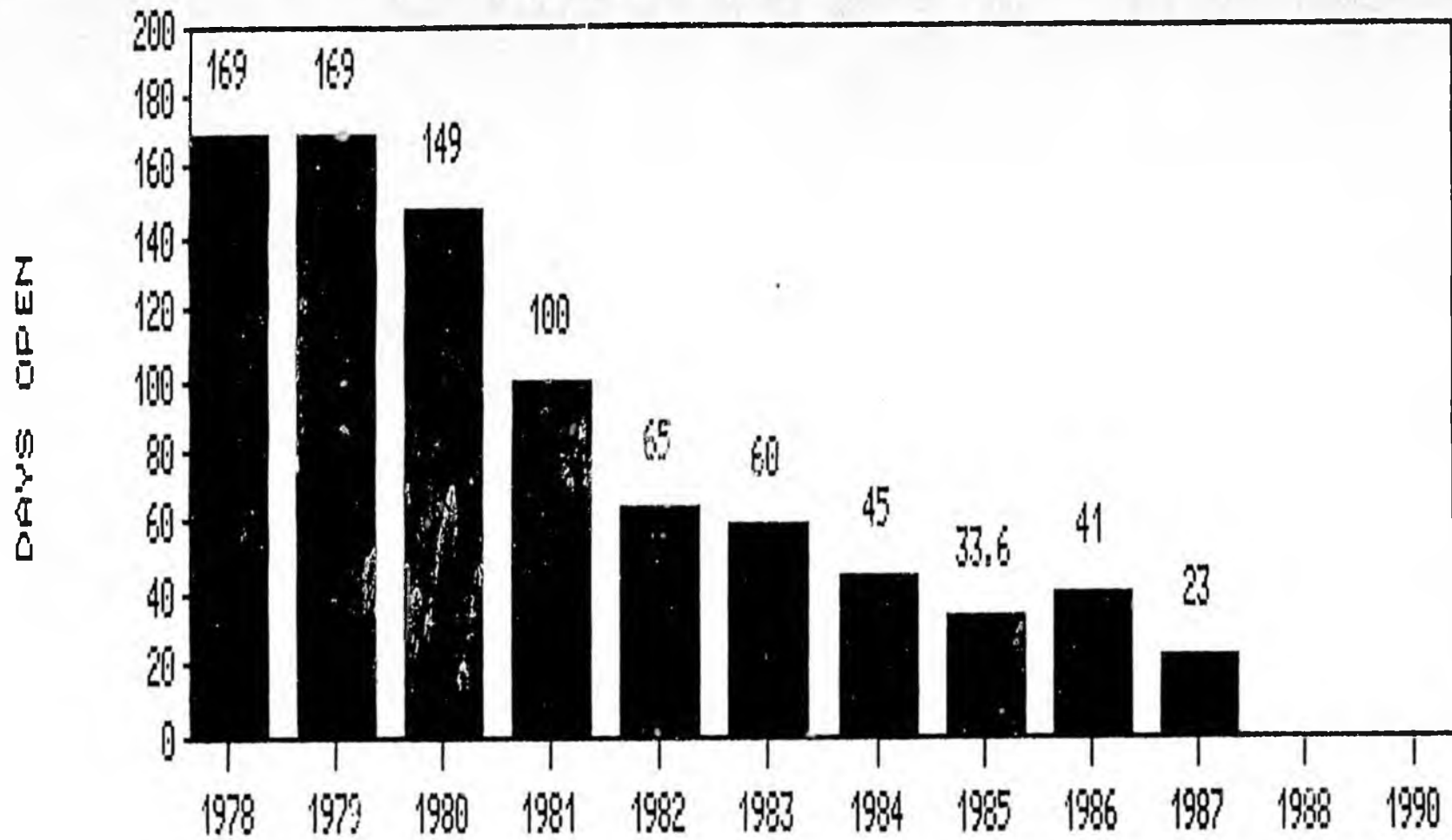
Please call me -

This resolution has no opposition - it would take 1-2 minutes.

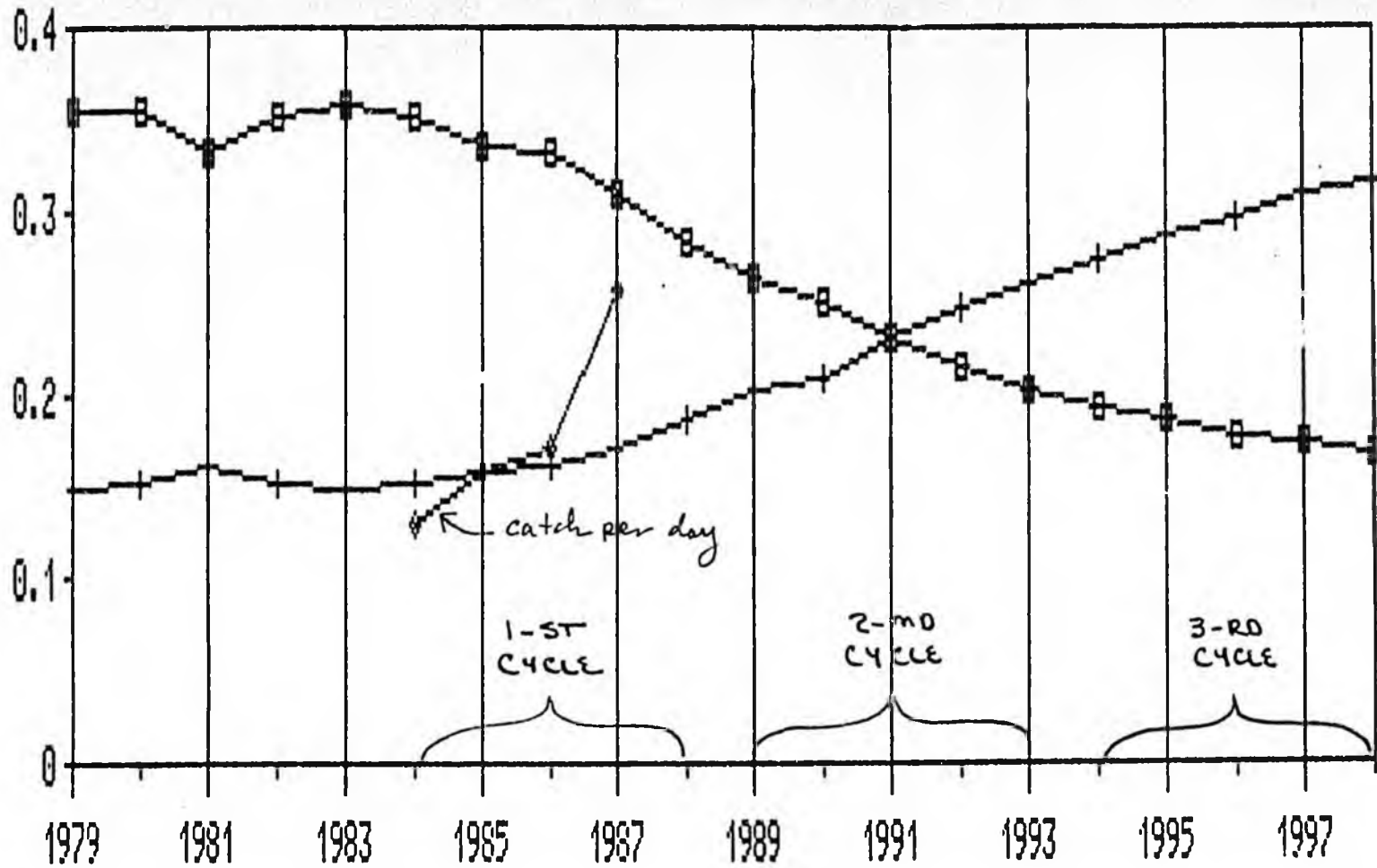
It would be very helpful in making sure Alaska gets its fair share of King Salmon

Currently Washington and Oregon are harvesting Kings like crazy - whereas Alaskan Trollers are having to throw them back overboard (plus have long closures - only 23 day fishy season in 1987) - Its not fair - this resolution would help.
Navette 4919

S. E. ALASKA SUMMER TROLL SEASON
DAYS OPEN FOR CHINOOK FISHING



MODELED EFFECTS OF CHINOOK REBUILDING
S. E. AK OCEAN EXPLOIT. RATES AND ABUND.



