

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILE 8672

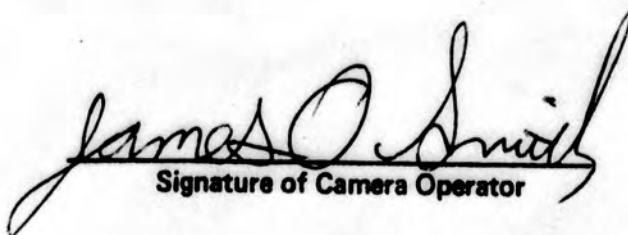
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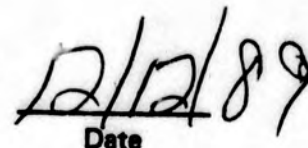


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Special Committee on Fisheries

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October 10, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Herrmann &
Melvin Monsen

FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg
Legislative Aide

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

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

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

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

TREATY TALKS

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

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

Salmon Treaty, Update

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Ted Kronmiller from the State Department resigned and has been replaced by Ed Woolf.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

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

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

PRELIMINARY HARVEST LEVELS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PRELIMINARY INSEASON SUMMARY OF
1983 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON TROLL FISHERY**

September 17, 1983

Southeast Region Staff

**Division of Commercial Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

IMPORTANT NOTE

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SALMON CATCH DATA REPORTED IN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED VERY PRELIMINARY AS IT IS BASED ON INITIAL INSEASON TABULATION OF FISH TICKETS AND INCLUDES SOME PROJECTIONS FOR MOST RECENT PERIODS WHEN FISH TICKETS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. REVISIONS WILL OCCUR AS LATE ARRIVING TICKETS ARE COMPILED AND THE DATA IS EDITED FOR ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS. HOWEVER, CATCH DATA REPORTED IS BELIEVED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY ACCURATE TO INDICATE GENERAL FISHERY PERFORMANCE TO DATE.

PRELIMINARY INSEASON SUMMARY OF
1983 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SALMON TROLL FISHERY

Chinook Salmon Fishery

1. Preliminary inseason reports indicate approximately 270,000 chinook salmon were harvested by the Southeast Alaska troll fishery during the 1983 season (Table 1). Of this total, approximately 30,000 fish were taken during the winter fishery - October 1, 1982 through April 14, 1983 - and 240,000 during the summery fishery May 15 through August 4. Combined with an estimated 20,000 incidental catch by gillnet and seine fisheries, this yielded a total commercial chinook salmon harvest of approximately 290,000.
2. By comparison, the preliminary 1983 commercial harvest of 290,000 chinook salmon was approximately the same as the 1982 catch of 291,000 (Figure 1, Table 2). By gear the estimated 1983 troll catch of 270,000 exceeded the 1982 troll catch of 242,000 by 28,000 fish or 12 percent while the estimated 1983 incidental net catch of 20,000 was 29,000 fish or 59 percent below the 1982 net catch of 49,000. Compared to other recent years the 1983 commercial chinook harvest was about 9 percent or 28,000 fish below the 1970-82 average of 318,000 (Figure 2). Catches in 8 of the 13 years exceeded the 1983 catch, 3 were about the same and only two - 1981 and 1976 - were less.

3. During the 1983 summer troll fishery season (defined by regulation as May 15 through September 20), the fishery was open a total of 60 days for chinook salmon fishing. This consisted of two open periods - a 25 day open period from May 15 through June 8 and a 35 day open period from July 1 through August 4. The troll fishery was closed to chinook salmon fishing from June 9 through June 30 and August 5 through September 30 for a total of 109 days. As seen in Figure 3 and Table 3, 5 fewer open days were allowed in 1983 than the significantly restricted 1982 season and, 1983 was in fact the shortest chinook season on record for the troll fishery since it began.
4. Following a 10-day closure from August 5 through 14, the troll fishery was reopened for all species except chinook salmon. From August 15 through September 20 the troll fishery targetted primarily on coho salmon harvesting about 450,000 for an estimated total season catch of nearly 1.3 million. During the period August 15 through September 20 trollers were required to release chinook salmon hooked incidentally while fishing for other species. To help minimize the incidence of chinook hook and release during this period, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game closed four areas along the outer coast which had been identified as areas of probable high chinook abundance. The federal

Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ), consisting primarily of that area beyond 3 miles of the outer coast line, was closed to all fishing from July 21 to the end of the season except for four FCZ enclaves in Cross Sound, Sitka Sound, Lower Chatham Straits and Summer Straits which were reopened to all species except chinook beginning August 15 to facilitate the coho harvest in those areas. Fishermen were also encouraged by ADF&G and the Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) to avoid remaining open areas where chinook abundance was highest and to utilize gear and fishing techniques most selective to coho salmon. ATA provided fishermen with a leaflet handout indicating areas to avoid and fishing techniques to use. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with ATA, conducted an observer program utilizing 3 ADF&G observers and approximately 10 fishermen observers to document incidental chinook hooking rates. Preliminary data from this program plus fishermen observations suggests that the rate of incidental hook and release of chinook salmon was much less in 1983 than 1982. This also tends to be substantiated by the much lower incidental chinook harvest by net fisheries in 1983.

5. Chinook salmon escapements to nine Southeast Alaska index systems were variable in 1983 (Table 4). Spawning was extremely weak in two of the major systems, the Taku and

Stikine. (Poor returns to the lake had been expected in 1983 due to landslides which occurred during the 1978-79 winter). Although 1983 escapements were about 20 percent below 1982 levels in the Unuk and King Salmon Rivers they remained well above 1975-80 averages. Escapements were above 1982 levels in the Alsek, Situk, Chickamin, Blossum and Keta rivers.

6. Sampling of troll caught chinook and coho salmon for coded wire tags remained high again in 1983 with at least 30 percent of the chinook and 25 percent of the coho being sampled. Net fishery catches were also sampled.

Coho Salmon Fishery

1. Nearly 1.3 million coho salmon were harvested during the 1983 troll coho salmon season which began July 1 (Table 1). While the coho season normally opens June 15 by regulation, in 1983 the troll fishery was closed to all fishing June 9-30 for chinook salmon management purposes. The effect of the two week delay on the coho season opening was considered minimal as less than 5 percent of the season coho harvest normally occurs during this period with most of that catch being taken in outer coastal areas. The 1983 coho season which consisted of a 35 day open period July 1 - August 4, a 10-day closed period August 5-14 and 37 day open period

August 15 through September 20 was similar ... duration to the 1980, 1981 and 1982 seasons. The 10-day mid-season closure has been implemented since 1980 to allow more coho to reach inside areas.

2. The 1983 troll coho salmon harvest of nearly 1.3 million fish will rank as the third largest on record since 1951 when catch was first reported by gear type. The 1982 catch of 1.33 million ranks second with the 2.0 million catch of 1951 ranking first (Figure 4).
3. The total commercial coho salmon catch for 1983 is expected to total approximately 1.9 million including a seine harvest of about 350,000 and a gillnet harvest of about 300,000. For commercial catch by all gear this would rank 1983 as the third largest since 1951.
4. Federal waters in the Fishery Conservation Zone were closed to the harvest of all salmon species including coho from July 21 through August 14. From August 15 through September 20 the FCZ remained closed except for the four FCZ enclaves into inside waters as previously discussed. The FCZ closure to all species was intended to prevent further chinook salmon harvest in federal waters and the hook and release of chinook expected if the FCZ were open to species other than chinook. Federal managers felt that complete closure of the

FCZ would not significantly hinder the troll harvest of coho salmon as the fleet could redistribute into state waters. Adequate coho salmon harvest rates did subsequently occur.

