SCOMM

70:2

JOINT SENATE RESOURCES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPTION
January 23, 1989
1:39 p.m.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Jay Kerttula, Vice-Chairman
Senator Steve Frank
Senator Rick Halford
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski

RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Fred Zharoff

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPTION MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chairman
Senator Johne Binkley, Co-Chairman
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Szymanski
Senator Coghill

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPTION MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Zharoff

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6
Relating to the interception of Alaska salmon on the high seas.

WITNESS REGISTER

Kate Graham, Executive Director
United Fishermen of Alaska
175 S. Franklin
Juneau, Alaska 99801
POSITION STATEMENT: Strongly supports SJR 6

Larry Cotter
110 Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
POSITION STATEMENT: Strongly supports SJR 6

Rich Lauber

Pacific Seafood Processors Association
321 Highland Dr.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
POSITION STATEMENT: Strongly supports SJR 6

Lourene Miovski, staff
House Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified on legal language in SJR 6.

PREVIOUS SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION

SJR 6 - No previous action to record.

ACTION NARRATIVE
TAPE 1, SIDE 1
Number 001

Senator Fahrenkamp called the Joint Senate Resources Committee and Special Committee on High Seas Salmon Interception meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

Number 037
#SJR6
Senator Binkley, prime sponsor of SJR 6, presented background information saying that chinook salmon are being pirated on the high seas. The resolution deals with the issue on a national level.

Number 099

The members of the committees decided to work from the "h" draft of SJR 6.

Number 126

Senator Binkley said that the resolution is addressed to the American section of International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, U.S. Congress, and the U.S. State Department. It asks the INPFC to hold firm in their negotiating with the Japanese, to oppose any expansion of the Japanese salmon and squid fishing areas, and to oppose any conversion from the mother ship fleet to a land based fleet of Japanese fishing effort.

To the U.S. Congress the resolution speaks to continuing the current prohibition against Japanese fishing within our 200 mile limit as determined by a recent supreme court decision and to reaffirm the Magnuson Act which comes up this year. It also urges Congress to do what is necessary to back up the law and to expand the Pelly Amendment to embargo other goods from nations who are breaking U.S. laws.

Senator Binkley stated the resolution also speaks to increasing funding for the U.S. high seas observer program, research on salmon, and Coast Guard enforcement on the high seas.

Number 192

Senator Jones and Senator Sturgulewski discussed tightening the language in the funding section to be specifically for high seas interception.

Number 226

Senator Binkley added that the messages in the resolution to the State Department are to begin immediate negotiations with the Soviet Union to begin a joint enforcement agreement to prevent illegal fishing on the North Pacific; to begin negotiations with all salmon producing countries for an international treaty that would ban all high seas salmon fishing; and to take whatever actions are necessary to control the activities of foreign squid fleets on the high seas.

Number 304

Senator Halford says we should say that "...no country allow their high seas fleet to do on the high seas what they do not allow them to do in their own controlled waters." as one of the conditions.

Number 370

Senator Sturgulewski suggested that another meeting be held to give an overview of what is happening out on the high seas. Senator Fahrenkamp agreed.

Number 384

Kate Graham, Executive Director of the United Fishermen of Alaska, spoke briefly but strongly in favor of the resolution.

Number 390

Larry Cotter, voting member on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, said the resolution is "excellent."

He reported that the INPFMC strongly supports reauthorization of the Magnuson Act and passed a resolution urging that language would be added to the purposes section of the Magnuson Act that would clarify the fact that we do have jurisdiction of anadromous salmon on the high seas.

Number 449

Senator Binkley said the resolution has a strong "presumption clause" meaning that if the squid boats are found with salmon on board that it is presumed they were from North Pacific waters.

Number 489

Senator Halford asked whether the first WHEREAS clause helps the purposes of the resolution.

Number 500

Mr. Rick Lauber, Commissioner on International North Pacific Fisheries Council and member of the U.S. Soviet Union Advisory Group to the Department of State, strongly supported SJR 6. He pointed out one technical error on page 2, line 20, where it says Japan is asking to expand their squid fleet fishing areas further north. It should say Japan has "informed" us they are "going to" expand their fleet.

He said if Japan moves its squid fleet north, then Korea and Taiwan would do the same thing. Moving north would allow them to fish closer to the boundaries where they are illegally fishing by their own domestic regulations and intercept an extremely high number of North American and Asian bound salmon - probably Soviet Union salmon.

Number 565

Mr. Lauber said that the impact on our markets for salmon is substantial, because they are dumping the fish on international markets, competing with the products caught by Alaskan fishermen. Because the foreign caught salmon are lower quality and because they are illegal in their own countries, they are being sold at a far reduced price - maybe half of what we are trying to sell our fish for.

