

**HB**

**409**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/31/04

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4-28-04

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 409(FSH)

## HB 409 SEINE VESSEL LENGTH

"An Act relating to the maximum length of salmon seine vessels; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS HB 409 (FSH)

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>Senate Bill:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<b>House Bill:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
F+G	2/5/04			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Frank [Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>R. S. [Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>Joseph [Signature]</i>			✓	
<i>Ralph [Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>Scott [Signature]</i>			✓	

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 409(FSH)  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/18/04

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title Relating to the Maximum Length of RDU Commercial Fisheries  
Salmon Seine Vessels Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Representative Williams Component No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requester House Fisheries

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
 Passage of this legislation would have no fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Sarah Gilbertson Phone 465-6137  
 Division Legislative Liaison Date/Time 2/5/04 1:26 PM  
 Approved by: Commissioner Kevin Duffy Date 2/5/2004  
 Agency Alaska Department of Fish & Game

# Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Subcommittee Chair  
Environmental Conservation  
Courts



*Representative William K. Williams*

During Session:  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3424  
Fax (907) 465-3793

In Ketchikan:  
50 Front Street, Suite 203  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 247-4672  
Fax (907) 225-8546

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### House Fisheries Committee Substitute for House Bill 409

**“An Act relating to the maximum length of salmon seine vessels; and providing for an effective date.”**

House Bill 409 removes the statutory prohibition for the length of salmon seine vessels and leaves the authority to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The bill **does not** remove the 58-foot length limit; it simply gives the Board of Fisheries the authority to go through its normal public process to consider such a change.

This bill will put salmon seine vessels on the same footing as all other commercial fishing boats in the state. At present, the 58-foot limit on salmon seiners is the only length limit for salmon fisheries that is enshrined in statute. The length and size of all other fishing boats can be changed by the Board of Fisheries.

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

**LEGAL SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA**

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

**MEMORANDUM**

February 17, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary of CSHB 409(FSH); An Act relating to the maximum length of salmon seine vessels (Work Order No. 23-LS1328\Q)

**TO:** Representative Bill Williams  
Attn: Tim Barry

**FROM:** George Utermohle *GU*  
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of CSHB 409(FSH); an Act relating to the maximum length of salmon seine vessels.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill is not an authoritative interpretation of the bill. The bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 of the bill amends AS 16.05.835(a) to provide that the maximum length of a vessel that may be used in a salmon seine fishery in the state is 58 feet overall length (except for certain grandfathered vessels that fished in the state prior to January 1, 1962) unless the Board of Fisheries has authorized by regulation the use of a larger vessel in the fishery.

Section 2 of the bill provides that the bill takes effect January 1, 2005.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:mdr  
04-050.mdr

**Subject: HB 409**

**Date: Thu, 5 Feb 2004 18:21:24 EST**

**From: Scooski@aol.com**

**To: Rep\_Paul\_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us**

**CC: Rep\_Bill\_Williams@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Represe Seaton:

I support **HB, 409**. Meeting the challenges of today's markets requires modernizing our seine fleets. For the following reasons **HB, 409 the 58 foot limit bill** is good legislation at the right time.

**Abstract:**

Alaska's salmon net fisheries were tooled for a canned salmon industry that developed at the turn of the last century. Due to complex market conditions beyond the control of fishermen, old regulations such as the 58 foot seine boat limit, limits the potential of Alaska's seine fishermen to maximize the earning power of their operations. Providing for larger vessels will increase individual capacities for volume and improve quality.

**Specifically:**

**HB, 409** will provide fishermen enough deck space for primary processing -- sorting, grading and bleeding to improve quality for fresh and frozen salmon products. As seiners harvest the majority of Alaska's pink salmon, this bill will help move Alaska's pink salmon production out of cans and into other more modern product forms.

Thank you for your considerations in this matter.

Scott McAllister.

Alaskan purseiner.