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FIGURES AND TABLES

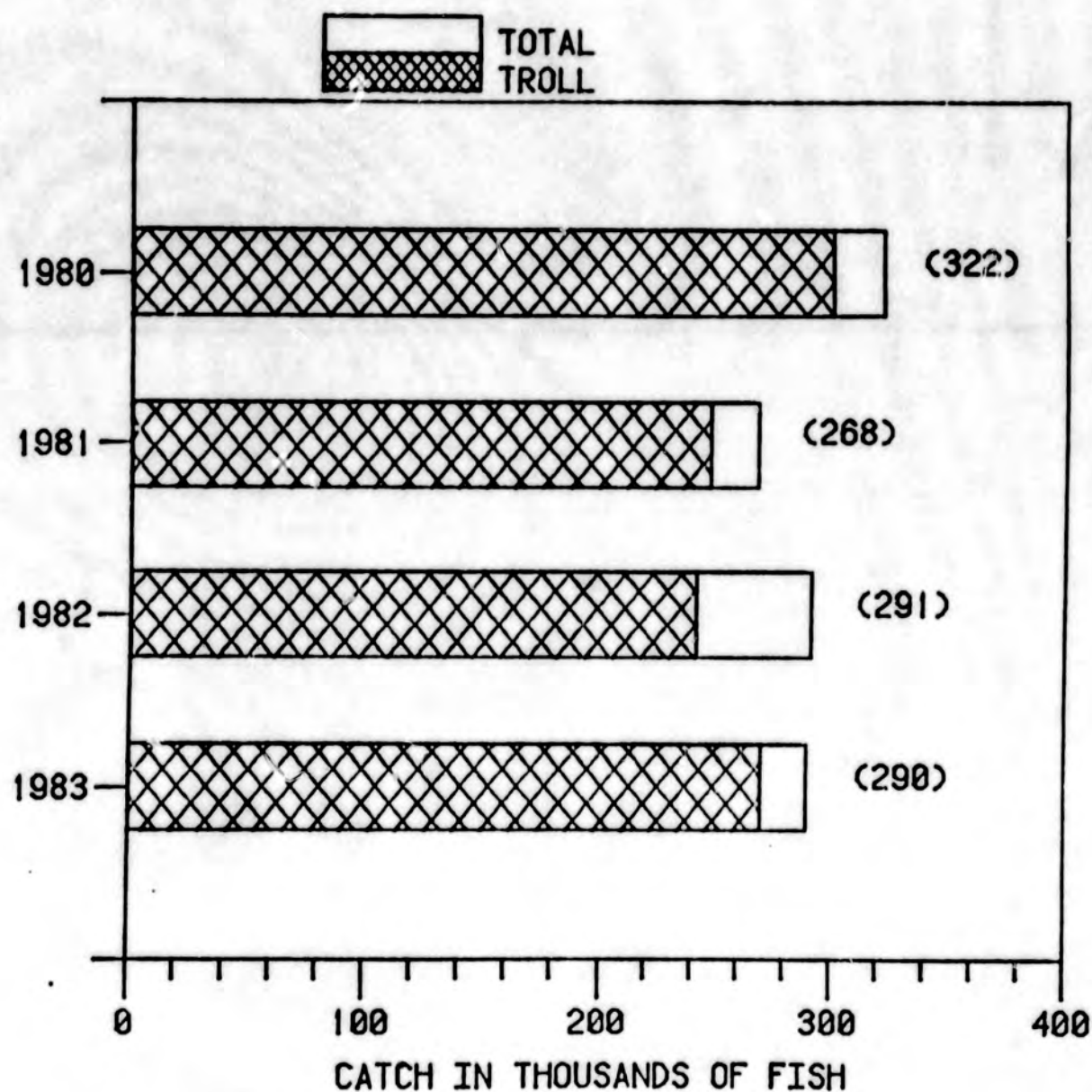


FIGURE 1. SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION COMMERCIAL CHINOOK SALMON HARVEST BY TROLL AND ALL COMMERCIAL GEAR, 1980-83. (ADF&G 9/17/83)

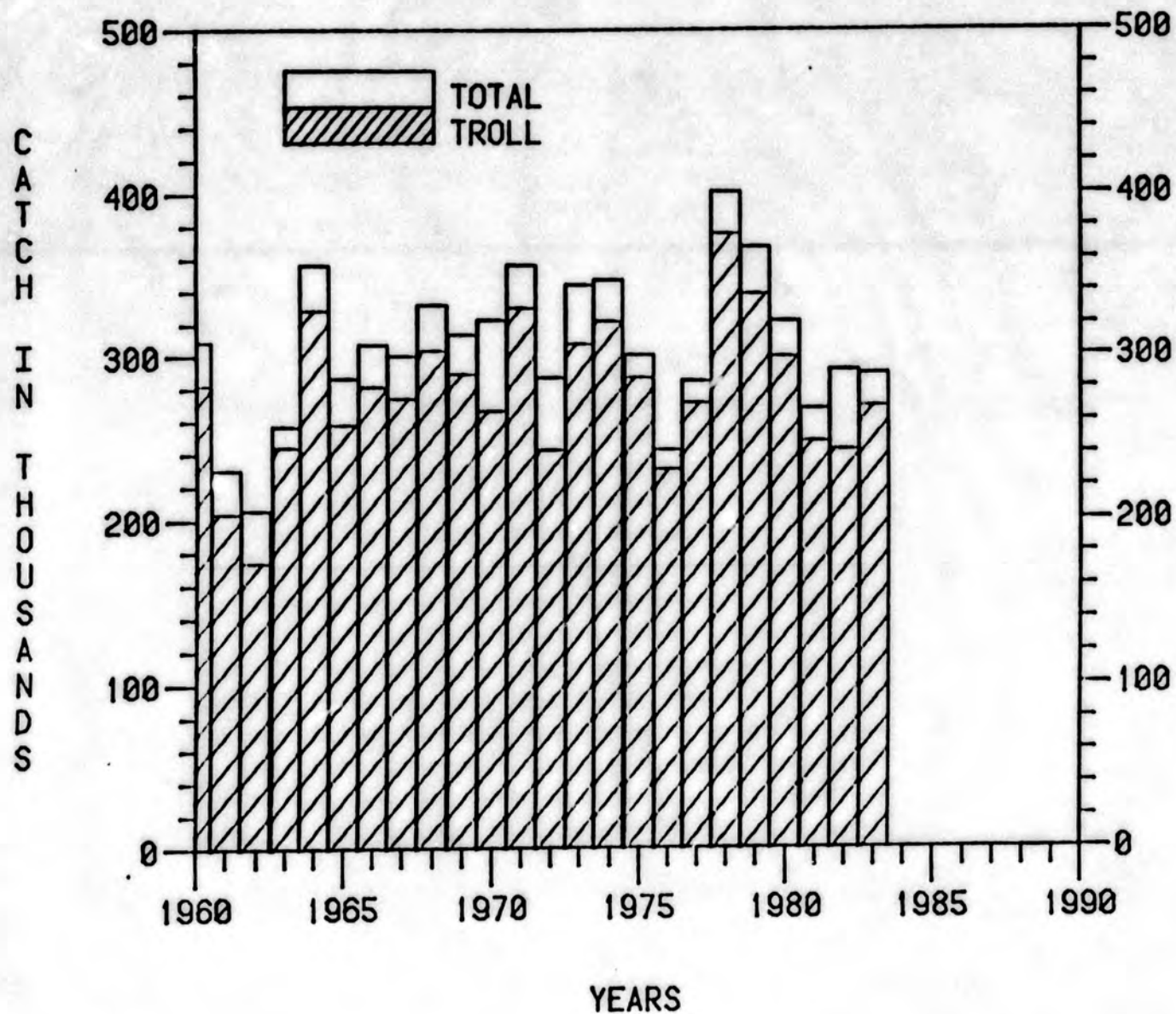


FIGURE 2. SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION TOTAL CHINOOK SALMON CATCHES BY TROLL AND ALL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, 1960-83. (ADF&G 9/83)