Tape 1, Side 2
Number 001

There is general discussion between Senator Halford, Senator Coghill, and Senator Binkley on Japanese fishing and fish culturing methods.

Number 090

Lourene Miovski, staff for the House Resources Committee, explained some of the wording in the resolution.

Number 176

Senator Sturgulewski said the law of the sea clause gives foreign nations a hook to get off of rather than fortifying the resolution.

Number 258

Senator Halford moved to adopt th CS labeled "h" with certain clarifications of wording to SJR 6. The motion passed unanimously.

Number 357

Senator Fahrenkamp announced a meeting Wednesday, January 25 at 1:30 at which CSSJR 6 will be acted upon.

#

Senator Fahrenkamp adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGH SEAS
SALMON INTERCEPTION
February 13, 1989
1:35 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chairman
Senator Johne Binkley, Co-Chairman
Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Jack Coghill
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Mike Szymanski
Senator Fred Zharoff

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Cheri Davis
Representative Robin Taylor

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

High Seas Salmon Interception

WITNESS REGISTER

Congressman Don Young
709 9th Street
Juneau, Alaska

Mike Round
Alaska Trollers Association
Rt. 2, Box 57
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Alan Davis, Biologist
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sitka, Alaska

Victoria McDonald
Grant Trask
Petersburg, Alaska

Kate Troll
Southeast Seiners Association
Ketchikan, Alaska

Eric Jordan
SEACOPS
Sitka, Alaska

Tony McDonald
Petersburg, Alaska

John Single
Wrangell, Alaska

Mike Holman, Gillnetter and Chairman
SEACOPS
Ketchikan, Alaska

Roby Littlefield
Sitka, Alaska

Kurt Hoelting
Narrows Conservation Coalition
Petersburg, Alaska

Steve Kenny
Ketchikan, Alaska

Robert Schell
Sitka, Alaska

Kate Troll, representing
Terry Piles
Ketchikan, Alaska

Steve Beam
Murray Pacific Supply
Sitka, Alaska

Mike Holman, representing
Ron Leighton
SEACOPS
Ketchikan, Alaska

Pete Asquero
Northern southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Juneau, Alaska

Christopher pace
Petersburg, Alaska

Lonnie Haughton
SEACOPS
Ketchikan, Alaska

Ralph Gregory, Mayor
Ketchikan, Alaska

Bill Thomas
Ketchikan, Alaska

Johnny Gilson, Troller and Biologist

Ketchikan, Alaska

ACTION NARRATIVE
TAPE 1, SIDE 1
Number 001

Senator Jones called the Senate Resources Committee meeting to order and introduced Congressman Don Young. Congressman Young stated he thought the Pelly Amendment would be the major tool to use to enforce high seas interception. He said the Taiwanese are the main offenders and we have no treaties with them; the best way to get them is through their pocketbook which the Pelly Amendment does.

Senator Binkley said that high seas salmon interception has been going on for a long time and he congratulated Congressman Young on taking the initiatives he has. He said that the United States and Russia recently signed agreements that opened up negotiations regarding fisheries. Senator Binkley thought that would be a strong message to other countries that we are not going to tolerate high seas salmon interception. We agreed to work cooperatively on enforcement issues and in the area of the doughnut hole.

Senator Jones wanted to know if the Russians were interested in doing something about the squid fleet as well as the doughnut hole. Senator Binkley said they very sincerely want to do something about it; like completely eliminate it by 1992.

Mike Round, representing himself and the Alaska Trollers Association, suggested finding out what was happening in 1986, because that was the last good year of fishing southern southeastern had. He listed finding out where the squid fishery was fishing and what the Japanese current was doing.

Mr. Round said that 1988 was supposed to be a record year for cohos and pinks and just a fraction of what was expected showed up for both showed up. He said that aquaculture fish as well as natural stocks have showed a marked decline starting in 1987. In fact the numbers of returning aquaculture fish have been disastrous. He backed this up with statistics from the different hatcheries. He said hatcheries do not suffer from the same natural selection system wild stocks do, and yet they suffered similar declines in numbers. That is what makes them believe something in the open ocean is intercepting and killing Alaska's salmon.

Mr. Round continued by saying that of the fish that did return, there was a huge increase in the percentage that were net marked.

Alan Davis, biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Sitka, said there has been a dramatic increase in marks and scars in troll caught fish in southeast Alaska. The marks are not caused by any kind of domestically used fishing gear. This kind of marking started happening around 1980 when the Japanese moved their squid fleets into the high seas. He said there was a high number of unidentifiable marks on the pink salmon found in the Ketchikan area. These kinds of marks have been found on cohos and chinook which have been attacked by squid when they are caught in a net together.