316 Ave.

Juneau, Alaska, 99801



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

March 9, 2004

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172  
(907) 586-2820  
(907) 463-2545 Fax  
E-Mail: [ufa@ufa-fish.org](mailto:ufa@ufa-fish.org)  
[www.ufa-fish.org](http://www.ufa-fish.org)

Senator Con Bunde, Chairman  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Bunde,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports HB 409 relating to the statute removal of the 58' length of salmon seine vessels. We strongly believe the maximum vessel length limit should be rendered under the authority of the Board of Fisheries allowing each salmon seine fishery to decide whether to pursue retaining or removing the 58' limit. As the limit is currently included in regulation, HB 409 will not cause immediate change.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 33 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations and hundreds of individual fishermen and fishing related businesses, altogether representing over 10,000 Alaska fishermen. We support HB 409 and thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinscl  
Executive Director

CC: Representative Bill Williams

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Druggers Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association  
Bristol Bay Reserve • Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association • Chignik Salmon Association • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Crab Rationalization and Buyback Group • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Groundfish Forum • Ketchikan Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association  
Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Pacific Scallop Cooperative • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
Old Harbor Fishermen's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association  
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Sainers Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
United Catcher Boats • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

Scott McAllister  
Seine Fisherman  
316 Distan Ave.  
Juneau Alaska, 99801

Alaska Senate Resources  
Chairman, Scott Ogan

### HB 409 Testimony

Last Wednesday questions were raised about increased efficiencies for seiners if the 58 foot seine boat limit is lifted. The answer is yes, there will be efficiency gains with larger fishing boats capable of fishing in rougher weather and extended fishing trips. However, these traits also enhance the safety, fish quality and profitability of larger fishing boats.

As to the concern that bigger boats will allow seiners to fish longer and harder in interception fisheries as was expressed by committee members for Shelikof Straits when high incidents of Cook Inlet sockeye are present, these are issues that the Alaska Board of Fisheries is authorized and equipped to deal with. More to the point, the board has already adopted regulations that limit these interceptions of red salmon destined for Cook Inlet in Shelikof Strait.

5AAC18.363, the "North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan" requires limited fishing time in Shelikof Strait when Cook Inlet sockeye are present. A copy of this management plan is attached.

The board employs three tools to regulate such allocations, time, area and gear. All salmon allocation management plans employ one or more of these three factors and it would be difficult to foresee a situation where the board could not remedy an allocation imbalance with one of these three variables. If necessary, vessel size may be compensated for with any one or combination of these three.

Sincerely,

  
Scott McAllister



✚ **5 AAC 18.363. North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan**

✚ (a) The purpose of the North Shelikof Strait Sockeye Salmon Management Plan is to allow traditional fisheries in the area to be conducted on Kodiak Area salmon stocks, while minimizing the directed harvest of Cook Inlet sockeye salmon stocks. The board recognizes that some incidental harvest of other stocks has and will occur in this area while the seine fishery is managed for Kodiak Area salmon stocks. The board intends, however, to prevent a repetition of the non-traditional harvest pattern which occurred during 1988.

(b) From July 6 through July 25 in the Dakavak Bay, Outer Kukak Bay, Inner Kukak Bay, Hallo Bay, and Big River Sections of the Mainland District, and in the Shuyak Island and Northwest Afognak Sections of the Afognak District, the department shall manage the fishery as follows:

(1) management of the fishery must be based on local stocks;

(2) the fishery may remain open during normal fishing periods until the harvest exceeds 15,000 sockeye salmon;

(3) when the harvest exceeds 15,000 sockeye salmon, the department shall restrict the fishery by emergency order to waters of the

(A) Dakavak Bay, Outer Kukak Bay, Inner Kukak Bay, Hallo Bay, and Big River Sections west of a line from Cape Douglas at 58° 51.10' N. lat., 153° 15.10' W. long., to a point at 58° 42.90' N. lat., 153° 25.95' W. long., to a point east of Swikshak River at 58° 37.97' N. lat., 153° 35.55' W. long., to Cape Chiniak at 58° 30.96' N. lat., 153° 54.50' W. long., to Cape Nukshak at 58° 23.50' N. lat., 153° 58.90' W. long., to Cape Ugyak at 58° 16.55' N. lat., 154° 06.15' W. long., to Cape Gull at 58° 13.04' N. lat., 154° 08.60' W. long., to Cape Kuliak at 58° 08.10' N. lat., 154° 12.30' W. long., to Cape Atushagvik at 58° 05.00' N. lat., 154° 18.90' W. long., to Cape Ilktugitak at 58° 01.17' N. lat., 154° 35.00' W. long., to the southern entrance of Dakavak Bay at 58° 01.00' N. lat., 154° 43.60' W. long.;

(B) Shuyak Island and Northwest Afognak Sections south and east of a line from Point Banks at 58° 37.95' N. lat., 152° 18.90' W. long., to Dark Island at 58° 38.72' N. lat., 152° 33.15' W. long., to Gull Island at 58° 35.80' N. lat., 152° 38.70' W. long., to the northern entrance of Big Bay at 58° 33.85' N. lat., 152° 40.30' W. long., to the western entrance of Blue Fox Bay at 58° 27.68' N. lat., 152° 43.65' W. long., to Black Cape at 58° 24.50' N. lat., 152° 53.30' W. long., to Cape Paramanof at 58° 18.33' N. lat., 153° 02.65' W. long.