□ MODEL EXPLOIT RATE + MODEL REL ABUND ◇ S.E. AK REL ABUND

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 87-358

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE
CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
URGING THE GOVERNOR TO INSTRUCT THE TREATY
COMMISSION TO PUT A HIGH PRIORITY ON INCREASING
THE CHINOOK QUOTA FOR ALASKA THIS WINTER

WHEREAS, there is a high availability of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska has suffered an economic loss due to the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty quotas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska and Canada are presently on a maximum quota, while Washington and Oregon have tremendously increased their harvest of Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, Washington and Oregon indicator streams are 300% above the treaty escapement goals; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above facts, there is no biological reason not to increase the Southeast Alaska quota,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka requests Governor Cowper to instruct the Treaty Commission to put a high priority on increasing the Chinook quota for Alaska this winter.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 9th day of SEPTEMBER, 1987.

Dan Keck, Mayor

A T T E S T:

Dolores Ingwersen,
Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 1118-R (a)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG URGING THE GOVERNOR TO INSTRUCT THE TREATY COMMISSION TO PUT A HIGH PRIORITY ON INCREASING THE CHINOOK QUOTA FOR ALASKA THIS WINTER.

WHEREAS, there is a high availability of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska has suffered an economic loss due to the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty quotas; and

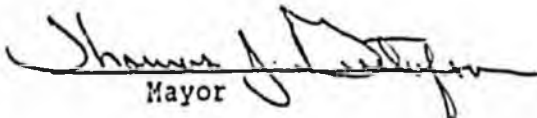
WHEREAS, Alaska and Canada are presently on a maximum quota, while Washington and Oregon have tremendously increased their harvest of Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, Washington and Oregon indicator streams are 300% above the treaty escapement goals; and

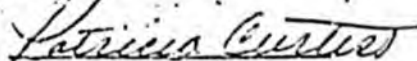
WHEREAS, in light of the above facts, there is no biological reason not to increase the Southeast Alaska quota.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Petersburg to request Governor Cowper to instruct the Treaty Commission to put a high priority on increasing the Chinook quota for Alaska for this winter.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska this 5 day of October 1987.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 87-1519

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA, URGING THE GOVERNOR TO INSTRUCT THE TREATY COMMISSION TO PUT A HIGH PRIORITY ON INCREASING THE CHINOOK QUOTA FOR ALASKA THIS WINTER, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, there is a high availability of Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska has suffered an economic loss due to the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty quotas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska and Canada are presently on a maximum quota, while Washington and Oregon have tremendously increased their harvest of Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, Washington and Oregon indicator streams are 300 percent above the treaty escapement goals; and

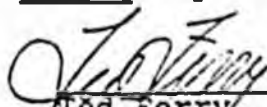
WHEREAS, in light of the above facts, there is no biological reason not to increase the Southeast Alaska quota.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby requests Governor Cowper to instruct the Treaty Commission to put a high priority on increasing the Chinook quota for Alaska this winter.

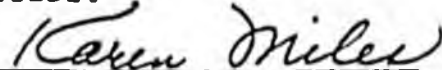
Section 2. This resolution is effective immediately upon passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 15th day of OCTOBER, 1987.



Ted Ferry
Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen Miles, CMC
City Clerk

CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 10-87-285

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA URGING THE GOVERNOR TO INSTRUCT THE ALASKAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY COMMISSION TO PLACE THEIR HIGHEST PRIORITY ON INCREASING THE CHINOOK SALMON QUOTA FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA DURING THE PENDING WINTER NEGOTIATIONS.

WHEREAS, there is a high availability of chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the chinook stock that populates our Southeast Alaska fisheries are very healthy; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska has suffered an economic loss due to the United States-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty quotas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska and Canada are presently constrained by maximum quotas, while Washington and Oregon experienced a large increase in their harvest of chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS, many Washington and Oregon indicator streams are as much as 300% above treaty escapement goals; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia river brights are so healthy (450,000 returned in 1987) that they are flooding our fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the facts set forth above indicate there is no biological reason to maintain the existing quota limitations in Southeast Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA:

1. The council requests Governor Cowper to instruct Alaska's representatives on the Pacific Salmon Treaty Commission to place their highest priority on increased quotas for chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska waters during this winters Treaty negotiations.

PASSED AND APPROVED _____, 1987

Frank S. Thompson
MAYOR

ATTEST: Lance K. Anderson
CITY CLERK

Counted in this and correct
copy of the original filed in
my office.

Lance K. Anderson
10-29-87 1 page
City of Wrangell, Alaska

The equipment may be signed out for up to eight days and the booklet may be retained by novice fishermen. Members of the Herkimer Fishing Derby Committee will maintain equipment, and local sports shops have committed themselves to replace the articles as needed. It is anticipated that senior citizens and other groups will utilize this equipment for daily outings.

It is anticipated that the youth of the community will avail themselves of this program and, hopefully, develop a lifelong interest in fishing.

LAKE MEAD FERTILIZATION

According to an article "Fertilization Shows Signs of Success," published in the October 1987 issue of the *California Angler*, fertilization of the 20,000 acre Overton Arm of Lake Mead with 20,000 gallons of liquid fertilizer (ammonium polyphosphate) this past spring shows promise of improving the sport fishery.

For many years, Lake Mead provided one of the most productive sport fisheries in the nation. However, productivity was substantially reduced after completion of two upstream reservoirs, Lake Powell and Flaming Gorge on the Colorado/Green River watershed, which acted as nutrient traps. Nutrients in Lake Mead were further reduced by the near total elimination in 1981 of phosphorous from effluents from the wastewater treatment discharged in the Las Vegas Wash Arm of the Lake. The adverse impact of the reduced nutrients on sport fishes was further aggravated by the virtual explosion of striped bass, introduced several years ago that had virtually decimated the already limited plankton feeding forage fish base (primarily threadfin shad).

Dr. Larry Paulson, of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who supervised the project, was quoted as saying "...there's no question that fertilization brought about a tremendous response in the threadfin shad population."

The fertilizer application was accomplished May 30, 1987, by over 1,000 volunteers in over 300 boats, and was timed to increase peak plankton production levels just as the larval threadfin shad were hatching. Trawl samples taken just 18 days after the application showed a significant increase in the number of shad compared to other, untreated areas of the lake. The number of larval shad collected were also higher than historical numbers in the same area. The project was working.

Then, as the shad grew, the striped bass began feeding on them. By mid-summer, the skinny strippers had begun to put on some weight, because they were feeding upon schools of shad throughout the upper part of the Overton Arm. Anglers reported catching 20 to 40 strippers per day that Paulson says were beginning to put a dent in the increased shad population.