Victoria McDonald, representing Grant Trask in Petersburg, said that the 1988 coho season was the poorest in 15 years. Salmon fishermen have been noting for years in their log books salmon that have had net marks. In his letter, which is on file with the Committee, Mr. Grant said that there is a pirate fleet south of Kodiak and the Aleutians; bring one or two skeptical politicians in a Coast Guard C-130 and see. "The high seas squid gillnetting has cost Americans millions of dollars. It puts illegally caught poor quality salmon into a strong world wide salmon market that capitalizes on its high quality. This pirate fleet is making money on American resources and must be forced off our fish."

Kate Troll, representing the Southeast Seiners Association, said they have hired a lobbyist, Denny Coles, in Washington D.C. She suggested expanding the Pelly amendment to cover all imported products from a violating nation, not just fish products, mandating that sanctions be imposed on violating nations, enforce the 200 mile limit, and mandating agency sharing of location of data on foreign fishing vessels. This would require adequate funding for the Coast Guard enforcement and for observation methods. She urging pursuing drift net negotiations. She said there is no one solution. A lot of different things have to be done. The issue must be elevated to environmental, it is not just money; it is the very life of the stocks and mammals that are threatened. We need a media event.

Congressman Young said they are working with the Navy at spotting and reporting violators. He said the Taiwanese need to be targeted, because they don't agree to boarding or having observers or anything. They just say it's none of our business. We are allowed to board Japanese and Korean vessels.

Eric Jordan said he saw lots of net marked fish in 1988. Mr. Jordan said he joined a group called SEACOPS, founded in Ketchikan, and started a chapter there in Sitka. SEACOPS means Southeast Alaska Coalition for Opposing Pirating of Salmon. The grass roots feeling is that every one wants something done now. We need to replace the U.S.

delegate to the INPFC with someone who can be more effective. The Undersecretary of State's position is coming up, and we need a man named Coleson to replace Mr. Wilson if he is leaving. We need to provide funding for the U.S. Coast Guard to not only observe, but to intercept and seize the pirates and bring them back for trial. We should also look at funding Earth Trust and Greenpeace. We need the squid fishermen to be stopped this year.

Tony McDonald from Petersburg submitted written testimony which he read. "Get serious now and shut them (squid fleet) down. Get those vessels and nets off the ocean now for good. We must manage fisheries world wide for conservation and sustained yield." Monitor the pirate fleets with satellites, chase them with U.S. coast Guard boats. Stop the slaughter of marine mammals.

Mr. Single from Wrangell said that fishermen as a group have united behind the "cause". We are behind the Congressmen. He said they would like to have some input as to Clem Tillion's position in the foreign negotiations.

Mike Holman, gillnetter from Ketchikan and Chairman of SEACOPS, said it looks like this problem goes back about fifty years; he thinks that we lack resolve in finding a solution. He says southeastern interception should have been tied in with interception that has been happening to the stocks westward in previous years. Local processors are working at increasing their capacity and quality, when it looks like the salmon might be disappearing. The people of the United States need to be informed about the problem, by using an organization like ASMI. We need to be able to board the vessels. They support Dave Coleson for Fisheries Ambassador. They have asked Governor Cowper to fund a lobbyist for high seas interception in Washington D.C. He thought that photo documentaries should be produced to help educate the public.

Roby Littlefield from Sitka submitted written testimony. She said, "the salmon must be allowed to return to the creeks to spawn, or that is the end of everything for us, and the Taiwanese."

Kurt Hoelting from Petersburg, representing the Narrows Conservation Coalition, submitted written testimony. The efforts of the fishermen and the state have been to build up the runs in Southeast and now the runs are being decimated by something out of their control. "The destruction of some of the earth's last wild salmon stocks is exacerbated by the destruction of sea birds and mammals on a scale that is hard to comprehend. We have an obligation not only to ourselves, but to our children, to do whatever is necessary to stop this international piracy. Please act!"

Steve Kenny from Ketchikan submitted written testimony. He said he caught 25% of what was his last ten years' average for salmon. He is concerned about the future. Evidence points toward the pirates targeting on immature salmon. It is a violation of the Magnuson Act. The economy of every fisherman in America is going to be affected.

Robert Schell from Sitka submitted written testimony. He said that although he caught 300% fewer fish in 1987 than in 1986, he found the same number of net marked fish. Mr. Schell suggested pressuring Taiwan, Japan and Korea by placing observers on their boats, increase Coast Guard surveillance of the area where they fish, and by strengthening the Pelly Amendment to include a ban on all imported products of violator nations.

Kate Troll spoke for Terry Piles from Ketchikan. She said he thought the Navy could provide a lot of hindrance of salmon interception by performing maneuvers out there.