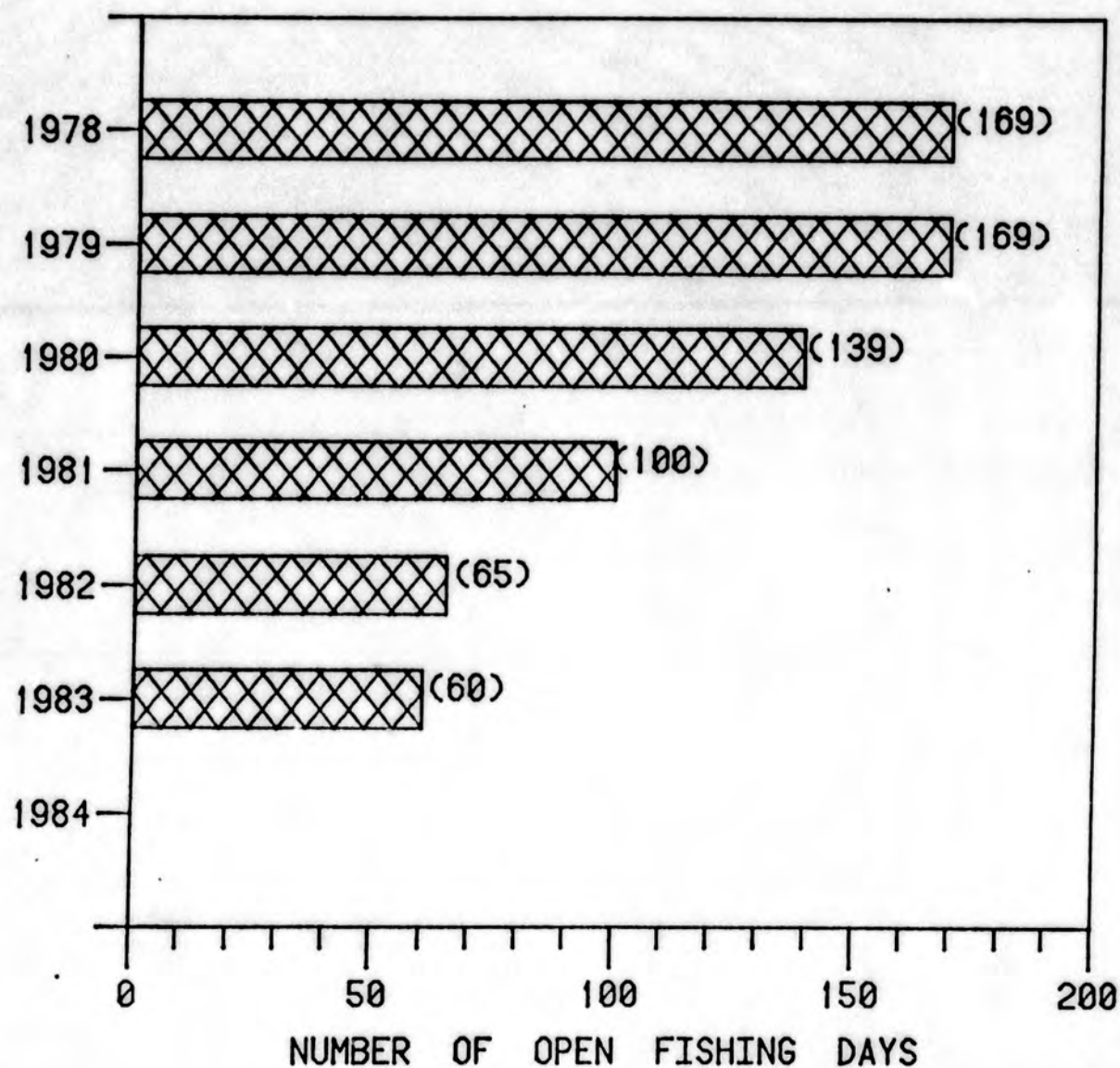


FIGURE 3 . NUMBER OF DAYS SOUTHEAST ALASKA TROLL FISHERY OPEN TO CHINOOK SALMON FISHING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON APRIL 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1978-83 (ADF&G 7/23/83)

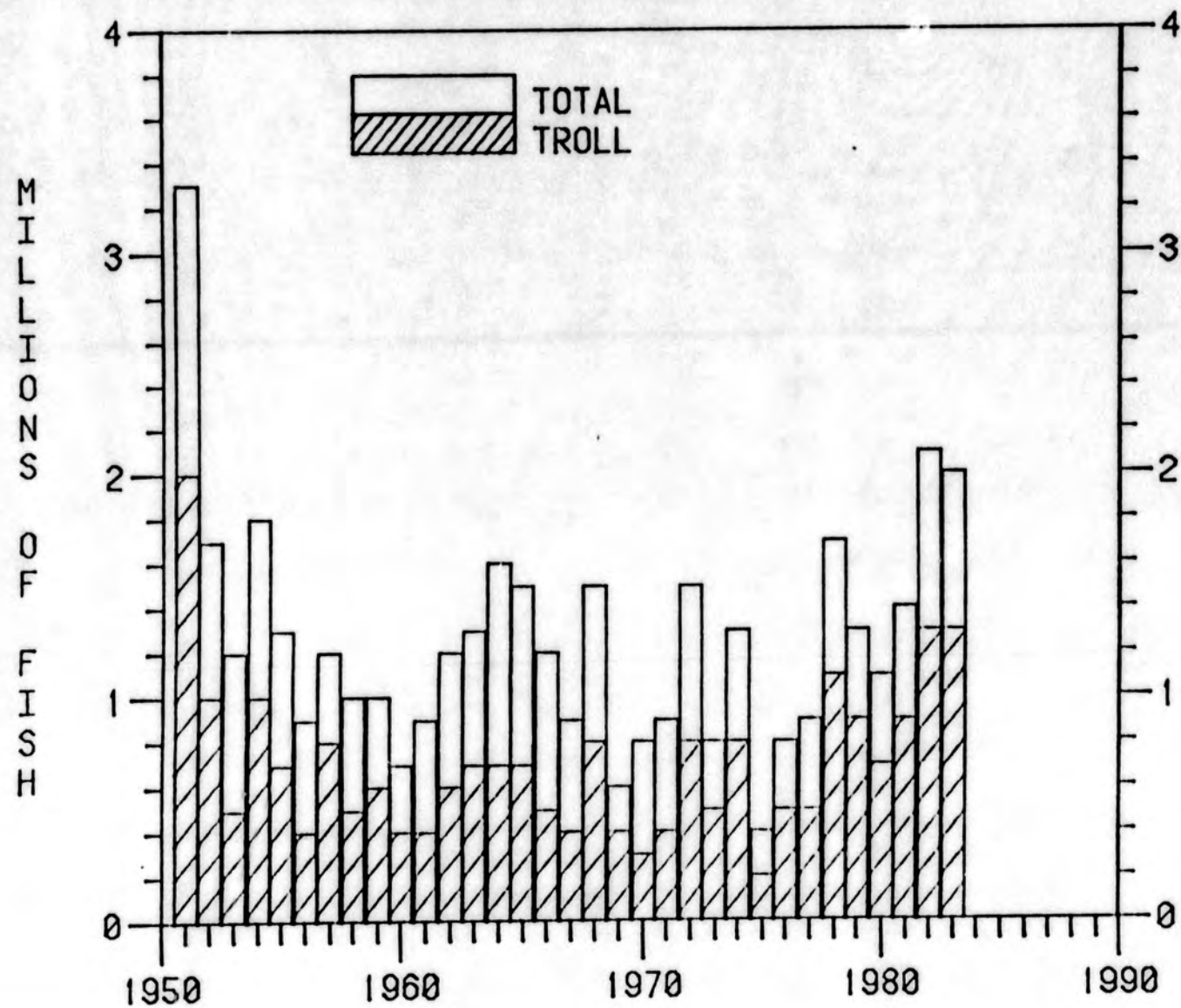


FIGURE 4. SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION ANNUAL COMMERCIAL COHO SALMON CATCHES BY THE TROLL FISHERY AND ALL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES 1951 - PRESENT. (ADF&G 9/83)

Table 1. Preliminary Inseason 1983 Chinook and Coho Salmon Catches
by Southeast Alaska Fisheries (ADF&G Revised 9/17/83)

	No. of Days	Est. Catches	
		Chinook	Coho
TROLL FISHERY			
Winter Fishery			
Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 1982		12,400	
Jan. 1 - Apr. 14, 1983		17,600	
Winter Fishery Subtotal		30,000	
Summer Fishery			
Apr. 15 - May 14	30	-CLOSED ALL SPECIES-	
May 15 - Jun. 8	25	101,000	
June 9 - 30	22	-CLOSED ALL SPECIES-	
July 1 - Aug. 4	35	139,000	830,000
Aug. 5 - 14	10	-CLOSED ALL SPECIES-	
Aug. 15 - Sept. 20	37	1/	450,000
Summer Fishery Subtotal		240,000	1,280,000
TROLL FISHERY SUBTOTAL		270,000	1,280,000
NET FISHERIES			
Gillnet Fisheries		6,000	300,000
Seine Fisheries		14,000	350,000
NET FISHERIES SUBTOTAL		20,000	650,000
ALL GEAR TOTAL CATCH		290,000	1,930,000

1/ Troll fishery closed to harvest of chinook salmon.