(c) From July 6 through July 25 in the Southwest Afognak Section of the Afognak District, the department shall manage the fishery as follows:

(1) management of the fishery must be based on local stocks consistent with 5 AAC 18.362(d) (3);

(2) the fishery may remain open during normal fishing periods until the harvest exceeds 50,000 sockeye salmon;

(3) when the harvest exceeds 50,000 sockeye salmon, the commissioner shall restrict, by emergency order, the fishery to waters of the Southwest Afognak Section east of a line from one-half nautical mile west of Cape Paramanof at 58° 18.33' N. lat., 153° 02.65' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of Tanaak Cape at 58° 15.53' N. lat., 153° 06.25' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of Steep Cape at 58° 12.05' N. lat., 153° 12.65' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of a point at 58° 08.38' N. lat., 153° 19.00' W. long., to one-half nautical mile west of Raspberry Cape at 58° 03.58' N. lat., 153° 25.20' W. long.

✚ **History:** Eff. 4/19/90, Register 114; am 4/14/93, Register 126; am 6/15/96, Register 138

✚ **Authority:** AS 16.05.060

AS 16.05.251



---

# **Testimony of Scott McAllister**

HB 409 Relating to the 58 foot seine boat limit.

Scott McAllister

Phone 907 586 3071

316 Distin Ave

Email [scooski@aol.com](mailto:scooski@aol.com)

Juneau, Alaska 99801

---

---

## **Testimony of Scott McAllister**

HB 409 Relating to the 58 foot seine boat limit.

### **In Support of HB 409**

In support of HB 409, it is time to modernize Alaska's salmon harvest by providing for larger seine vessels so fishermen may increase the quality and value of their catch.

Better than half of all Alaska's commercial salmon harvest is caught by seiners. Most of these fish are processed into canned and crude frozen product forms that fetch low prices in today's market.

The development of seine fishing early in the last century centered around canned salmon and about the time of statehood, the sardine fleets of California were looking to Alaskan salmon fisheries as the sardine resources failed. To protect Alaskan fleets from an invasion of California sardine seiners, the 58 foot limit was instituted at this time.

Since then, over forty years ago, farm salmon has set new standards for quality in markets and canned salmon has a dwindling market share. Today the lack of space aboard Alaskan seine boats prevents proper handling of the majority of Alaska's harvest preventing the industry from moving beyond the can and into quality fresh and frozen markets. Providing more space for sorting and bleeding while fish are still alive and proper "rigor sensitive" stowing capacities is central to improving quality and returning seine fishermen higher ex-vessel prices. Lifting the 58 foot limit will provide for the necessary space to meet these needs.

The attached photos show the current layout and use of deck space and fish holding capacity on a typical Alaska limit seine boat. They are intended to demonstrate that the space aboard an Alaskan seiner is fully utilized and more space is needed for processing and holding so fishermen may improve quality and streamline the flow of salmon from the water into the processing plants.