The Lake Mead enrichment project is scheduled to be repeated both next spring (hopefully with two applications in 1988), and again the following year to completely test the fertilization's effectiveness.

According to Dr. Paulson, the road to restore that fishery has been uphill from day one. The final permit to complete the May 30 project was not received until the evening before the fertilizer was applied. And the National Park Service and Environmental Protection Agency continue to voice concerns over the experiment, which could still stall it before the three-year test is complete.

According to this experiment, large-scale lake fertilizations can be done without having any adverse effects on water quality. The

Gregg Basin on Mead has been proposed for fertilization for next year, and the lower portion of Lake Powell, which is also suffering from a loss of nutrients, is another spot being targeted for an enrichment boost. Fertilization may be a key to keeping the sport fisheries of the Colorado River reservoirs productive in the future.

"YEAR OF THE CHINOOK"

As a current television ad says, "It just doesn't get any better than this." That's the way the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is talking about chinook salmon this year.

Record-breaking ocean harvests and strong chinook returns to inland waters have biologists calling 1987 "The Year of the Chinook."

"I'm very pleased and a little bit surprised about the tremendous chinook production we have seen this year," says Oregon Department of Fisheries, Chief Harry Wagner. "Good things are happening just about everywhere we look, and prospects for next year appear excellent as well."

Wagner has good reason to be happy. So do a lot of commercial and sport fishermen. Some highlights include:

- Record chinook catches for ocean commercial salmon trollers off Oregon;
- Record chinook catches for ocean sport anglers;
- Outstanding recovery of fall chinook returns to the Columbia River;
- Record sport chinook catches at Buoy 10 on the lower Columbia;
- Excellent fall, lower Columbia commercial salmon gillnet fishery;
- Good prospects for sport chinook fisheries in Oregon's coastal bays, including fish weighing more than 60 pounds;
- Excellent in-river spring chinook returns on the Willamette, Rogue, and Umpqua rivers; and
- Strong fall chinook returns on the Rogue River.

Wagner attributes this strong showing to several factors. "It's a combination of excellent ocean survival, reduced harvests off Alaska and Canada, hatchery production improvements and expansion, and improved downstream smolt passage at dams," he said.

The big fish that started showing in coastal bays last fall are back again this year. "Credit for that belongs directly to the treaty between the United States and Canada that reduced catches in the Gulf of Alaska and off British Columbia," Wagner said.

OFF THE PRESS

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR PENNSYLVANIA LANDOWNERS, prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resource's Division of Scenic Rivers. Although prepared with Pennsylvania landowners in mind, much of the information contained in the guide is applicable everywhere.

The purpose of this handbook is to help owners of streamside property manage their streambanks in ways that result in increased benefits and fewer erosion problems. Information is presented which will allow the reader to more fully understand the behavior of streams and why streambank failure or erosion occurs. A summary of the advantages, disadvantages, effective-

A great year for salmon

The Associated Press

ASTORIA, Ore. — Gill netters on the lower Columbia River this year enjoyed their best fall chinook salmon catch in nearly 30 years, and a state biologist said they fetched top prices for both chinook and coho.

A large share of this year's chinook catch took place during the first 12 hours of the 27-day season, when an estimated 109,700 chinook were taken. Landings dropped off considerably during late October and early November, said Jim Galbreath of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Gill netters fishing the main stem of the Columbia landed an estimated 261,560 fall chinook in the season that ended Nov. 12, by far the best catch on the lower river since 1960. In 1973, the next best season, 165,300 chinook were caught during a 56-day fall season.

The coho catch was down drastically from 1986, however. Gill netters landed an estimated 121,580 coho — compared with nearly a million last year — as well as 1,080 chum salmon, 3,270 white sturgeon and 510 green sturgeon.

Youngs Bay, south of Astoria, also provided gill netters a record chinook catch. An estimated 22,290 chinook were landed during 89 days of fishing.

"(That's) about four times what we've ever gotten before," said Galbreath, who said an abundance of chinook and the fish that strayed into the bay from the main stem of the Columbia probably explained the big catch.

Treaty Indian fishermen above Bonneville Dam landed an estimated 128,040 fall chinook, 2,140 coho, 66,280 summer steelhead and 4,400 white sturgeon during 46 days of fishing that ended Oct. 15, department figures showed.

Gill netters were paid \$2.10 a pound for both coho and upriver bright chinook, an amount Galbreath called "unheard of." Last fall, fishermen were paid roughly \$1 a pound for coho and between \$1 and \$1.50 for upriver chinook.

Galbreath said this year's higher prices were the result of reduced production of Atlantic salmon reared in Norwegian net pens and disappointing Alaskan salmon catches.

Prices for lower river "tule" fall chinook were also high, ranging from 55 cents to 65 cents a pound compared with the 30 cents to 40 cents a pound paid last year. Tules fetch a lower price for gill netters because their meat quality is generally poorer than other salmon species when caught in the river.

SECTION D

Sunday, January 17, 1988
The Seattle Times
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Northwest

Salmon comeback: 'big nest' in river

This year's Columbia run is greatest since dam-building era began

by Jim Klahn
Associated Press

VERNITA, Franklin County — Fisheries technician Rich Petit, draped over the stanchion in the front of the work boat, was at a loss to point out individual salmon nests as he peered into three feet of Columbia River water where the fish had come to spawn.

"It's all one big nest," he said, throwing up his hands.

Wild fall chinook salmon, at the end of a 350-mile odyssey from the Pacific Ocean, flashed back and forth in front of the boat as it floated over Vernita Bar on a cold, clear day.

Since 1982, there has been a steady increase in the salmon run, and this year's run of a half-million fish is the biggest since dams were built on the Columbia in the 1930s, when record-keeping began.

"It's like being in an aquarium," marveled Tony Floor, a spokesman for the state Department of Fisheries.

The department's 16-foot boat floated over a stretch of the 50-mile-long, free-flowing Hanford Reach, the last major spawning grounds on the heavily dammed Columbia. The reach, upstream from Richland, flows through the federal Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Typically, says Joe Hymer, a biological technician, a chinook redd, or nest, is eight feet across and round. The rock and gravel are scrubbed clean of silt and

algae by the spawning salmon.

On Vernita Bar, there were few round nests, just ridges of rocks where redds overlapped each other. All the gravel was swept clean. "The gravel is full of eggs," Hymer said.

The scene was testimony to the success of this year's return of "upriver brights," the largest run of salmon returning to the Columbia and the largest run in the United States outside Alaska.

While 20 percent of the run is hatchery-produced, fully 80 percent remains wild — from the same stocks that have migrated to Columbia River gravel for thousands of years.

This year an estimated 540,000 chinook salmon returned to Washington waters. Nearly half of those fell victim, as planned, to commercial fishermen, 18,000 were caught in sports fisheries, and tens of thousands were caught in ocean fisheries. About 40,000 got past the four dams upriver from the ocean to spawn at hatcheries or in the gravel.

But Hymer and Floor realize salmon are more than just good eating, more than a moneymaker for fishermen and sports supply stores. Indians revere the salmon. The fish is not only food on their table but perhaps their greatest asset, since treaty rights entitle them to one-half the harvest.

Salmon are also part of the entire region's social fabric and identity.

"They're almost priceless in-

that way," said Hymer, as he guided the boat along the 600-foot-wide river, bordered by waist-high grasses and orchards, the dry Saddle Mountains to the west. "Genetically, they are unique. They range so far, but still return to spawn."

After 15 years of salmon runs ranging from 130,000 to 220,000 fish, the number of wild fish dropped below 100,000 in 1980 and 1981. Only a few thousand reached spawning grounds.