Table 2. Southeast Alaska Commercial and Recreational Chinook Salmon Harvest, 1965 - Present. (ADF&G 9/12/83)

(Numbers of Fish in Thousands)

Year	-- Commercial Fisheries --			Recreational Fisheries 1/	Total
	Troll	Net	Subtotal		
1965	259	28	287	(13)	(300)
1966	282	26	308	(13)	(321)
1967	275	26	301	(13)	(314)
1968	304	28	332	(14)	(346)
1969	290	24	314	(14)	(328)
1965-69 Ave.	282	26	308	13	322
1970	305	18	323	(14)	(337)
1971	334	22	356	(15)	(371)
1972	242	45	287	(15)	(302)
1973	308	36	344	(16)	(360)
1974	322	25	347	(17)	(364)
1971-74 Ave.	302	29	331	15	347
1975	287	14	301	(17)	(318)
1976	231	11	242	(17)	(259)
1977	272	13	285	17	302
1978	376	25	401	17	418
1979	338	29	367	17	384
1975-79 Ave.	301	18	319	17	336
1980	300	22	322	20	342
1981	248	20	268	17	285
1982	242	49	291	19	310
1980-82 Ave.	263	30	294	19	312
1983 2/	(270)	(20)	(290)	(19) 3/	309

1/ Estimates of recreational catches for 1977-82 based on mail surveys. Estimates for 1965-76 based on 1977-80 average catch per capita of 0.332 fish applied to population estimates.

2/ Preliminary data.

3/ Projection equal to 1980-82 average catch.

Table 3. Number of days Southeast Alaska troll fishery open to chinook salmon fishing during the summer season April 15 through September 30, 1978-83 (ADF&G 7/23/83)

Year	Number of Open Days 1/	Number of Closed Days	Closed Periods (No. of Days)
1978	169	0	None
1979	169	0	None
1980	139	30	July 15-24 (9); Sept. 10-30 (21)
1981	100	69	Apr. 15 - May 14 (30); June 26 - July 4 (9); Aug. 10-19 (10); Sept. 4-12 (9); Sept. 20-30 (11)
1982	65	104	Apr. 15 - May 14 (30); June 7-16 (10); July 29 - Sept. 30 (64)
1983	60	109	Apr. 15 - May 14 (30); June 9-30 (22); Aug. 5 - Sept. 30 (57)

1/ Number of days major portion of Southeast Alaska open to chinook salmon fishing. Selected area closures for all species occurred in some years during the open periods indicated above.

TABLE 4 . PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF 1983 CHINOOK SALMON INDEX ESCAPEMENTS TO NINE SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEX SYSTEMS
(ADF&G 8/31/83)

System - Tributary	Type of Estimate 1/	Index Escapements -----				Percent change in 1983 compared to Ave. 1975-80 1982		Mgm't Escap. Goals	Percent of Goal 1983 1975-83	
		Ave. 1975-80	1981	1982	1983				1983	1975-83
Major Systems (3 total) 2/										
Alsek - Kluckshu	(2)	2,890	2,110	2,360	2,520	- 13%	+ 7%	3,200	79%	73%
Taku - Nakina	(1)	2,810	5,100	2,530	970	- 65	-62	9,000	11	32
Nahlin	(1)	780	2,940	1,250	390	- 50	-69	2,500	16	61
Taku Subtotal		3,590	8,040	3,780	1,360	- 62	-64	11,500	12	38
Stikine - Little Tahlitan(1)		970	3,330	2,830	590	- 39	-79	2,100	28	107
Major Systems Subtotals		7,450	13,480	8,970	4,470	- 40	-50	16,800	27	53
Medium Systems Subtotals (8 total) 2/										
Situk	(2)	1,490	810	510	730	- 51	+43	2,100	35	33
Behm Canal Systems										
Unuk	(1)	800	730	1,350	1,110	+ 39	-18	1,800	62	59
Chickamin	(1)	220	280	340	340	+ 55	+ 0	900	38	36
Blossum	(1)	100	160	340	590	+490	+74	800	61	45
Keta	(1)	250	330	750	820	+228	+ 9	500	164	127
Behm Canal Subtotals		1,370	1,500	2,780	2,860	+109	+ 3	4,000	72	60
Medium Systems Subtotals		2,860	2,310	3,290	3,590	+ 26	+ 9	6,100	59	50
Minor Systems (22 total) 2/										
King Salmon River	(1)	80	100	260	210	+160	-20	200	104	94
All Index Systems Totals		10,390	15,890	12,520	8,270	- 20	-34	23,100	36	53
(Cont.)										

(Cont.)

TABLE 4 . (CONT.) PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF 1983 CHINOOK SALMON INDEX ESCAPEMENTS TO NINE SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEX SYSTEMS (ADF&G 8/31/83)

1/ Type of estimate codes: (1) Helicopter peak spawning count (primary method).
(2) Weir total count.

2/ System size categories: Potential run size: major - greater than 10,000
medium - 1,500 to 10,000
minor - less than 1,500

Notes: (1) Thirty-three known chinook salmon producing systems exist in Southeast Alaska. However, due to poor surveying conditions in many systems only those included in the table have been surveyed in a consistent manner each year to provide a relative measure of index of total chinook salmon escapements to Southeast Alaska systems.
(2) Index escapements shown in the table have not been expanded for aerial survey counting rates or for tributaries not surveyed to estimate total spawning escapements.

Data Sources: 1975-81: Kissner, Paul D., Jr. 1982. A Study of Chinook Salmon in Southeast Alaska. Alaska Dept. Fish and Game. Completion Report 1981-82, Project AFS-41

1982-83: Alaska Department of Fish and Game unpublished management records.
Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans unpublished management records. (Kluckshu weir counts provided by S. Johnson, CDFO.)

100
please

E.P.

PRELIMINARY SOUTHEAST ALASKA
1983 SALMON CATCH DATA

September 21, 1983

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

All Gears 1983

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 39

Fishery	Catch - Cumulative through last week reported					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
(1) Seine	11887	773854	309266	32830342	547571	34472920
Southern	11133	735842	284215	27707182	344833	29083205
Northern	754	38012	25051	5123160	202738	5389715
(2) Drift Gillnet	4621	584254	185400	1396346	350977	2521598
Southern	2169	203701	118645	1185746	163018	1673279
Northern (excluding Yakutat)	2452	380553	66755	210600	187959	848319
(3) Set Gillnet (Yakutat)	796	155501	54605	50614	10565	272081
(4) Gillnet Total	5417	739755	240005	1446960	361542	2793679
(5) Troll	270000	10700	1258475	508640	21000	2068815
Southern	91661	5326	158100	254023	10462	519572
Northern	178339	5374	1100375	254617	10538	1549243
(6) Trap (Annette Is.)	194	4854	6270	802700	1776	815794
Southern Subtotals	105157	949723	567230	29949651	520089	32091850
Northern Subtotals	182341	579440	1246786	5638991	411800	8059358
Totals	287498	1529163	1814016	35588642	931889	40151208

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Seine 1983

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 35

District	last week reported	ending date	Catch - Chinook	Last week Sockeye	reported Coho	cummulative Pink	to date Chum	Total
(1)	40	Oct 1	395	63058	42142	5978063	47487	6131145
(2)	38	Sep 17	94	11102	30985	1741803	54183	1838167
(3)	36	Sep 3	90	10152	26884	2311102	46958	2395186
(4)	35	Aug 27	10519	647730	169624	15786214	177505	16791592
(5)	36	Sep 3	15	420	3380	233000	14900	251715
(6)	34	Aug 20	10	2000	8400	800000	1200	811610
(7)	36	Sep 3	10	1380	2800	857000	2600	863790
(9)	36	Sep 3	42	613	2413	568806	12922	584796
(10)	32	Aug 6	130	1120	950	183300	1780	187280
(11)	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
(12)	36	Sep 3	106	15902	8692	1738791	81700	1845191
(13)	35	Aug 27	465	19440	11387	2295395	54741	2381428
(14)	38	Sep 17	11	937	1609	336868	51595	391020
Southern Subtotals								
(Districts (1) - (7))			11133	735842	284215	27707182	344833	29083205
Northern Subtotals								
(Districts (9) - (14))			754	38012	25051	5123160	202738	5389715
Totals			11887	773854	309266	32830342	547571	34472920

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Seine 1983

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 39

District	week	ending date	Catch - Weekly to date in this district					Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
(4)	28	Jul 9	3469	44833	50481	180185	22848	301816
(4)	29	Jul 16	781	55213	25522	338335	11298	431149
(4)	30	Jul 23	1496	74701	27330	677900	14026	795453
(4)	31	Jul 30	1825	172400	23951	3389720	24958	3612854
(4)	32	Aug 6	823	152424	14009	5042370	40043	5249669
(4)	33	Aug 13	1079	96312	12348	4365440	32783	4507962
(4)	34	Aug 20	1046	51847	15983	1792264	31549	1892689
(4)	35	Aug 27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals			10519	647730	169624	15786214	177505	16791592