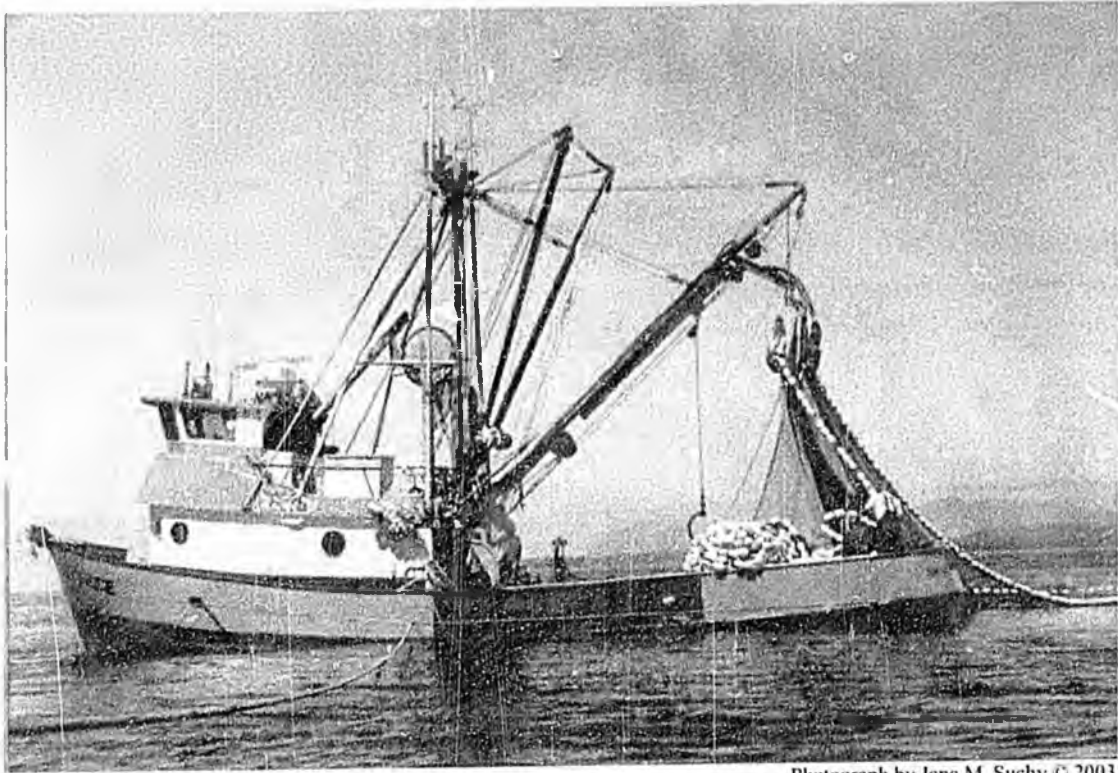
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Scott McAllister.