Steve Beam, representing Murray Pacific Supply in Sitka, said they lost $200,000 last year in lost sales because of poor fishing. This year is going to be worse. This translates to a lot of businesses in town. It will impact a lot of people who are not directly related to fishing. Our federal legislators need to be pressured to end this problem quickly. We should accumulate data on hatchery numbers, balance of trade numbers, unemployment numbers throughout the whole state, and have this information available for people going to Washington D.C. to use. He said the State should have some sort of position paper when it goes to negotiations with other countries.

Mike Holman spoke for Ron Leighton who had to leave. He requested from the committee and the congressional delegation any insight as to how they can be most effective in Washington D.C. when he and four other men go back there to lobby on high seas interception. He encouraged the Pacific Legislative Fisheries Task Force to raise the issue through legislative bodies.

Pete Asquero, working for the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, said the interception of immature salmon on the high seas by foreign fishermen using drift gill nets is of great concern to agencies such as theirs. Great efforts have been put forth to replenish the salmon runs. The numbers of immature salmon that are intercepted are very large. He said the future looks very bleak for aquaculture fish and associations, because if the fish don't return, they can not pay back the money used to build and operate.

Christopher Pace from Petersburg submitted written testimony. He said one more year of salmon interception on

the high seas and the salmon fishery will be out of commission here for a coming decade. The high seas fishermen are completely uncontrolled, no season, no locations. Japan itself has a powerful lobby in Washington D.C. to keep the high seas fleet going. Japan has a dedicated ocean surveillance satellite called MOS I; it is geared solely to enhance their nation's commercial exploitation of ocean resources. We have no comparable resource to counter this economic onslaught.

Lonnie Haughton, representing SEACOPS, said he doesn't trust Clem Tillion. He described SEACOPS membership. Mr. Houghton thinks that the people in the federal government don't realize how serious this problem is. He thinks the state should be investing in lobbying efforts back in Washington D.C. This needs to be made a priority. He said he thought someone should be responsible for collecting the evidence.

Senator Coghill asked how many organizations on the west coast are working along with SEACOPS. Mr. Haughton answered that they are working on it and that every day he gathers more and more support from sport and commercial fishermen of salmon, steelhead, and tuna up and down the coast. They are working with Earth Trust in Honolulu which is producing a video.

Senator Eliason said there is now a lot of attention being focused on this issue. He said he was sorry to hear from only one representative of a business other than a fishing who is impacted by this issue. He approves of money being made available for this issue like ANWR.

Ralph Gregory, mayor of the Ketchikan borough, said this issue is extremely important. Fishing represents the major growth potential of his community. Alaska Airlines has told them that their community is the number one fresh fish exporting point of the whole area. The Ketchikan Community College in conjunction with the OEPD Committee completed a report that said Ketchikan economy was impacted by $100 million directly attributable to high seas interception.

Bill Thomas from Ketchikan said he was impressed with the words of all the fishermen. This is a very important issue that has to be dealt with as soon as possible.

Johnny Gilson, a troller and biologist, presented three pictures taken of scarred fish and explained the sampling he was doing on seine boats off of Coronation and Noise Islands. He said he talked to our Department of Fish and Game and he had a hard time convincing them that there was a problem at all.

Senator Coghill suggested having people from the Department of Fish and Game at the table during their next meeting to figure out where the bureaucracy is failing.

Senator Jones adjourned the meeting.

JOINT SENATE RESOURCES AND HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPTION
March 1, 1989
2:05 p.m.

RESOURCE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Jay Kerttula, Vice-Chairman
Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Steve Frank
Senator Rick Halford
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Fred Zharoff

INTERCEPTION MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chairman
Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Fred Zharoff

INTERCEPTION MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Johne Binkley, Co-Chairman
Senator Mike Szymanski
Senator Jack Coghill

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Briefing on High Seas Salmon Interception by Larry Cotter, Rick Lauber and Steve Ignell

WITNESS REGISTER

Larry Cotter
110 Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
POSITION STATEMENT: Presented 25 minute film on behalf of South East Alaska Coalition for Abolishing Pirating of Salmon.

Rick Lauber, Commissioner
International Pacific Fishery Commission
321 Highland Dr.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
POSITION STATEMENT: Presented brief on international fishing relations.

Steve Ignell
National Marine Fisheries Service
Auke Bay Lab
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented data on the high seas squid drift net fishery.

ACTION NARRATIVE
TAPE 1, SIDE 1
Number 001

Senator Fahrenkamp called the Senate Resources Committee meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Senator Fahrenkamp introduced Larry Cotter who introduced Rick Lauber and Steve Ignel. Mr. Cotter brought a video produced by a group called EarthTrust who had filmed operations on board a Taiwanese high seas squid gill net vessel. The committees viewed the 25 minutes film.