"Six years ago, our thinking was that we were going to have a funeral service for another wild salmon run," Floor said. "There wasn't a unified commitment to rebuilding a run that seemed to be headed for some kind of limited extinction."

Overfishing from Alaska to the Columbia, and death at the dams, also helped reduce the salmon numbers.

Many factors helped turn the fishery around, including the participation by a small army of fisheries biologists and favorable ocean conditions after a disastrous "El Nino" weather phenomenon.

Also:

■ The Northwest Power Act, passed by Congress, directed a rebuilding of fisheries damaged by dam-building.

■ A U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty cut back Canada's take of fish along the British Columbia coast.

■ A new spirit of cooperation has emerged in the region, after years of contention when a 1974

federal court ruling held that Indians had rights to half of the salmon.

Floor says the effect was that the state was committed to protecting the run.

The goal, under the Northwest Power Act, is to double the output of the Columbia and its tributaries by the year 2000 to a total of about 5 million salmon and steelhead.

Much of the money paying for salmon conservation comes from electric utility customers. The rationale is that the dams producing electricity caused much of the decline in salmon runs.

Ten dams range along the Columbia; Grand Coulee Dam, 550 miles from the sea, bars any ocean-migrating fish.

Despite a growing conservationist ethic in the Northwest, there are still projects threatening the salmon run. One proposal is to dredge the Hanford Reach for a shipping channel so barges can carry cargo as far upriver as Wenatchee, 60 miles above the reach.

"This is one of the most damaging projects to come along in a long time," says Phil Peterson, regional habitat manager for the Department of Fisheries.

The Corps of Engineers had wanted to build an artificial spawning channel on the reach this year to determine whether salmon

Please see SALMON on D 2

Sh-h-h: Mount St. Helens may be taking another nap:

Associated Press

LONGVIEW — Scientists are wondering if Mount St. Helens has entered another century of dormancy, now that it has slept through 1987.

Last year was the first time it has remained so quiet since it boomed to life cataclysmically in 1980.

too, if St. Helens is dead or not," says Don Swanson, scientist in charge of the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascade Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash.

The mountain rumbled to life on March 20, 1980, with an earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale.

Two months later, on May 18,

of timberland. Ash fell over much of the Northwest and a cloud of ash circled the globe.

Other eruptions followed, but the more recent ones have been nonviolent and merely increased the size of a lava dome in the crater.

Since September 1987, scientists have detected small earth-

ten rock to the surface, is empty and sagging. As this rock moves, it sends out shock waves that register as earthquakes.

Under the other theory, the conduit still contains molten rock that is blocked from reaching the surface "but is restless to get out," Swanson said.

"People have to remember that we're looking three miles into

ton Fair Share. Washington State Grange), two of three state utility regulators (Sharon Nelson and Dick Casad) and the state Department of Information Systems. Independent phone companies are neutral.

■ How can they be opposed to competition? They say they aren't. Opponents say PNB wants

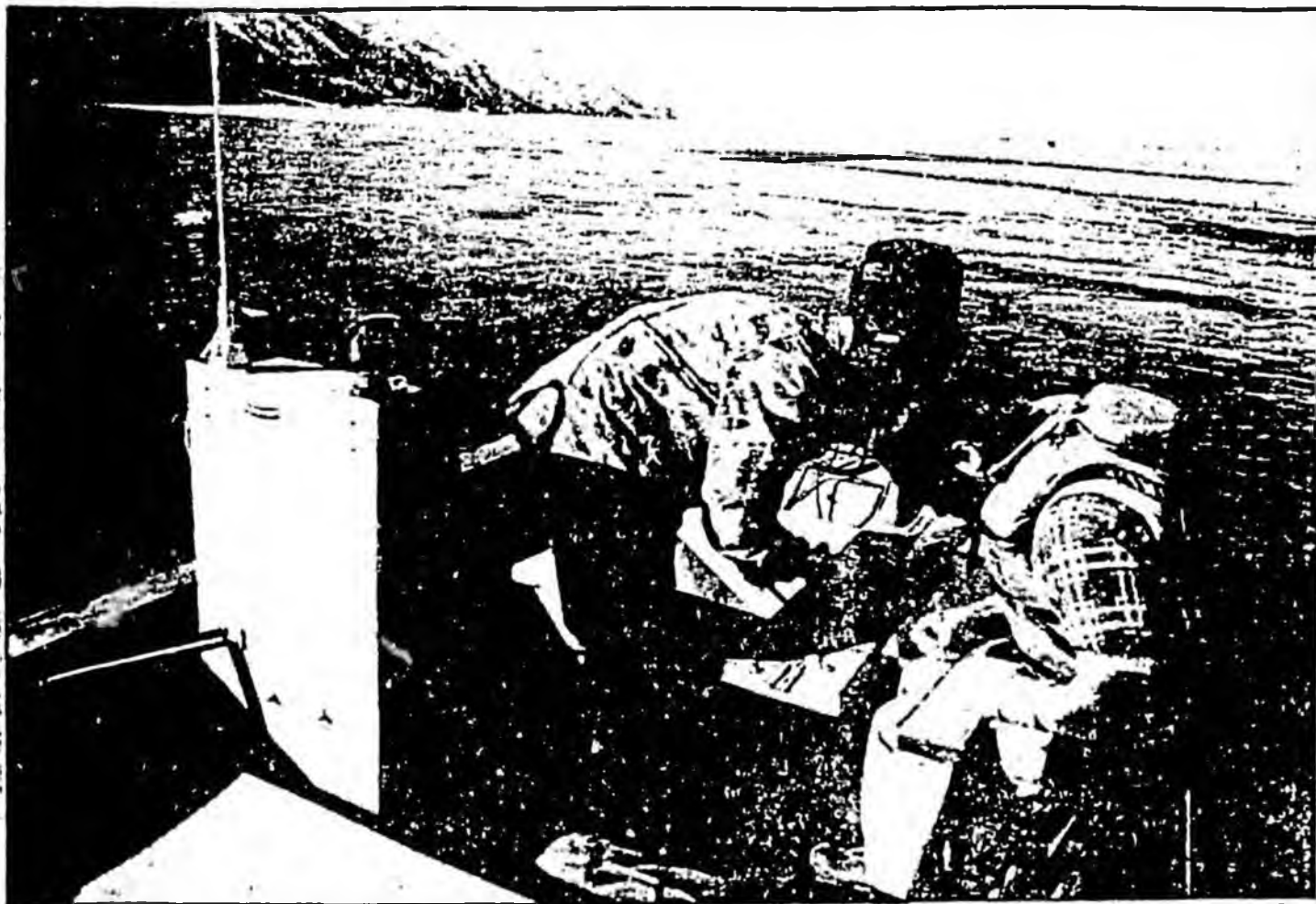
more. Besides, they say, the state already must deregulate any services that phone companies can prove are truly competitive.

■ So what's wrong with existing law? PNB says it needs the flexibility its competitors have to respond to rapidly changing market conditions. Under current law, the phone company says, it has to

ordered PNB to reduce its rates by \$31.4 million last year. This, they say, is exactly the wrong time to scrap a tried and true system for one that allows automatic rate increases.

■ What isn't covered by the cap? Only basic residential and business rates are covered, according to the bill. So pay-phone rates probably are not limited by

it could end up in a "death spiral" if nothing happens. Opponents are skeptical. In the 3½ years since the break up of Ma Bell, they note, PNB has produced nearly \$7.8 million in dividends for its parent company, US West. But proponents say the statistic simply proves that existing regulations do nothing more than "guarantee profits."