---

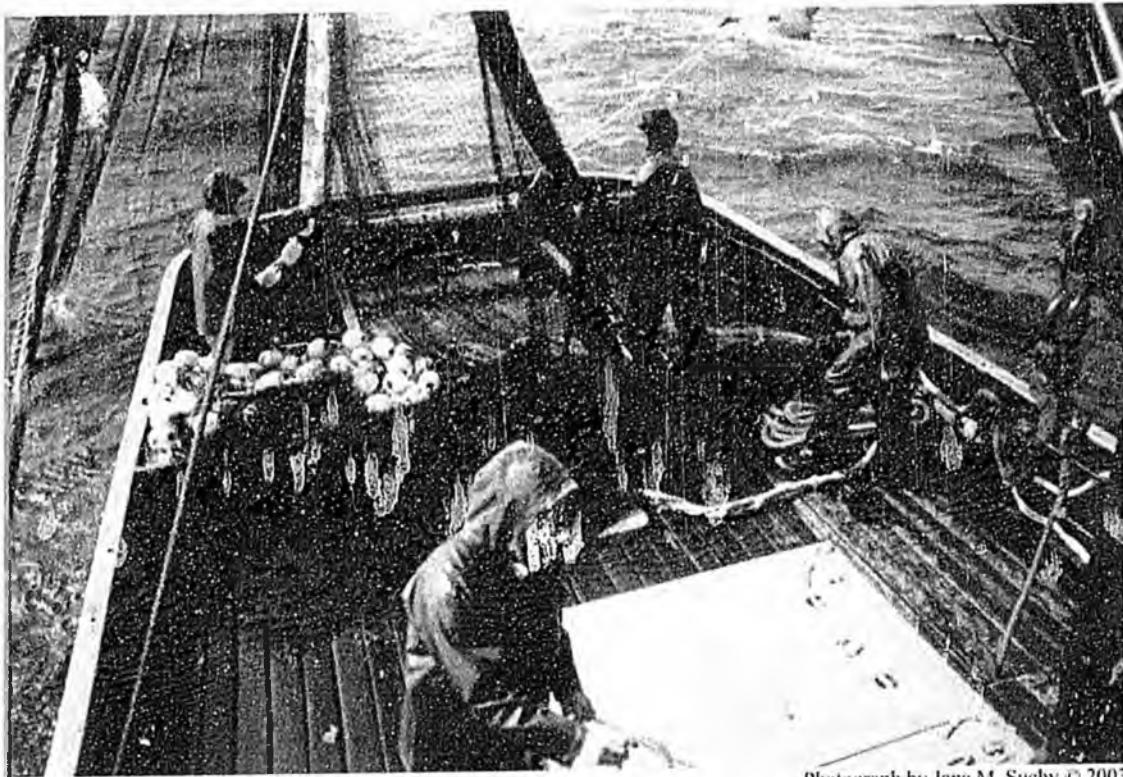
# THE DECKS OF A TYPICAL SEINER

Illustrations I-II



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Cabin deck | Work deck | Gear deck



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

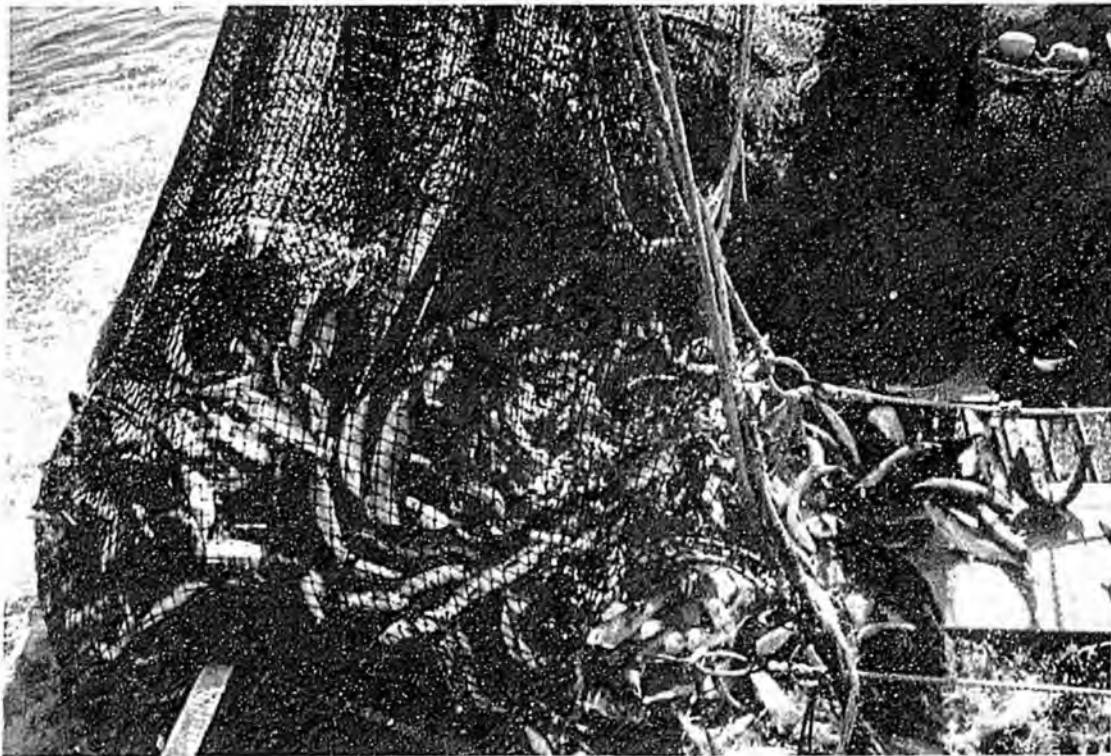
Gear deck

---

Work deck

# TYPICAL LOADING AND STOWING OF FISH ON A SEINER

Illustrations III-IV



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Rolling fish aboard and into the RSW fish hold.