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Gillnet 1983

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 38

fishery	last week reported	ending date	Catch - Cumulative through last week reported					Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
(1) Portland Canal	38	Sep 17	1504	133108	39398	770536	126003	1070549
(2) Annette Island	36	Sep 3	144	21850	7795	209867	17453	257109
(3) Prince of Wales	38	Sep 17	476	48569	57214	201201	18957	326417
(4) Blind Slough	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
(5) Stikine River	38	Sep 17	45	174	14238	4142	605	19204
(6) Taku/Snettisham	38	Sep 17	886	30903	22830	63731	14848	133198
(7) Lynn Canal	38	Sep 17	1566	349650	43925	146869	173111	715121
(8) Akwe River	38	Sep 17	93	5680	2249	151	78	8251
(9) Alsek River	38	Sep 17	74	19131	3246	6	195	22652
(10) Last River	38	Sep 17	30	82204	4332	273	9240	96079
(11) Italio River	38	Sep 17	0	1338	1610	455	574	3977
(12) Kaliakh	38	Sep 17	0	0	3105	0	0	3105
(13) Tsiu	38	Sep 17	0	0	11180	0	0	11180
(14) Yahtse	37	Sep 10	0	0	3582	0	0	3582
(15) Lost River	38	Sep 17	3	2459	4600	1376	5	8443
(16) Manby Shore	38	Sep 17	25	7679	4205	139	13	12061
(17) Situk River	38	Sep 17	333	19408	13249	33314	98	66402
(18) Yakutat Bay	38	Sep 17	238	17602	3247	14900	362	36349
Southern Subtotals								
(Fisheries (1) - (5))			2169	203701	118645	1185746	163018	1673279
Northern Excluding Yakutat Subtotals								
(Fisheries (6) - (7))			2452	380553	66755	210600	187959	848319
Yakutat Subtotals								
(Fisheries (8) - (18))			796	155501	54605	50614	10565	272081
Totals			5417	739755	240005	1446960	361542	2793679

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Gillnet 1983

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 38

fishery	week	ending date	Catch - Weekly to date in this fishery				Chum	Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink		
(1) Portland Canal	26	Jun 25	349	16678	658	1734	12700	32119
(1) Portland Canal	27	Jul 2	331	13601	2034	24612	16261	56839
(1) Portland Canal	28	Jul 9	240	4701	1313	22910	6388	35552
(1) Portland Canal	29	Jul 16	302	8934	1925	28917	12011	52089
(1) Portland Canal	30	Jul 23	95	22782	2381	150586	15315	191159
(1) Portland Canal	31	Jul 30	76	17267	3374	108520	9003	138240
(1) Portland Canal	32	Aug 6	62	22993	6756	137822	13243	180876
(1) Portland Canal	33	Aug 13	14	19093	5421	183742	9348	217618
(1) Portland Canal	34	Aug 20	9	4351	3262	76631	9511	93764
(1) Portland Canal	35	Aug 27	10	1254	2263	21036	5852	30415
(1) Portland Canal	36	Sep 3	15	883	5863	11282	7285	25328
(1) Portland Canal	37	Sep 10	0	499	3317	2409	5944	12169
(1) Portland Canal	38	Sep 17	1	72	831	335	3142	4381
Totals			1504	133108	39398	770536	126003	1070549

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

1983 Preliminary Canadian Net Fishery Catches
and
Escapement Data - Area 3 and Area 4

Catches						
Area	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Area 3	7571	405,010	125,723	6,189,681	184,281	6,912,226
Area 4	2828	326,145	32,182	756,296	17,642	1,135,093

Escapement			
System	Species	Escapement Goal	1983 Escapement
Nass River	Sockeye	220,000	180,000
Skeena River	Sockeye	1,000,000	1,000,000
Skeena River	Pink	1,000,000	2,000,000

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Gillnet 1983

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 38

fishery	week	ending date	Catch - Weekly to date in this fishery				Chum	"	Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink			
(3) Prince of Wales	26	Jun 25	23	5545	669	9385	941		16563
(3) Prince of Wales	27	Jul 2	125	6829	1291	6493	1394		16132
(3) Prince of Wales	28	Jul 9	100	5158	1822	5471	995		13546
(3) Prince of Wales	29	Jul 16	18	4966	1333	4482	943		11742
(3) Prince of Wales	30	Jul 23	39	12382	4808	27122	3932		48283
(3) Prince of Wales	31	Jul 30	25	8048	3840	23366	1796		37075
(3) Prince of Wales	32	Aug 6	3	1295	1400	4491	1155		8344
(3) Prince of Wales	33	Aug 13	49	2523	3708	44102	1798		52180
(3) Prince of Wales	34	Aug 20	11	924	7633	32994	2260		43822
(3) Prince of Wales	35	Aug 27	25	556	8409	25575	1288		35853
(3) Prince of Wales	36	Sep 3	22	237	9758	15548	1091		26656
(3) Prince of Wales	37	Sep 10	20	94	8599	1753	737		11203
(3) Prince of Wales	38	Sep 17	16	12	3944	419	627		5018
Totals			476	48569	57214	201201	18957		326417

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Gillnet 1983

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 38

fishery	week	ending date	Catch - Weekly to date in this fishery					
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
(5) Stikine River	34	Aug 20	0	78	255	3014	182	3529
(5) Stikine River	35	Aug 27	6	30	1085	737	66	1924
(5) Stikine River	36	Sep 3	7	41	4262	64	84	4458
(5) Stikine River	37	Sep 10	18	21	4962	242	115	5358
(5) Stikine River	38	Sep 17	14	4	3674	85	158	3935
Totals			45	174	14238	4142	605	19204

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

1983 Preliminary Canadian Transboundary Fishing Data

STIKINE

Week Ending	Days Fished	Large King	Jack King	Chum	Sock-eye	Pink	Coho	Fishermen
6/18	2	109	55	-	45	-	-	7
6/25	2	77	69	-	179	-	-	7
7/01	3	98	100	-	1060	4	-	9
7/09	4	50	95	-	2240	4	-	9
7/16	4	60	56	14	2912	164	-	10
7/24	4	33	-	18	1919	157	2	9
7/31	4	16	-	36	3312	238	6	9
8/07	4	9	-	63	2315	253	54	8
8/14	3	2	-	40	1312	87	128	9
8/21	3	2	-	15	235	19	166	?
8/27	1	-	-	6	114	8	144	8
9/03	3	-	-	25	146	8	634	8
TOTAL		456	375	217	15,789	942	1134	

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Gillnet 1983

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 38

fishery	week	ending date	Catch - Weekly to date in this fishery				Chum	Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink		
(6) Taku/Snettisham	26	Jun 25	147	2308	9	272	22	2758
(6) Taku/Snettisham	27	Jul 2	241	3337	53	5745	226	9602
(6) Taku/Snettisham	28	Jul 9	175	6160	62	7298	701	14396
(6) Taku/Snettisham	29	Jul 16	39	1675	127	5069	538	7448
(6) Taku/Snettisham	30	Jul 23	15	839	162	9905	1222	12143
(6) Taku/Snettisham	31	Jul 30	115	5947	1055	18711	1347	27175
(6) Taku/Snettisham	32	Aug 6	98	6147	2386	13696	1269	23596
(6) Taku/Snettisham	33	Aug 13	24	2203	2077	2313	913	7530
(6) Taku/Snettisham	34	Aug 20	6	713	1137	592	579	3027
(6) Taku/Snettisham	35	Aug 27	3	850	6500	105	1620	9078
(6) Taku/Snettisham	36	Sep 3	11	500	4300	20	3300	8631
(6) Taku/Snettisham	37	Sep 10	12	219	2962	5	2411	5609
(6) Taku/Snettisham	38	Sep 17	0	5	1500	0	700	2205
Totals			886	30903	22830	63731	14848	133198

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1983 Preliminary Canadian Transboundary Fishing Data

TAKU								
Week Ending	Days Fished	Large King	Jack King	Chum	Sock- eye	Pink	Coho	Fish- ermen
6/18	2	35	100	-	123	-	-	3
6/25	2	42	124	-	305	-	-	4
7/01	2	39	98	-	711	20	-	7
7/09	2	19	50	-	645	177	-	7
7/16	4	9	-	-	2390	260	27	6
7/24	4	7	-	11	1929	1218	103	7
7/31	4	3	-	9	3130	199	249	11
8/07	4	-	-	5	4112	-	654	11
8/14	4	-	-	4	978	-	514	9
8/20	4	-	-	30	473	-	1237	5
8/27	4	-	-	456	433	-	959	4
9/03	4	-	-	270	359	-	1095	8
9/10	4	-	-	719	427	-	1118	8
TOTAL		154	372	1504	16,015	1874	7830	8