The committees recessed from 2:25 to 3:35 p.m.

Steve Ignell followed up the video with a historical and technical presentation including slides on the high seas squid gill net fishery. He located on a chart of the Gulf of Alaska where the squid and salmon migrate and where the boats fish. The boundaries of the squid fishery are supposed to minimize interception of salmonids according to the Japanese. He said the Japanese fishery starts in June and ends in December. The Japanese have regulations prohibiting the retention of salmon. Squid gill net and salmon gill net are about the same size.

Mr. Ignell said that even though there isn't much documentation, they are certain because of biological data that Japanese squid boats catch salmon even if they follow their own regulations.

Number 646

Mr. Ignell said there are other fisheries going on out there that he hadn't covered. He has them categorized as the Japanese mother ship fishery, land based drift net fishery, the squid fishery, and then tuna, marlin, and others.

TAPE 1, SIDE 2
Number 001

Senator Fahrenkamp introduced Rick Lauber who gave a mini history of fish politics between America and Japan. The International North Pacific Fisheries Convention was drafted around 1952. Through this forum the Japanese came up with the extension principle in which they agreed to fish west of 175 west longitude, because we thought that would keep them off North American salmon. Unfortunately, they had not been moved far enough. Although the Japanese didn't agree to move the boundary, in the years after 1978

they agreed to adopt domestic regulations to cease fishing in certain areas that further reduced the take of North American salmon. Through renegotiating the Convention, we were able to move the fishing boundary to 175 degrees east which made significant increases in our salmon catch and less in theirs. In exchange, they were allowed to fish at certain times within the U.S. 200 mile zone. Under this agreement, the salmon they took were mostly Asian. A lawsuit has prohibited the Japanese from fishing within the 200 mile zone now. That is where we stand today.

The Japanese have agreed to terminate their mother ship fishery in the doughnut hole by 1994 and more recently have indicated they want to convert that fishery from a mother ship to land based operation and the U.S. has resisted that. The Japanese steadfastly believe they have the right to fish in international waters and the 1987 high seas drift net act threatens their sovereignty and they refuse to recognize it, along with Korea and Taiwan.

Early last year the Soviets and the U.S. signed a comprehensive fisheries agreement which resulted in their working together to find a solution to the high seas salmon fishing problem. The Soviets want to see it stopped completely by 1992. They want to create a new organization patterned after the North Atlantic Salmon organization which banned high seas salmon interception in the Atlantic. Mr. Lauber said our government is interested in forming such an organization. The Soviets want the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Red China as members.

Mr. Lauber said that very recently we have entered into a cooperative enforcement agreement with Russia.

Senator Jones asked Mr. Lauber if it would be possible for the squid nets to still fish at all if they couldn't catch salmon and he answered he thought it was possible.

Number 396

Senator Fahrenkamp pointed out that if we sanction against Japanese imports, they, as importers of large amounts of our salmon, could turn around and sanction against our products.

Senator Fahrenkamp wanted to know what the Japanese have to gain from moving their fishing further south. Mr. Lauber said that the Japanese may have to protect their hatchery salmon against the Koreans and Taiwanese, and it might be wise of them to join a group that would ban all high seas fishing targeting salmon.

Senator Sturgulewski emphasized that we should include Korea and Taiwan in the organization, too. Mr. Lauber said

that the ones who are starting the organization have natural spawning streams or hatcheries and that eventually it would be good to have all nations be part of the organization.

Number 478

Senator Fahrenkamp adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPTION
March 7, 1989
2:42 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chairman
Senator Johne Binkley, Co-Chairman
Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Jack Coghill

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Mike Szymanski
Senator Fred Zharoff

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Overview of international meetings on High Seas Salmon Interception by Dave Benton

WITNESS REGISTER

Dave Benton, Director
External and International Fisheries Affairs
Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 3-2000
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Ron Leighton
SEACOPS
Ketchikan, Alaska

Kate Troll
Southeast Seiners Association
Ketchikan, Alaska

Mark Tennant
SEACOPS
Ketchikan, Alaska

ACTION NARRATIVE
TAPE 1, SIDE 1
Number 001

Senator Jones called the Senate Special Committee on High Seas Salmon Interception to order at 2:42 p.m.

David Benton, Director of External and International Fisheries Affairs for the Department of Fish and Game, said that the state's position is that they will do everything they can to seek an end to the interception of Alaska salmon. They are participating in an INPFC forum, they are pursuing agreements with the U.S.S.R. on a number of fronts regarding salmon interception, they are attending and providing technical support to the Department of Commerce and the Department of State in the the drift net negotiations that are being pursued with Taiwan, Korea, and Japan, and they are working with Congress to amend any domestic legislation that needs to be strengthened.