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Bloody RSW

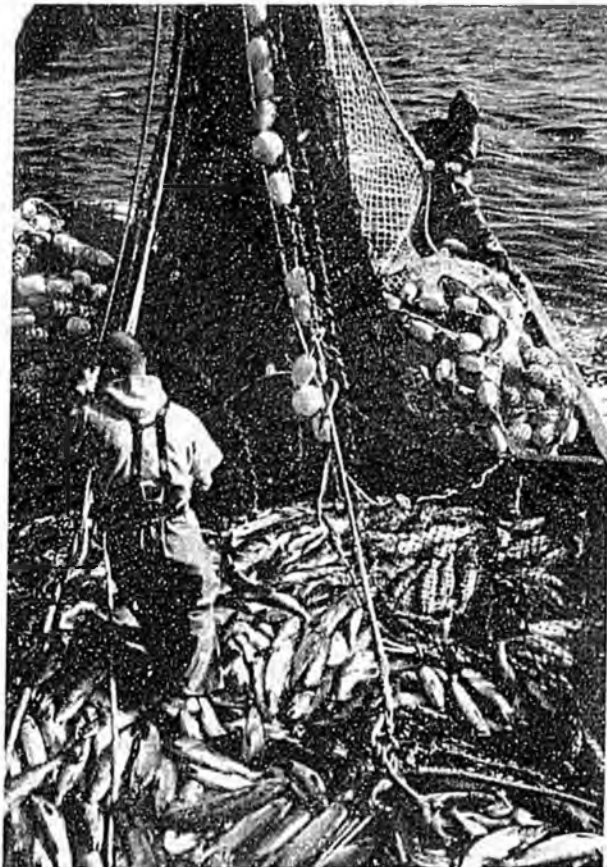
## THE WORK DECK OF A FULL SEINER

Illustrations V-VI



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Full RSW fish hold.

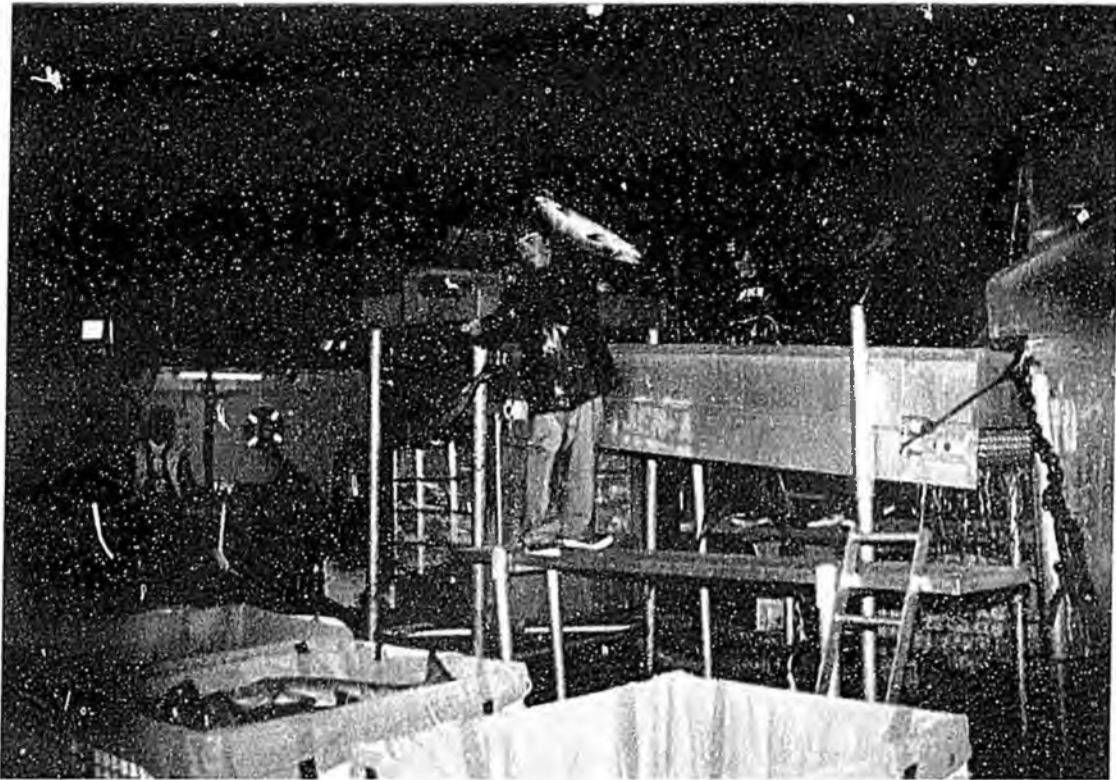


Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Working over deck load.

## UNLOADING TO TENDER

Illustrations VII-VIII



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Sorting catch.