Technicians Joe Hymer, left, and Rich Pett take scale samples from a salmon that has spawned at Hanford Reach. Associated Press

This year's Columbia run is greatest since dam-building era began

SALMON

continued from D 1

could be enticed to use it instead of the river's gravel.

But the agency delayed the preliminary work on the plan in September. Corps spokesman Ste-

ven Foster says the corps lacked time to obtain permits, and that several animal and plant species in the area might be designated rare or endangered.

The outcry against construction of a channel has come from conservationists, Indian tribes, sportsmen and the state Fisheries and Wildlife departments. Washington's U.S. senators and Rep. Sid

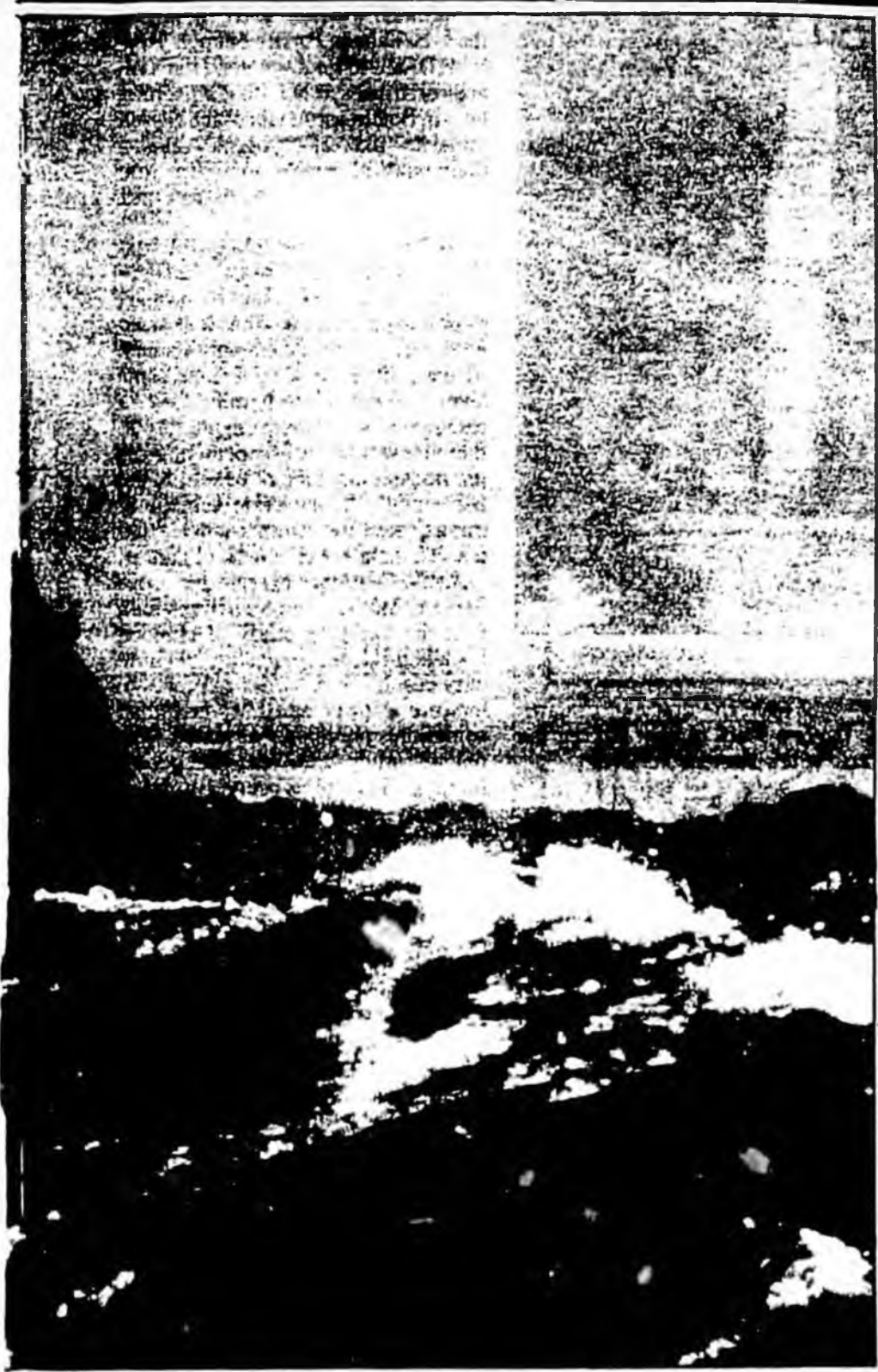
Morrison, whose district includes the Hanford area, have prepared legislation to make the reach a wild and scenic river.

North of the reach, above Priest Rapids Dam, the Army wants to expand its Yakima Firing Range and is proposing a river-crossing training area. Peterson says the Fisheries Department

also opposes that project, in part because it would increase the possibility of oil spills into the Columbia.

But he thinks the dredging project is the biggest threat to the returning chinook.

"If we can't hold the line on the Hanford Reach," he says, "I don't know where we can."



PRO

In all the years, Vic and Tony fished the sturdy, double-ended, deep-drafted *Donnamae*, very little changed in the Southeast troll fishery. They drug hooks through the water along the craggy outside coast of Baranof Island year-round, catching kings. Vic and Tony are gone now, both the young Sitkan and the old Spaniard dying in separate incidents back in '83, and with them



Victor's last trip aboard the *Donnamae*, fall of '83.

seems to have gone the laid-back trolling lifestyle which initially drew so many to the fishery. One wonders if they would've adapted to the change.

"In the old days," says Alan Davis, troll biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "we'd see boats spread out all up and down the beach. Now we just see these big peaks of boats." The pack atmosphere. First seen with the ominously efficient Seattle "clone fleet" spread out the entire length of Southeast testing the waters of each bay, coded calls would converge fiberglass clones on one drag to mop up a bite. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em: Today a complex of intertwining code groups fills an empty horizon with a swarm of boats thick as flies within just hours.

These increased rates of harvest yield higher catches sooner—eating the quota faster, compressing seasons further. The derby mentality. During the '80s trollers watched their traditional 180-day summer king season nearly evaporate to just 23 fast and furious days by 1987, compelling many to abandon yesterday's habits and routine to go hardcore, grinding

the drag from the first hint of dawn till the last shard of light pierced the Panhandle's western horizon.

Petersburg troller Gary Slaven, chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and vice-chairman, northern panel, U.S. section of the U.S./Canada salmon treaty team, says negotiators anticipated the Southeast fleet's average daily king catch to be 5,500 fish, a figure ADF&G agreed was "in the ball park." With about a 200,000-fish quota, the 1987 season should've stretched from its opening June 20 into late July.

"Well, we went out there and it never did drop that low," Slaven says. The average catch per day of 9,000 to 11,000 fish closed kings in short order at midnight July 12. With number of boats and lines fixed by limited entry and technological effort fairly stabilized since about 1985, he continues, fishermen, processors, and managers alike attribute the higher catch rates to a greater resource abundance.

"If there's not a new hootchie around," Davis surmises, "there must

be more availability." More fish, in fact, than ever anticipated by population models for the coastwide, 15-year chinook stock rebuilding program undertaken with the 1984 signing of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. ADF&G commissioner Don Collinsworth calls it a "flooding effect here in Southeast Alaska," and Slaven remarks that it "doesn't take a mathematical genius to figure (the season) might only be 15, 16 days next year."