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Southeast Region

Gillnet 1983

Preliminary In-Season Commercial Salmon Harvest Report

Report Date 09/20/83
Statistical Week 38

fishery	week	ending date	Catch - Weekly to date in this fishery					Chum	Total
			Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink			
(7) Lynn Canal	26	Jun 25	38	2299	1	121	.60		2519
(7) Lynn Canal	27	Jul 2	74	4631	68	2165	1202		8140
(7) Lynn Canal	28	Jul 9	267	9854	18	3197	2620		15956
(7) Lynn Canal	29	Jul 16	106	7518	86	8369	3582		19661
(7) Lynn Canal	30	Jul 23	177	25937	346	42103	6637		75250
(7) Lynn Canal	31	Jul 30	279	56587	238	21087	4144		82335
(7) Lynn Canal	32	Aug 6	193	57663	416	16193	2714		77179
(7) Lynn Canal	33	Aug 13	144	48930	1802	18818	7210		76904
(7) Lynn Canal	34	Aug 20	33	34347	2823	14656	10581		62440
(7) Lynn Canal	35	Aug 27	100	50437	6915	16448	28565		102465
(7) Lynn Canal	36	Sep 3	124	39799	12221	3283	42071		97498
(7) Lynn Canal	37	Sep 10	3	10398	10369	426	35286		56482
(7) Lynn Canal	38	Sep 17	28	1200	8622	3	28439		38292
Totals			1566	349650	43925	146869	173111		715121

Cautionary note: In-season catch data shown above should be considered VERY PRELIMINARY. Changes may occur daily as data is edited and updated. Data is computed in this form primarily for in-season management use and general catch reporting.

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU
BILL SHEFFIELD
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE



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GOVERNOR REPORTS NO PROGRESS IN FISH TREATY TALKS

JUNE 20, 1983

NO. 83-124

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNEAU -- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is preparing to develop a new fisheries management plan centering on the assumption that no salmon interception treaty will be signed between Canada and the United States, Governor Bill Sheffield said today.

"There has been absolutely no progress in the treaty talks, and it's beginning to look like the Canadians are not interested in trying to overcome Alaska's objections to the draft language of the treaty," Sheffield said. "I'm extremely disappointed, but if that's going to be their position, we might as well start putting together a plan that assumes no treaty."

"I must add that while we'll manage our fish stocks with conservation in mind under this new plan, we do not intend to then simply hand over fish to the Canadians; the stocks we manage will be managed for our fishermen."

The state opposes the treaty because it provides for insufficient harvest of chinook salmon for Alaska fishermen and fails to provide adequate distribution of salmon harvested in transboundary rivers.

Don Collinsworth, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, and Commercial Fisheries Director Steve

-MORE-

Pennoyer are to return to Juneau from Washington D.C. Tuesday, following the latest in a series of unsuccessful talks with representatives of the government of Canada.

They joined Alaska U.S. Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski and a U.S. State Department representative in a meeting Monday with Canadian representatives to discuss Canada's early opening for sockeye salmon on the Taku River.

Alaska opposed the opening because it increases the likelihood of increased incidental catches of chinooks. The Canadians' gave no positive response to Alaska's concern over the premature opening, Sheffield said.

"This and other developments during the past few weeks make it seem increasingly clear that Canada is going to pursue only what is in that country's interest and is not willing to seriously consider our concerns," the Governor said. "If that's to be the case, we must stand firm on our position that the treaty is unacceptable. As written, it's unfair to our fishermen, and we must protect their interests."

(Sheffield said Collinsworth would begin at once to draft a new fisheries management strategy without a treaty as its base.)

"Conservation of salmon stocks will continue to be a primary goal, but now we'll have to look at ways to do it without this treaty," Sheffield said.

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Date?

INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 1983
SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA SALMON FISHERIES

Recent discussions between US and Canadian officials have led to serious doubt that there will be a treaty or interim agreement to guide management actions for the 1983 salmon season in Southeastern Alaska. Canadian officials have been outspoken in their threats of what actions may be taken if the US side does not ratify the current treaty draft. In light of the current situation, it is appropriate for the State to inform Alaska commercial fishermen about the management measures they can expect for the balance of this season.

Alaska has consistently stated that a treaty between the United States and Canada governing coastwide management of salmon species of mutual concern is needed to conserve the stocks and ensure long-term benefits to the fleets of both countries. We will continue to practice conservative management while not accepting reallocation to Canada from traditional fisheries. In the absence of agreed upon stock allocations between the United States and Canada, we have no formal objective for Canadian harvests. Without such a formal arrangement Alaskan managers have no choice but to choose a management regime which will provide for the conservation of the stocks while preventing escalation of interceptions of the kind that might make future negotiations and final conclusion of a treaty impossible. The 1982 interim arrangements were intended to accomplish this and, in general, were the way Alaska had proposed that a new treaty be entered into. If the Canadian government will mirror our actions, stock conservation should be assured and a reasonable atmosphere would be maintained for future negotiation.

The fishery by fishery summaries below are intended to continue the reasonable and responsible attitude the state has continually held with regard to resource conservation and management, but are subject to change to protect the interest of Alaskans should Canadian actions dictate.

Troll Fishery:

Canada has already announced its intent to fish its troll fisheries in the 1982 pattern, which means they will institute no more than a two week closure in northern British Columbia alone (June 17 to July 1) and will certainly not achieve the chinook salmon conservation objectives envisioned in the treaty draft. They are certain to harvest a substantial portion of any fish our fishery transfers south for conservation purposes. Our fishery has already had seven weeks of closures this season and the probability of another ten day closure during the month of August has been announced. Catches have been poor off British Columbia as a result of a speculated combination of oceanographic and stock conditions. It seems likely that Canada will not fill the quota levels envisioned in the treaty draft even with a wide open seven day a week fishery for the remainder of the season. At this time, based on conservation concerns, their season should be limited even further rather than extended. (Quotas alone will not protect stocks that are weaker than anticipated as appears to be the case in Canada.)

The Alaska troll fishery will be opened throughout Southeastern Alaska on July 1st. It is our view that this opening will allow us to manage within the Board of Fisheries OY range. Trollers are reminded that they can anticipate a probable ten day coho/chinook closure in mid-August, with other potential regulatory actions dependent upon their catch rates and Canadian actions.

Taku River Gill Net Fishery:

The Canadians have announced their intention to harvest 15,000 sockeye salmon commercially in the Taku this summer--a unilateral escalation from their 3,000 sockeye limit in 1982, which was to continue in 1983 under the draft treaty. We will manage our fishery to provide for appropriate sockeye escapement and no more than a background level of Canadian fishery, consistent with the 1982 interim agreement and the draft treaty arrangement for 1983--3,000 sockeye and 5,000 pink salmon. If the Canadians escalate their fishery beyond the 3,000 sockeye, they will do so knowing that they are removing spawning stocks and intentionally reducing productivity.

Stikine River Gill Net Fishery:

The Canadians have not announced their harvest intentions in this river. The 40 to 50 percent Canadian sockeye harvest stipulated in the draft treaty was a concession, given the anticipated small run and the fact we expected the longer-term arrangement to be a 65 percent US, 35 percent Canadian sharing in the sockeye total allowable catch. This has not occurred. We intend to manage our fishery to provide for adequate sockeye escapement and an inriver Canadian harvest equivalent to 35 percent of the total allowable catch of this stock. Coho harvest strategies will be addressed in a later release.

Tree Point Gill Net Fishery:

The Tree Point gill net fishery will be managed initially along the lines of the 1981-82 management plan. Effort will be restricted to the average historic level and spread through the season. The sockeye catch will be allowed to fluctuate with the strength of the runs. Such a management regime should result, on the average, in a catch of about 130,000 sockeye, the same number as used in the interim and draft treaty. Inseason adjustments may be made to take into account identified conservation problems for either US or Canadian stocks.

Adherence to this initial regime will be dependent upon Canadian actions in the boundary area and transboundary rivers. We intend to continue our co-operative conservation efforts regarding Portland Canal chums and would urge that Canadian fishery managers reciprocate.