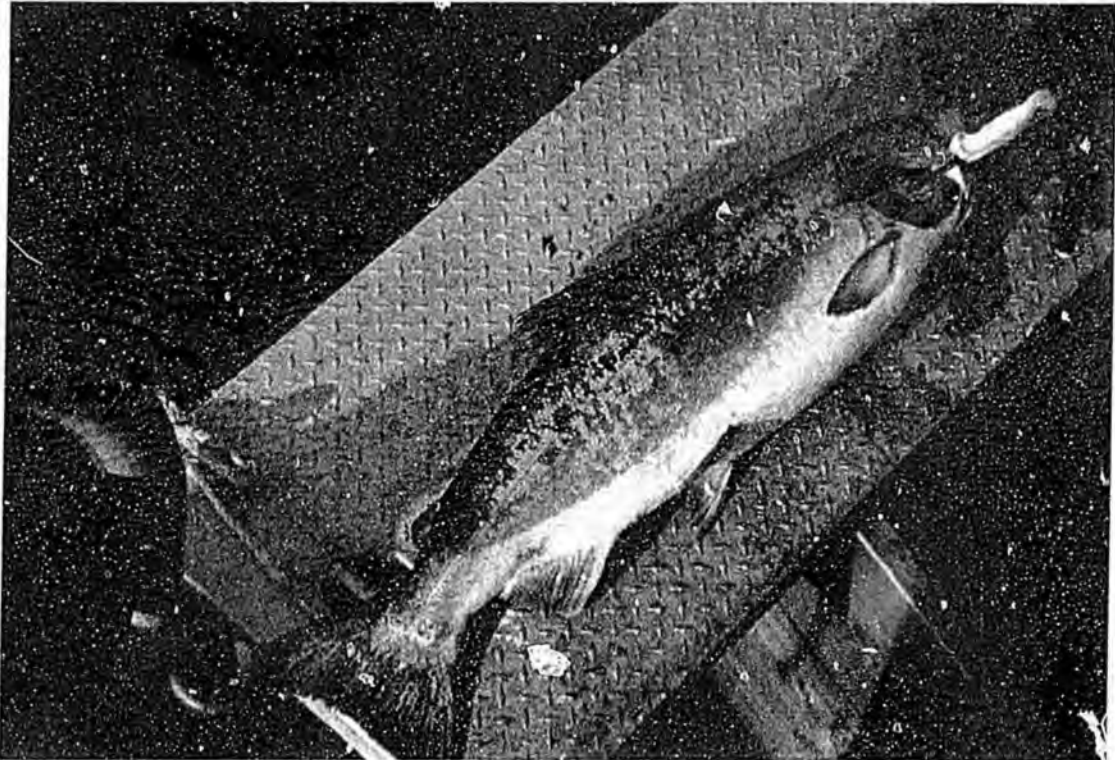


Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Fish pump and sorting table.