The governor has had personal communications with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation, and Admiral Yost of the Coast Guard. He has a resolution at the Western Governor's Conference on high seas salmon interception.

Mr. Benton said that Senator Binkley is a special advisor to the Bering Sea North Pacific Fisheries Advisory Group which advises the State Department on U.S. - U.S.S.R. fisheries relations. Mr. Benton said they felt that the State Department was not being aggressive on that forum, and therefore the advisory group was formed.

Senator Binkley said the U.S.S.R. came to the meeting with a prepared document called the Convention For the Conversion of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean which calls for a multilateral agreement signed by the salmon producing countries of the Pacific (Japan, China, Soviet Union, United States, and Canada). Senator Binkley said that the U.S. was not very well prepared, because the State Department had not worked on drafting a document until the Alaska delegation showed up for the meetings.

Senator Binkley said that they did sign a memorandum of understanding regarding enforcement, although the U.S. Coast Guard was skeptical regarding cooperation of military agreements.As a result, he said, the message to the world is that two major super powers are serious about stopping pirating on the high seas.

Mr. Benton said the next U.S. - Soviet meeting is tentatively in May. Senator Binkley said the Soviets are enthused about moving on this issue.

Senator Coghill asked if they are working on getting some position papers together for the May meeting. Mr. Benton said they are definitely working on it. Senator Binkley said that they have to work through the State Department, because they run the show during international talks.

Mr. Benton said that the Soviets and the U.S. independently developed a draft salmon agreement based on similar principles - no fishing for salmon on the high seas outside the 200 mile zones for the contracting parties.

Mr. Benton said that the Soviet Union is planning on maintaining the Japanese quota on the highs seas at about the level they had last year. The Soviet Union has a treaty with Japan wherein they set the quotas for the Japanese directed high seas salmon fishery and charge them money. The U.S. tells them where they can fish and for how long, but there is no enforcement of it. The Soviets have planned to eventually phase the Japanese out of the high seas. Their intention is to move the mother ship fleet and the land based fleet back inside the 200 mile zones of the respective parties and also work out economic arrangements with the Japanese for building hatcheries and conducting joint ventures inside their twelve mile limit.

Senator Eliason asked if Alaska would have input into the State Department's position paper for the May meeting. Mr. Benton said they would review anything that came from the State Department drafters and he thought that Alaskans would be drafting a lot of that paper.

Mr. Benton went on to review the meeting in Sidney, B.C. with Japan and Canada under the INPFC. The purpose was to discuss the Japanese proposal to convert their mother ship fleet to a land based operation which would let the Japanese back into our 200 mile zone. He said there was concern that the Japanese were getting the impression that it would not be a difficult matter to get them an exemption so they could get back in the zone. There does appear to be a lot of opposition to that idea from Alaskans.

Number 609

Mr. Benton said we might get some observers on the Japanese squid drift net fleet.

The drift net talks with Taiwan and Korea resulted in the U.S. giving the Taiwanese an enforcement and monitoring package. They strongly objected; and we responded that they would be open to sanctioning under the Pelly amendment. Mr. Benton thought Taiwan and Korea are waiting to see what the Japanese are going to do.

The trade items subject to the Pelly amendment are worth $282,000 to Korea, $445,000,000 to Taiwan, and over $500,000,000 to Japan in 1987 figures.

Senator Binkley thanked the SEACOPS for all their efforts to bring salmon interception to the awareness of the public.

Number 755

Ron Leighton from Ketchikan said he had just returned from Washington D.C. where he talked to Ed Wilkes, the Ambassador to Fisheries, and Undersecretary of State Smith. They said they were trying to get Japan back into our 200 mile limit, because we broke the treaty. Mr. Leighton disagrees saying that we let them fish there on a temporary basis until they could secure a marine mammal permit; it took court action to kick them out. There is no reason to let them back in. Mr. Leighton said that if we want to maintain our relations with Russia, we won't let them back in where they can catch Russian fish.

Kate Troll from the Ketchikan Southeast Seiners Association relayed a message from their lobbyist in Washington D.C. who said we should not let the Japanese inside our 200 mile zone as a bargaining chip to get observers. We should take a strong stance and stop legal and illegal interception of our salmon.

Mark Tennant from Ketchikan said we need to enlarge awareness of this issue to other parts of the country, especially in Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho.

TAPE 1, SIDE 2
Number 001

Mr. Benton said that we need help from our Canadian patriots who are skirting the issue in confrontations with the Japanese.