Locked into a set quota by international treaty, Southeast Alaska's chinook abundance brings its own set of problems: short seasons and shaking kings during a coho-only fishery. Shaking kings, in turn, brings some level of associated mortality—a resource loss, Collinsworth points out, that neither adds to escapement goals nor accrues any kind of benefit to the fishermen. "In the great scheme of things," says the commissioner, "that doesn't make a helluva lot of sense."

As the National Marine Fisheries Service Auke Bay Lab analyzes data from its two-year study of chinook hook-and-release mortality, preliminary results lend harder numbers to indicate a lower mortality rate than sometimes previously assumed. The unique study involves sea pens—holding fish to observe delayed mortality—and seems to corroborate findings from earlier tag recovery studies, according to Alex Wertheimer, task leader for the NMFS Early-Ocean Salmon Research Project. Results suggest an overall mortality rate of about 25.5% for sublegal chinook hooked and released and 22.5% for legals.

With shaking kings, Wertheimer says, it appears "nuances of technique (are) not as important as wound location." If gill-hooked, "That fish is going to die." Post-mortem examination of larger fish dying from apparently minor injuries usually revealed hidden gill damage.

One of four U.S. negotiators on the Pacific Salmon Commission, Collinsworth notes that some interests along the coast would like to see the Alaskan troll quota reduced for this incidental chinook mortality. Such a penalty, he says, would only fuel the situation by

reducing quotas further—causing even shorter king seasons, thus longer periods of non-retention, and yet higher incidental mortality: "A death spiral for our troll fishery and something we cannot allow to happen." Collinsworth calls such fish accounting a "total mortality quota" rather than a harvest quota.

This management problem doesn't look like it'll just go away. Troll biologist Davis expects good king returns to continue (barring some natural disaster that would severely affect escapements on a coastwide basis), especially since 1989 will be the first year to see the direct results in escapements from the treaty. Davis adds that if we *didn't* see more kings while continuing to increase production from both hatcheries and wild stock enhancement, then something's wrong. And trollers saw more kings, caught more kings, then shook more kings than they can remember.

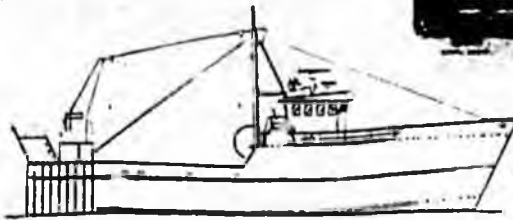
"It was really neat to see 'em back," says fisherman Eric Jordan, a representative on the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee raised in the Southeast troll fishery. Jordan recounts that each year of the last five he's had a day when he caught more kings than the biggest score his father, "Skip," ever had before his death in 1965. "So big, so many of 'em," Jordan says, "it just made it all the harder to release them."

"I guess I'll never get used to shaking these kings," comments longtime troller Jake Phillips of Pelican. Many Southeast trollers echo his sentiment, often becoming frustrated and disillusioned with the politics of a treaty they see as rigid and unresponsive to a changing situation.

"We're seeing a little faster turnaround than everyone expected," admits Davis. "One of the problems with the treaty is that it's fairly inflexible to react to a sudden population increase." Although the treaty's 15-year rebuilding plan officially went into effect in 1985 (and unofficially in '84 with a "gentlemen's agreement"), Alaskans had already enacted some self-imposed restrictions back in 1980 to counteract coastwide environmental degradation and over-harvesting trends of the '70s.

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Seafood quality is increasingly important to your prosperity. In 1988 Technical Editor Dennis Lodge is writing a series on fish quality. His first article explains how a fish deteriorates once it's aboard a vessel.

Alternate Gear in California

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Also features on a possible new hagfish fishery and Oregon's new marine management plan.

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Fish Tips
Who's Doing What
Japan Update
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New Vessels
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Valerie A. McNeil (Office Manager)

"Just like it takes a long time to rebuild," Davis continues, "it took a long time to knock 'em down." He concedes fishermen's frustrations, but explains the intent of rebuilding stocks is to let more fish go to ultimately spawn and die. He adds that if fishing had been halted altogether during the process—admittedly an economically unfavorable option—the same incidence of seeing kings you couldn't catch would occur: "As the rebuilding schedule is in progress you're going to have more fish around and the catch limits will be low to maximize escapements."

But on the heels of this year's chinook abundance, Davis tempers premature postulations that "the fish are rebuilt" by suggesting population increases might be short-lived, a "little bump" which might fall back down again in a couple more years rather than a trend. "There's a lot of fish around, there's no doubt about that."

Commissioner Collinworth agrees when he says, "I guess one year does not a trend make." Yet he points to the broad distribution of chinook and the continued population highs throughout the year as "empirical evidence" that there's more fish than anticipated, a situation in Alaska more durable than just "fish on the bite" or kings "taking the bait better," as some might suggest.

"If stocks are in fact in better condition and are rebuilding more rapidly, there should be an opportunity for the present generation of fishermen to harvest those fish," he says. But the commissioner also cautions that the 15-year process is broken into threes, a "3-year rebuilding program," that some experts say requires completing the first cycle after the 1988 season before developing a trend analysis.

Fifteen years is a long time for fishermen tightening their belts to conserve a resource—fishermen understandably disgruntled when those same fish swim south to others' hooks and profits down the line. Collinworth maintains that "it seems a reasonable and fair thing" to allow some marginal increase in quota "as long as we meet objectives of the program by 1988." Conservative depart-

mental management of the fishery, too, saw the 1986 Southeast troll season opening and closing like a revolving door trying to prevent going over-quota, and kept the catch in 1987 to within 1% of the quota although granted a 7% margin by the commission.

"When they negotiated the treaty," Jordan says, "the emphasis was on rebuilding depressed stocks. There was so much political effort into proving the stocks were so low and needed so much help," he adds, most negotiators from down south worried about even meeting the rebuilding schedule.

"So now (we're) in a situation of an unanticipated surplus and no plan to allocate the surplus," Jordan charges. "So what's happening is the last people downstream—Washington, Oregon, the Indians—are having a bonanza while Alaska and Canada are having a real difficult time living within the quota."

Indeed, early evidence of catch returns indicates more chinook up-river brites harvested in the Columbia this season than the whole of the Alaskan troll quota. "I think that the Columbia River is rebuilt," Slaven says. Canadian trollers, too, faced the problems inherent to single-species, coho-only fisheries when the west coast of Vancouver Island first closed to kings last year, northern British Columbia joining them this year. Managers worry what this increased effort in directed fishing for cohos will do to those stocks; some runs already troubled from poor escapements in 1983 suffered heavy pressure this summer from a hungry fleet fishing harder and ever farther offshore.

Alaska Board of Fisheries Chairman Slaven stresses that Alaska is serious about rebuilding chinook stocks to the "viable runs" of the '60s, and says that any further treaty negotiations necessarily relate directly back to the rebuilding schedule: the "appropriateness of current harvest ceilings;" incidental mortality coast-wide and in all gear groups; trans-boundary river disagreements; and the definition of the so-called "Pass-Through Provision" which directs the

Trollers jam Sealing Cove, one of four Sitka harbors, framed by Mt. Edgcombe Volcano 15 miles distant.



bulk of fish saved by conservation efforts to escapement and not reallocation.

"Right now we're negotiating how we share the pain of rebuilding," says Slaven and he warns that post-treaty negotiations determining how West Coast fishermen "share the fruits" promise to be equally controversial.

"I think we can meet our commitment and catch more fish," he ven-

tures, a view he admits may yet be peculiar to Alaska. "We're trying to cope with an availability we've never seen before."