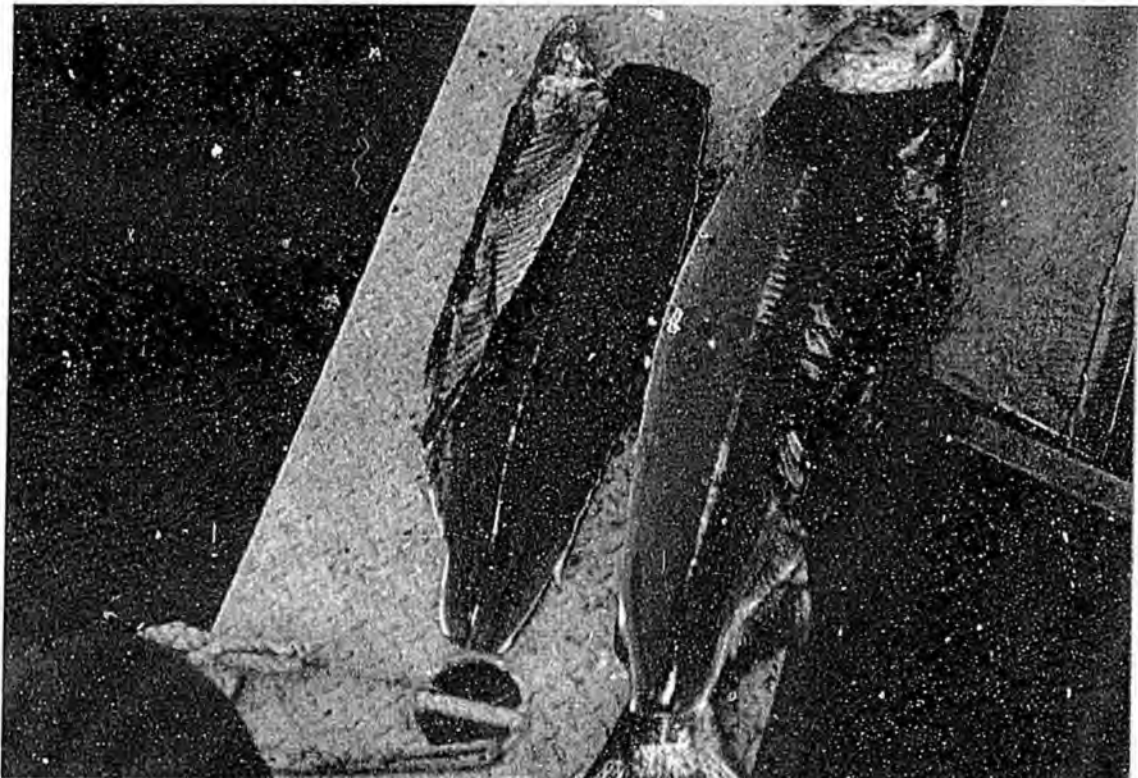
## QUALITY PROBLEMS

Illustrations IX-X



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

20 lb. King after pumping and sorting.

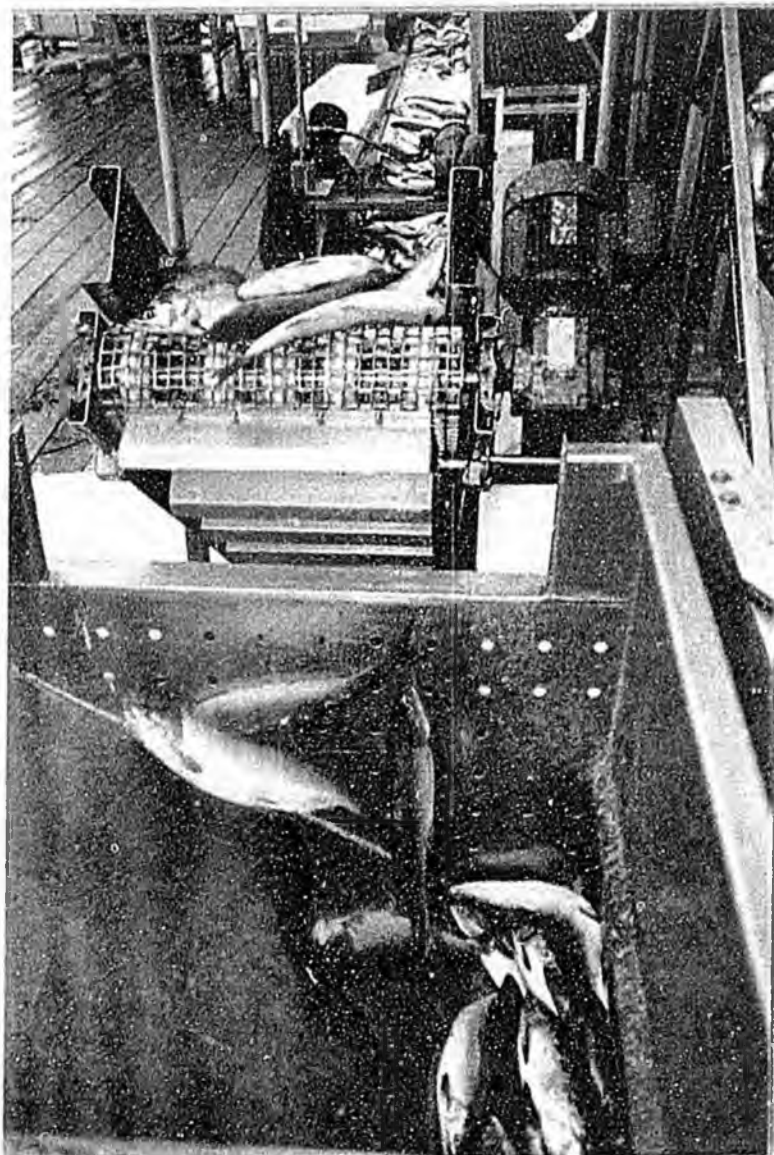


Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Gaping and bruising.

## PROCESSOR DECK

Illustrations XI



Photograph by Jana M. Suchy © 2003

Rough handling on the dock.