Mr. Benton said the Coast Guard has told him they don't have the budget to enforce any interceptions and they will only deal with countries that we have boarding agreements with (just the Japanese). The same evening of their talk, he saw on the news that the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense had just entered into a joint agreement to use military surveillance equipment on drug interdiction, although they wouldn't allow its use for salmon interception. He thought public pressure might change that.

Senator Jones adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPTION
March 17, 1989
4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lloyd Jones, Co-Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENTT

Senator Johne Binkley, Co-Chairman
Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Mike Szymanski
Senator Fred Zharoff
Senator Jack Coghill

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Cheri Davis
Representative George Jacko
Representative Loren Leman

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Visit by Dick Smith, United States Fisheries Ambassador, on high seas salmon interception.

WITNESS REGISTER

Cindy Lowry, Regional Director
Greenpeace International Environmental Organization
P.O. Box 104432
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Grant Trask
P.O. Box 1333
Petersburg, Alaska

Debra Greenburg, Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 3002
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Chris Pace
General Delivery
Petersburg, Alaska

Pat Wood, Vice Chairman
SEACOPS
P.O. Box 2391
Sitka, Alaska

Harold Sparck
Box 267
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Val Angasan
Box 247
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Mark Tennant, President
SEACOPS, Ketchikan Chapter
700 Water Street
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Victoria McDonald
P.O. Box 556
Petersburg, Alaska

Bob Aloysius
P.O. Box 1775
Bethel, Alaska

Walt Pasternak
P.O. Box 830
Sitka, Alaska

Allen Pleus
301 B Gorge
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Paul Schreiber
box 231
Katlian M-6
Sitka, Alaska

Eric Jordan
103 Gibson Place
Sitka, Alaska

ACTION NARRATIVE
TAPE 1, SIDE 1
Number 001

Senator Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He introduced Dick Smith, Principal Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of State, who is on his way to fisheries talks in Japan.

Cindy Lowery, Alaska Regional Director for the Greenpeace International Environmental Organization, said they are concerned about the broad based ecological damage caused by the high seas salmon and squid drift net fisheries. She said they oppose allowing the Japanese drift net fishery to regain entry into our EEZ. She said any conversion plan proposed by the Japanese should not be allowed without

observers for by-catch and under no circumstances should they be allowed into the EEZ again. The environmental community is ready to fight in Congress to insure that the Magnuson Management Act is not amended to allow the reissuance of a marine mammal permit that would allow the Japanese drift net fishery to resume its destruction in the EEZ.

Mr. Smith said they are negotiating for the Japanese to regain the permit, because there is sufficient justification.

Grant Trask from Petersburg said he owns and operates the Hazel B and makes his sole living trolling for salmon. His income has decreased over the last three years, because of the lack of cohos. He urged the U.S. to work with the Russians and not to renew the permit for Japan. Mr. Trask criticized the Department of Fish and Game management of the fishery - ignoring the fact that the salmon are being pirated on the high seas.

Debra Greenburg, Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, said the Department has taken a very active role with the State Department to address the problems of high seas interception and they continue to do so.

Number 276

Chris Pace from Petersburg said he is against the agreement with Japan for moral reasons. If we let them back in they will be taking our salmon along with Soviet salmon. Didn't we just meet with the Soviets to agree to stop them? He said he has seen bird populations decrease as well as porpoise and fish. He is convinced the depletion is from high seas drift nets.

Mr. Smith said that they have been working closely with the Soviets and their position is that there should be no high seas drift net fishery and they are working toward that end.

Pat Wood, Vice Chairman of SEACOPS in Sitka, says the high seas drift net fisheries of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan are having a catastrophic affect on the entire marine ecosystem of the central and north Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. A severe economic hardship is being placed on both fishermen and processors. Much has been documented. Because the net caught fish are being sold to our markets, our prices have fallen drastically.

Harold Spark from Anchorage said that Japanese compliance with treaties with the U.S. and Soviet Union has been poor in the past. The Japanese government does not monitor its

own fishermen at sea, therefore there are many violations. They have been caught underlogging and disguising their catch at sea while fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The Soviets are limiting the Japanese allocation of salmon. Mr. Spark said he does not support any more concessions to the Japanese of our salmon at sea. He also said the Japanese told Kemp Processors they expect the Soviets to eliminate the mothership allocation this year, decrease the tonnage from the land-based fleet, and increase the market for Soviet J.V. exports and U.S. exports.

Number 595

Val Angasan from Dillingham said he does not agree with letting the Japanese back into our EEZ. Nobody supports using the Bering Sea as a sacrifice for getting action on the squid fleets.