"The whole purpose," Collinsworth agrees, "was to rebuild the stocks on a coastwide basis and then have a management program to keep stocks from being over-harvested." He calls pre-treaty harvest levels (10 years ago about twice today's) "not sustainable,"

however, and looks to the money and concerted effort Alaskans invested in their enhancement programs to mitigate the quota cuts on natural stocks. Only Alaska has been rewarded for its carefully documented tag and recovery program—which proves hatchery-production catch—with a "hatchery add-on" recognized by the commission: a 9,000-fish add-on last year grew to 13,000 in '87 with projections indicating perhaps as many as 40,000 kings next year, 100,000 not long after.

Still, accelerated fleet efficiency and competition suggest catch rates will remain high in these days of resource abundance. Even a substantial increase in quota would translate into only modest gains of a few extra days in the tightly compressed, intense fishery. Slaven speculates that the traditional lifestyle aspects of Southeast Alaskan salmon trolling are unlikely to return unless the stocks again fail to their depressed state of

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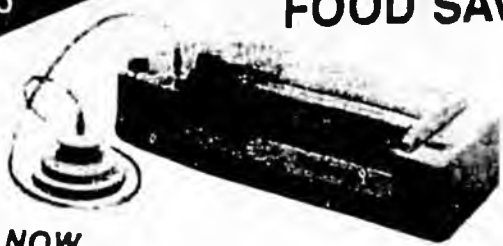
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Photo by Bob Watson "Sea Wolf"

1976 to '78. "I just don't see any new, innovative ways to turn the clock back on trolling, anymore than we can on black cod." He says he's listening if anyone's got any "creative ideas."

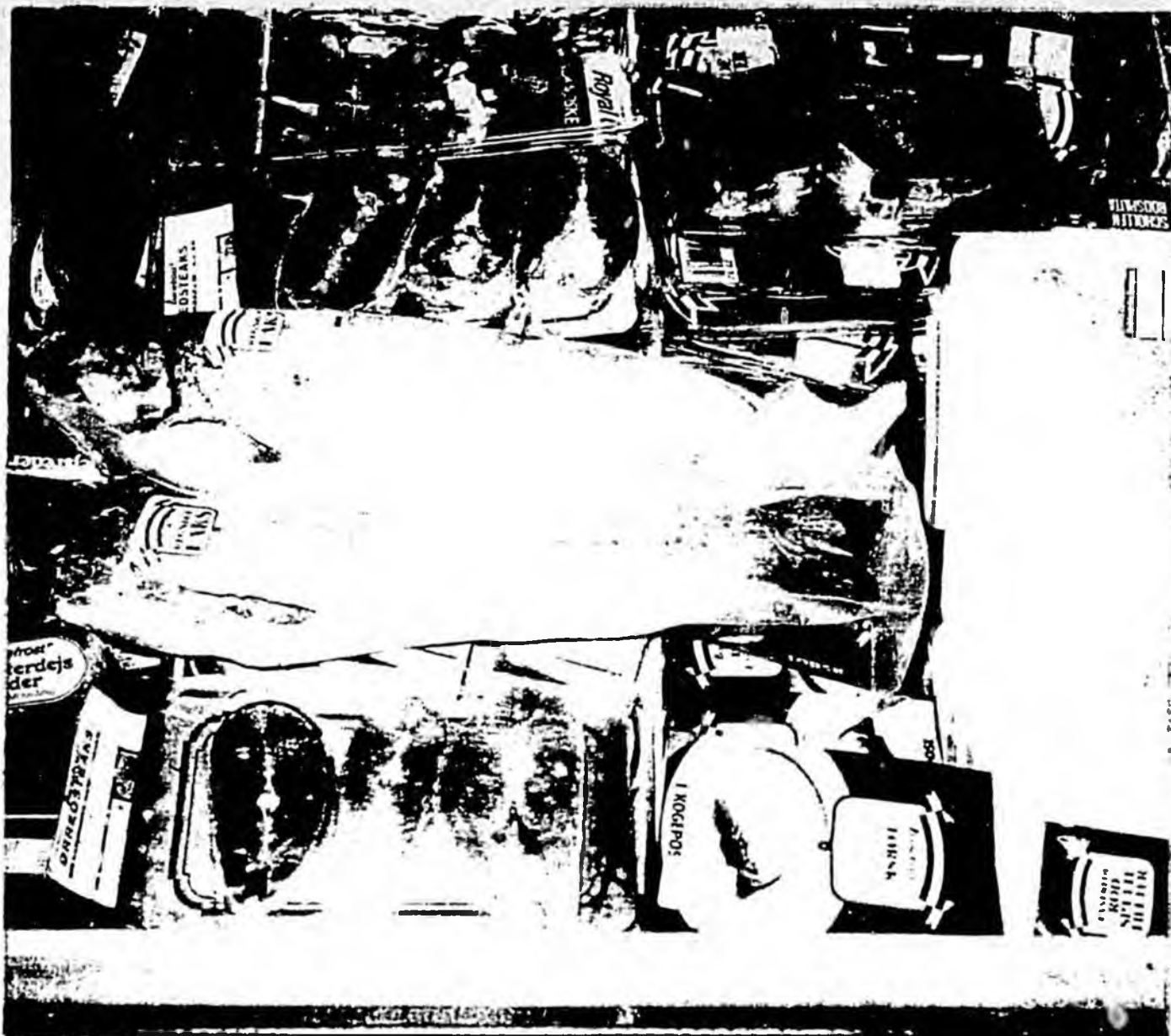
"The best thing we can hope for," he says, is to help rebuild stocks and "get our fair share." Perhaps political pressures will press harder to account for undetermined chinook losses to foreign high-seas interception and the unmonitored domestic trawl industry. "We don't know whether it's 10 or 10 million fish that are bound for Alaska" taken on the high seas, Jordan says, with little more known about domestic trawl bycatch in the absence of observers.

Even so, the future of troll-caught Southeast salmon may very well hinge on the outcome of the state's finfish mariculture debate, temporarily on hold for a year's moratorium of study before the legislature takes action on the controversial issue. Jordan likens the bitterly divided battle to the "fencing of the open range sort of thing." One wonders if the Western cowboy and the Alaskan troller might both suffer the same fate?

Regrettably, the good old days of the Alaskan troller are slipping away. It's a new age, new rules, a new fishery—what biologist Davis calls "a totally different ball game . . . also just the nature of the beast of change."

Once known as the gentlemen's fishery, "It's getting to be a very, very, very professional fishery now," Slaven says. The last bastion of a lifestyle tuned to seasonal rhythms of the sea may well be the winter troll fishery—short days, less pressure, and long seasons still stretching the six-month distance. One wonders, too, if the locals will long enjoy it.