Noyes Island Seine Fishery:

It is our intent to manage this fishery in general conformity to the 1981-82 management plan. Effort will initially be limited to an average historical level that over time would produce a catch of about 160,000 sockeye if contributing stocks were at average abundance levels. This regime may be modified dependent on Canadian management actions for stocks of mutual concern.

alaska department of fish & game

P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone 465 4113



Bill Sheffield
Governor

Don W. Collinsworth
Commissioner

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 1983

INTERIM SOUTHEAST TROLL PLAN ANNOUNCED

JUNEAU--A failure to find common ground during recent talks on the U.S./Canada salmon treaty has led the State to implement an interim management plan for Southeast Alaska troll fisheries, the Department of Fish and Game announced today.

Don W. Collinsworth, Commissioner, said recent discussions between US and Canadian officials have led to serious doubt that there will be a treaty or interim agreement to guide management actions for the 1983 season.

"Canadian officials have been outspoken in their threats of what actions may be taken if the US side does not ratify the current treaty draft," Collinsworth said. "In light of the current situation, it is appropriate for the State to inform Alaska commercial fishermen about the management measures they can expect for the balance of this season."

-More-

June 24, 1966

The interim plan calls for an opening of the troll fishery on July 1, with a probable coho/chinook closure in mid-August; management of the Taku pink and sockeye gill net fishery to achieve the spawning escapement goal plus 3,000 sockeye and 5,000 pink salmon; Stikine gill net fishery management to allow an "adequate sockeye escapement;" Tree Point gill net fishery to result in a catch of about 130,000 sockeye, and management of Noyes Island seine fishery to produce a catch of about 160,000 sockeye.

Collinsworth noted these plans "are subject to change to protect the interest of Alaskans should Canadian actions dictate." The management strategy, he said, is "intended to continue the reasonable and responsible attitude the State has held continually with regard to resource conservation and management."

Alaska has consistently stated it agrees a treaty is needed to govern coastwide management of salmon species, he said. But in the absence of agreed-upon stock allocations between the United States and Canada, Collinsworth said, "Alaskan managers have no choice but to choose a management regime which will provide for stock conservation while preventing escalation of interceptions that might make future negotiations and final conclusion of a treaty impossible."

A detailed fishery by fishery summary follows:

-More-

Troll Fishery:

Canada has already announced its intent to fish its troll fisheries in the 1982 pattern, which means they will institute no more than a two week closure in northern British Columbia alone (June 17 to July 1) and will certainly not achieve the chinook salmon conservation objectives envisioned in the treaty draft. They are certain to harvest a substantial portion of any fish our fishery transfers south for conservation purposes. Our fishery has already had seven weeks of closures this season and the probability of another ten day closure during the month of August has been announced. Catches have been poor off British Columbia as a result of a speculated combination of oceanographic and stock conditions. It seems likely that Canada will not fill the quota levels envisioned in the treaty draft even with a wide open seven day a week fishery for the remainder of the season. At this time, based on conservation concerns, their season should be limited even further rather than extended. Quotas alone will not protect stocks that are weaker than anticipated as appears to be the case in Canada.

The Alaska troll fishery will be opened throughout Southeastern Alaska on July 1st. It is our view that this opening will allow us to manage within the Board of Fisheries range. Trollers are reminded that they can anticipate a probable ten day coho/chinook closure in mid-August, with other potential regulatory actions dependent upon their catch rates and Canadian actions.

Taku River Gill Net Fishery:

The Canadians have already announced their intention to harvest 15,000 sockeye salmon commercially in the Taku this summer--a unilateral escalation from their 3,000 sockeye limit in 1982, which was to continue in 1983 under the draft treaty. We will manage our fishery to provide for appropriate sockeye escapement and no more than a background level of Canadian fishery, consistent with the 1982 interim agreement and the draft treaty arrangement

-More-

for 1983--3,000 sockeye and 5,000 pink salmon. If the Canadians escalate their fishery beyond the 3,000 sockeye, they will do so knowing that they are removing spawning stocks and intentionally reducing productivity.

Stikine River Gill Net Fishery:

The Canadians have not announced their intentions in this river. The 40 to 50 percent Canadian sockeye harvest stipulated in the draft was a treaty concession, given the anticipated small run and the fact we expected the longer-term arrangement to be a 65 percent US, 35 percent Canadian sharing in the sockeye total allowable catch. This has not occurred. We intend to manage our fishery to provide for adequate sockeye escapement and an inriver Canadian harvest equivalent to 35 percent of the total allowable catch of this stock. Coho harvest strategies will be addressed in a later release.

Tree Point Gill Net Fishery:

The Tree Point gill net fishery will be managed initially along the lines of the 1981-82 management plan. Effort will be restricted to the average historic level and spread through the season. The sockeye catch will be allowed to float with the strength of the runs. Such a management regime should result, on the average, in a catch of about 130,000 sockeye, the same number as used in the interim and draft treaty. Inseason adjustments may be made to take into account identified conservation problems for either US or Canadian stocks.

Adherence to this initial regime will be dependent upon Canadian actions in the boundary area and transboundary rivers. We intend to continue our cooperative conservation efforts regarding Portland Canal chums and would urge that the Canadian fishery managers reciprocate.

Noyes Island Seine Fishery:

It is our intent to manage this fishery in general conformity to the 1981-82 management plan. Effort will initially be limited to an average historical

Salmon plan 5-5-5-5-5

June 24 1983

level that over time would produce a catch of about 160,000 sockeye if contributing stocks were at average abundance levels. This regime may be modified dependent on Canadian management actions for stocks of mutual concern.

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RECORDS CERTIFICATION



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Date

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#36:44

BRISTOL BAY PROCESSING WASTE MEETING
JANUARY 27, 1984
TAPE #49

Rep. Herrmann called the meeting to order at 1:07pm and explained that the meeting was regarding the garbage problem in the Bristol Bay area. She introduced herself to be the Representative for the Bristol Bay area and asked that everyone at the meeting introduce themselves and mention what they do and who they are representing.

Dianne Soderlund - EPA - Alaska Operations Office - Anchorage
Wally Scarborough - EPA - Juneau
Nels Anderson - City of Dillingham
Joe McGill - Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association & Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Cooperative
George Jacko - Staff person/Special Committee on Fisheries
Keith Kelton - Dept. of Environmental Conservation - Juneau Division - Field Operations Director
Mel Monsen - Aide/Special Committee on Fisheries
Robert E. Wicker - Bristol Bay Borough Assemblyman
Don Penner - Bristol Bay Borough Assistant Manager & Community Development Director
Karl Hellberg - Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association President
Harvey Samuelson - Western Alaska Cooperative Marketing Association President

Rep. Herrmann explained that the purpose of the meeting was to bring all of them together to find out how each of them see the problem and be able to leave the meeting with the feeling that someone is going to take responsibility for and work to alleviate the problem. She continued to say that she saw the problem of waste increasing as more and more floating processors enter the bay bringing with them the garbage and fish waste problem. The fact that they are floating processors presents an enforcement problem of anyone being able to fight these processors. I've received many complaints from people in the area concerning fish waste. I do appreciate DEC's presence in the area and it did help. But I feel more can still be done.

Rep. Herrmann further stated that she wrote a letter to Commissioner Neve' and proceeded to read his response that explained who could enforce proper waste disposal and suggested ways for the borough to correct an improper solid waste disposal activity. The letter also explained to her who to contact for that area. Rep. Herrmann then stated that she isn't in total agreement with Commissioner Neve' because she feels it is the State's job to enforce the statutes. She said that she would like DEC to talk about the problem as they see it and talk about the task force they have and how they see that working. She indicated that she would like to hear their plans for the 1984 season.

Keith Kelton - We are presently going through a minor reorganization now within the Department. We are attempting to put more people out in the regional offices. The person who is presently in Unalaska will be transferring to Dillingham. There will be greater presence on site. In addition we will still be able to respond with the old personnel from Anchorage, approximately at the same level that we have in the past. Bristol

Bay Processing Waste Meeting
Page Two

Keith Kelton (continued) - Last year we spent 49 days in the field in Dillingham, Unalaska, and the Aleutian chain area, primarily for seafood processing solid waste problems. We are more than willing to provide the same level as last year, or increase it, working with the task force. I don't think that we can address the problem more heavily with the staff that we have. We've set up the task force with area processors and borough and administrative people in the area, last year, to try to address this problem. I don't know who was on the task force.