Number 632

Mark Tennant, President of SEACOPS in Ketchikan, said there is no justification for interception of the U.S. origin fish. They do not support letting the Japanese back into the EEZ. He does not know what benefits Mr. Smith thinks could justify that decision. The Japanese threat of retaliation might be a bluff, because according to his balance of trade figures, the Japanese have a lot more to loose that the U.S. in the area of trade sanctions.

TAPE 1, SIDE 2
Number 001

Mr. Tennant said that he thought the impact of high seas interception is spreading. The moral outrage of our nation is rapidly growing. He said there is considerable unhappiness among the people he represents about the way the State Department is handling the negotiations in the past.

Mr. Tennant asked Mr. Smith if he agrees that large amounts of salmon are being taken illegally on the high seas and if he agrees that the Japanese have a right to harvest our fish. Mr. Smith said they are interested in protecting the U.S. resources' interests. He said the efforts they are making are to reduce interceptions, not increase them. They are looking for ways of getting better cooperation with the problems of enforcement and monitoring.

Mr. Smith said that high seas interception has to be phased out, simply because the fish belong to different nations. He said the Japanese have an existing fishery which they have a right to fish; but, under international law they have to eliminate those interceptions of salmon from other nations.

Mr. Tennant asked for a more decisive answer. He said we don't catch Japanese fish; they don't have a right to harvest our fish. Mr. Smith said the Japanese do not have a right to harvest U.S. salmon. He read article 66 of the Law of the Sea Convention which refers to anadromous stocks.

Number 235

Victoria McDonald from Petersburg said she didn't want him to trade off our fish. Mr. Smith said they are trying to get Japanese cooperation. Right now it is a question of trying to come up with arrangements that minimize the taking of our fish.

Bob Aloysius is a native Alaskan from Bethel who represents 18,000 people who live a subsistence life style and 900 fishermen who make their living from the commercial harvest of salmon. He said the foreign fishermen are robbing us blind. He urged Mr. Smith to take care of his own people (U.S. citizens). He said they depend on salmon for their life style and for their living. They, as natives, entrusted the care of their lives to a government that has repeatedly given the fish away.

Number 505

Walt Pasternak from Sitka said he is not in favor of letting the Japanese back into the EEZ. He said they have no track record at all of wanting to help us with the problem of high seas interception. He supports all the countries whose fish navigate the high seas getting together and signing an agreement to outlaw high seas gillnetting. This has been going on since the 1950's and it has wiped out salmon streams all over Alaska to say nothing of what it's done to streams in other countries. He said factory trawlers are destroying habitat also. He urged Mr. Smith to see about getting increased U.S. presence in the North Pacific to keep an eye on our "friends." He suggested the U.S. institute trade sanctions with Taiwan and Korea.

Allen Pleus from Ketchikan works in the SEACOPS office and is a fishing guide. He related his catch decline over a number of years to support the fact of interception. He is outraged at the wholesale destruction of the ecology by the high seas drift net fleet.

Number 505

Paul Schreiber from Sitka wanted to reinforce not letting the Japanese back into the EEZ. He said they manipulate the whole fisheries economic structure owning canneries here, too.

Eric Jordan from Sitka said the State Department needs to support an international conference to set up conservation and allocation reviews for high seas fishery resources wherever they are. He said we need to enact enforcement measures that already exist as part of the Magnuson Act and other Acts to restrict imports from countries not willing to participate in international conservation regimes for the high seas. We need to sponsor a move to invite the Russians to join us in the INPFC. We need to seek Russian support for multilateral efforts to eliminate interceptions of North Pacific salmon by the high seas gillnetters. The State Department needs to support funding for the U.S. and the conservation organizations such as SEACOPS efforts to document the extent of the problem. We need to recognize that while the legalities of rights to high seas interception is shady, it is not morally right, it is not conservatively right, and it is not ethically right to steal our salmon. It's absolutely unconscionable for the State Department and Clem Tillion and others to talk about renegotiating the reentry of the Japanese into our exclusive economic zone. That needs to be discarded immediately. In conclusion, he said we are waiting with increasing impatience for the President and Secretary of State Baker to take a lead in establishing a clear priority to protect American salmon from Asian pirates.

Harold Sparck from Anchorage said that the U.S. did not sign the Law of the Sea, although we agreed with it. He asked Mr. Smith if the State Department is taking the position that we have a responsibility not to economically dislocate the Japanese after 12 additional years of fishing our stocks? Mr. Smith said he was going to stop trying to deal with the legalities of it. Their position is that they will continue to take actions that will reduce interceptions of North American salmon with a view towards ending high seas salmon fishing.

Mr. Smith said he appreciated this opportunity and it was helpful for him to hear directly from the people who are affected by the discussions he'll be having and he will carry those views with him to Japan.

Senator Jones thanked Mr. Smith for his time and adjourned the meeting at 5:30 P.M.