When tragedy twice struck the double-ender *Donnamae* that sad year, Tony's ashes were scattered in her wake off Biorka, Victor's down at Snipe. Wherever those two Southeast trollers are today—probably still arguing—the slab king salmon are surely on the bite, and the season never closes. **PF**



Beth McGinley

Making Hay While the Sun Shines

BY BETH MCGINLEY

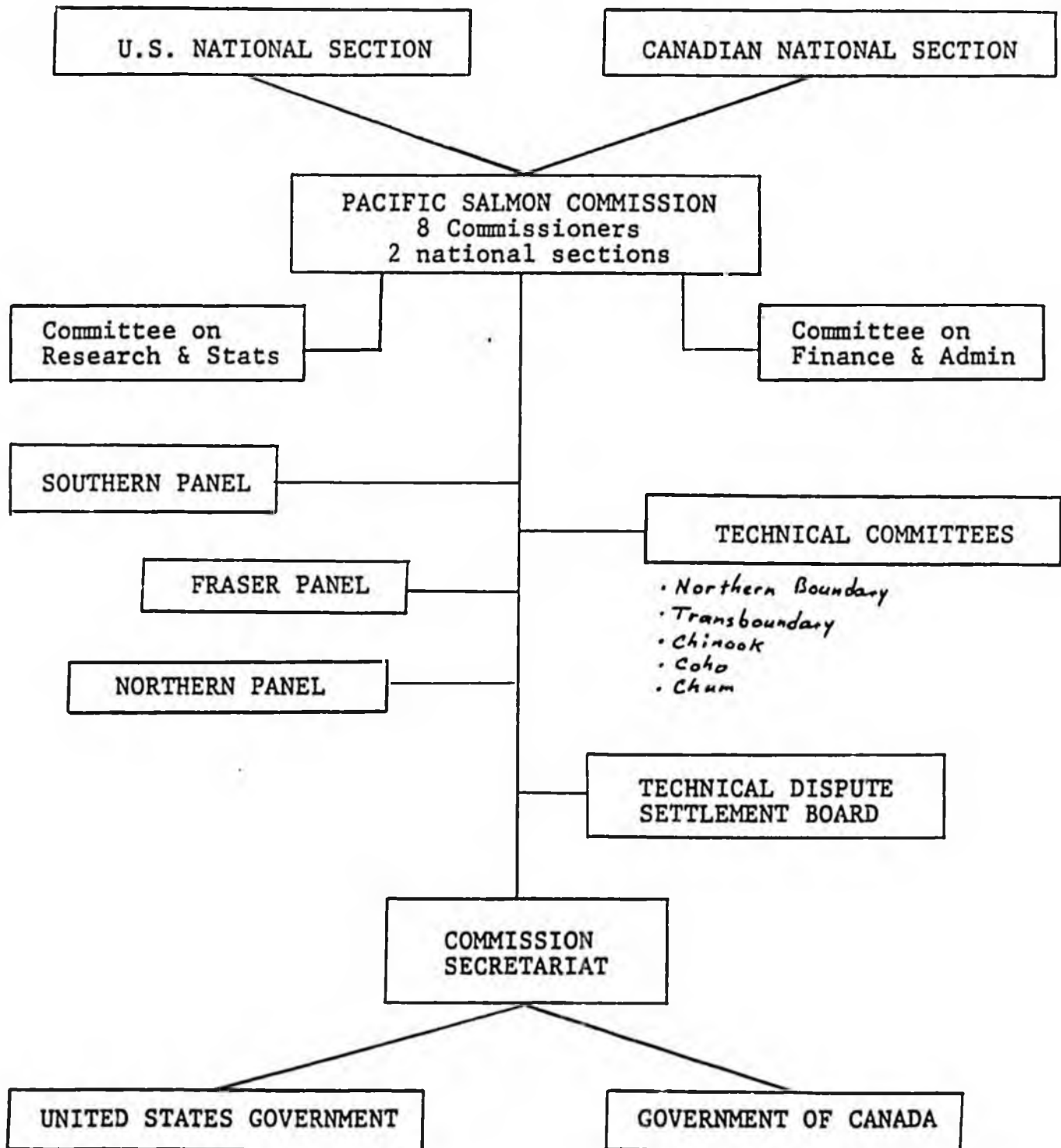
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A sizzling seafood market boiled over into ANUGA '87, the world's largest food show, and sent prices and sales of U.S. product to record highs. American companies sold over \$6 million worth of seafood at the show itself and expect to sell nearly \$70 million over the next year.

Colorful booths, shining display cases, and crowds filled the

Seafood displayed at this year's ANUGA food show.

ORGANIZATION CHART
PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION



M E M O R A N D U M

Date: February 8, 1988
To: Nevette Bowen; Rep Sund's Office
From: Laird A. Jones, Special Assistant
Pacific Salmon Commission
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Subject: Pacific Salmon Commission

Laird A. Jones

I have updated the February 6th Memorandum to provide clearer appointment and decision making structure of the commission. Enclosed are two documents for additional background.

(P.L. 99-5) [enclosed]

Pacific Salmon Commission - Commissioner Appointment:

[Established by: P.L. 99-5; Sec. 3; (a) & (b).]

- The Governor of Alaska submits at least six qualified individual names to the President of the United States. The appointed commissioner serves at the pleasure of the president. The Alaskan commissioner was appointed for a four year term. The term expires September 30, 1989. Each commissioner is eligible for reappointment.

- The alternate commissioner is designated by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Interior from the above governor's list. The alternate serves the same time period as the member and is also eligible for reappointment.

Representing Alaska on the Pacific Salmon Commission;
Don Collinsworth as the member and Ken Parker as his alternate.

[VOTING REQUIREMENT NOTE (P.L. 99-5; Sec. 3; (g)(1)): The United States Section shall operate with the objective of attaining consensus decisions in the development and exercise of its single vote within the commission. A decision of the United States Section shall be taken when there is no dissenting vote.]

Pacific Salmon Commission - Northern Panel Appointments:

[Established by: P.L. 99-5; Sec. 3; (d) & (f)]

- The governor appoints the State representative. The appointment began on October 1, 1987 and the term is four years.

- The fishing industry representatives are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce from a list provided by the governor. These appointments expire on September 30, 1989. All panel members shall be eligible for reappointment.

-The alternate members are selected in the same manner and by the same appointing authority as the member. Alternates also serve the same time period as the member and are also eligible for reappointment.

The U.S. Section of the Northern Panel members and alternates are listed on the end of the December 14, 1987 "Open Letter to Southeast Alaska Fishermen" by Don Collinsworth [enclosed].

[ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY TO SUPPLEMENT THE BRIEFING DOCUMENT ENCLOSURE]

The Northern Panel geographical area is for salmon originating in rivers with mouths situated between Cape Caution (Central British Columbia) and Cape Suckling (Southeast Alaska).

The Southern Panel's geographical areas of for salmon originating in rivers with mouths situated south of Cape Caution, except for the Fraser River Panel area.

[VOTING REQUIREMENT NOTE (P.L. 99-5; Sec. 3; (g)(2)&(4)): All decisions and recommendations of the United States section of the Northern and Southern Panels shall require the concurring vote of the majority of the United States Panel members present and voting, except that decisions and recommendations of the Southern Panel shall require the concurring vote of the State of Washington and Oregon members and one of the two treaty indian members. All decisions and recommendations of any joint panel shall require the concurring votes of each panel under rules specified in each sperate panel.]

The Fraser River Panel is established specifically for the Fraser river sockeye and pink salmon harvested in the area specified in the treaty. Only the Fraser River Panel has in-season management authority.

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION - TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Reporting to the Northern Panel are the Northern Boundary and Transboundary technical committees.

- For issues regarding coho salmon originating in the Northern Panel geographical area, the Coho Technical Committee reports to the Northern Panel.

- On chinook salmon, the Chinook Technical Committee reports to the Joint Northern/Southern Panel. All members and alternates of the Northern and Southern Panel comprise the joint panel.

[Membership on the technical committees are from the management agencies of the panel region, i.e. the department, N.M.F.S./AK Region and S.S.R.A.A. have members on the technical committees which report to the Northern Panel]

Other enclosures: - The U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty; What It Means to Alaskan Fishermen
 - 1987 Treaty Annex IV amendments
 - 1986 Treaty Annex IV amendments
 - Original Treaty, MOU and Letter of Transmittal

Enclosures