Don Penner - The concern they had last year was they volunteered the services of their fire boat to take the enforcement out into the bay. It didn't turn out to be a very successful program. The original plan was that we provide one of our law enforcement people to help the DEC enforcement person. Why it didn't work was because we were in a period where we have the rapid expansion of the fishery people coming in and we have to hire extra people just to handle the local problems that we have. We do not have the capability of abiding this kind of an effort. It seemed like last year that it was half way expected of us, we did try to help out. Somewhere along the coordination effort, at least between the borough and DEC, as far as our section is concerned, we're going to have to sit down and work out some kind of a program, long before fishing starts, if you want us involved. One of the things that we felt very uncomfortable with is that we understood that there had been DEC people in the area. Nobody came by our office or anything to notify us. We are looking for some kind of a good coordinated effort. If we are going to be enforcing your regulations, or a combination of yours and DEC, so that at least the people that are out in the bay are able to adhere to one set of requirements. Being the local government in the area we would really appreciate it if somewhere along the line those efforts would be coordinated with us.

Keith Kelton - As far as I know, there is only one set of regulations out. If you throw trash overboard, you're violating a state law.

Nels Anderson - I would like to echo Don Penner's concerns as a member of Dillingham's City Council. Apparently some levels of expectation have been lifted somewhere along the line. In the people's minds at home there is a feeling that the City is going to be involved in some of this enforcement or policing. We did receive complaints in the City. Any efforts by DEC or anyone else that would make people aware of what they're doing and involve the City of Dillingham, we do need the coordination. Also, DEC is going to have to include somewhere in their budget, some additional funding to give us a hand in doing some of this work. We'd rather not do it. Believe me, we'd rather have them take care of it, we feel that it's your responsibility. But if you're going to parcel out responsibility, the city just can't come up with our money to do it.

Bristol Bay Processing Waste Meeting
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Keith Kelton - I think what the Commissioner is saying is that this problem is bigger than one agency can handle with the resources they have available. If we had the resources to do it, we wouldn't be asking for assistance. What he's saying is that everybody has got to participate. But for us to give you money wouldn't accomplish anything, it would diminish our efforts. Actually, this is just one small phase of the water quality that we are responsible for. It is certainly an important problem. I don't know that any one agency can handle it by themselves and do it to the level that you would like it to be done. We're certainly not going to back off from our present commitment.

Rep. Adelheid Herrmann - I was wondering if the Department of Fish & Game was going to work with you, and Fish & Wildlife Protection and the Court System, if they're in agreement with your coordinating. Because you know they might be saying "well we have enough to do".

Keith Kelton - Well we certainly can't force Fish & Game to do something they don't want to do; but as far as the court system, if we bring them a valid case, they've got to prosecute it so.

Wally Scarborough - We see a real need for EPA's presence in Bristol Bay, due to the increase in activities there in the last few years. If we do do that, we will probably be looking at a week for a couple of people, and we will also coordinate our efforts with DEC.

Dianne Soderlund - Let me expand on that - first of all, when we go into an area, we develop coordinates and get in touch with local governments. EPA does have a legal right to require the solid waste be disposed of properly. Even if EPA isn't in the field, they will pursue the case if they have documented evidence. Our reason for not being present is lack of resources.

Karl Hellberg - The chances of a fisherman breaking away from fishing for one or two days during the peak run to go file a case, is very nill. Someone has to be there. I suggest EPA set something up with the coast guard.

Wally Scarborough - EPA will try to set something up with the Coast Guard. If EPA makes its presence in the Bay, we will take hand-outs for transportation.

Karl Hellberg - I feel it's the Coast Guard's job.

Keith Kelton - What is the volume of fish waste?

Don Penner - I went out into the Bay and there is a lot of fish waste out there. I feel it's coming from the processors, floaters or land.

Karl Hellberg - Because of the type of waste, I feel 90% comes from processors.

Robert Whicker - As far as the Borough is concerned, we did put our fire boat to use. We are willing to help, but we are short handed too. The Borough is not only looking for support of having people there but also support for use of our boat.

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Wally Scarborough - Maybe you can help by making everyone aware of the legal requirements.

Don Penner - Both DEC & EPA has to take into consideration the tides and water condition. If the water is rough, we're not going to risk taking our fire boat out, because it would slow us down and it jeopardizes our fire protection. If you're going to request that we give you this kind of assistance, you should bring your plan to the Borough.

Wally Scarborough - EPA appreciates the offer by Bristol Bay Borough to help.

Rep. Herrmann - With there being a joint commitment between EPA and DEC for enforcement funds, is this money coming from the State?

Keith & Wally - We are both dealing with separate budgets.

Dianne Soderlund - We communicate with each other to find out who will be where and when so efforts are not duplicated.

Joe McGill - I don't think it's the responsibility of local boats. It's our in the water and according to our laws, constitution, or whatever you want to call it, the State is obligated to support our laws in the state. There's no way you can run out there in your boat and look at them floaters or anything else and do any good. Because they can dump their garbage and in 15 minutes you can't tell who it belongs to unless it has a name on it or something. But as I gather, Fish & Game is coming up with a new hot line program that can be helpful. I would like to bring attention to this gentleman from Fish & Wildlife Protection to explain the program.

Don Tetzlaff - We are out in the Bay and our vessels are available to whoever needs them. However, you have to realize our main responsibility is the protection of resources. As for our hot line program, a person will be able to call in on a toll free line and report garbage spills. Our smaller vessels are located by fisheries, one for each. We have a larger vessel that roams the area. There is room for lodging on the larger vessel but the small vessels have no place to sleep.

Keith Kelton - We would like to put a man on your vessel.

Rep. Herrmann - We need people on both sides.

Keith Kelton - We don't mind moving people around. Our inspectors will also have a broader range of responsibilities. We anticipate more contacts on all aspects of the problem.

Don Penner - Is there going to be some coordinated effort also with FDA by DEC?

Wally Scarborough - We've tried working with FDA and it's very difficult, they don't like to tell people where they're going.

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Rick Lauber - We have been working towards a joint permit, but that's not an accomplished factor. It's an irritant to have to qualify for two permits when the differences don't seem all that great. DEC and EPA is working towards this. The other thing is the reorganization of DEC.

TAPE NUMBER 50

Rick Lauber (continued) - Presently, if your plant is off the beaten path, you never get inspected. The only time floaters get inspected is when their tied up at the dock when an inspector happens to come by. Last records indicated that they were able to inspect 60% of the shore based processors. It seems about 30% of the floaters. Since that time, we've had a considerable increase in the number of floaters. The DEC has reorganized in hopes of being able to inspect a larger percentage. Under the reorganized program, sanitation people will be doing the inspection. DEC has asked, through the years, for additional inspectors and were able to get some.

Another thing being talked about, that shows a lot of promise, is the cooperative effort between state agencies as well as the federal agencies. The administration has just recently followed a recommendation by the Governor's Fisheries Policy Task Force, that called for the creation of the fisheries mini-cabinet. They're supposed to work on problems just like this one. They're supposed to coordinate these things. DEC has inspected most all of the processors in Naknek and Dillingham and they have issued citations and they are tough.

There used to be a problem with oil platforms throwing garbage overboard. It wasn't too long ago that State Ferries were throwing garbage overboard.

Percentage wise I represent the vast majority of the shore based processors and many of my members are floaters. A number of the more recent floaters coming into the bay are not my members. In the distant past, we never ground any of our waste. We just dumped it into the river. Other than some set netters' complaints, there was never any real problem with the gillnetters as there are now. Well now that were grinding and pumping on the shore based plants, this makes me suspect that the majority of the waste is coming from the floaters.

Joe McGill - I'd like to say that the whole thing is definite. We got enough laws written up here, it's bigger than the state constitution just covering this one item and I think it's definitely a state problem.

One time on the herring grounds there was a complaint that one of the floaters was spilling oil and I thought it was an invasion. They had the Coast Guard fly over him and Fish & Game Protection cruising around him and everything else. And it was nothing compared to this problem we've got here. I think it's definitely a state problem. They can lease another boat or they can hire some more kids and give them a gun. Have them get out there and watch those floaters. Shore plants don't have much fish waste coming from them. You see pallot boards and everything else drifting. I'll admit there's some from the boats. I definitely think it's a state problem, if they don't

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have the money, they could find it someplace. Get rid of some of those deadwood employees they have or something and get someone out there to enforce it. There is no way it should be a local problem.

Dianne Soderlund - What EPA and the State is asking is that the problem be referred to us. That helps us concentrate on the areas where violations are occurring. From our perspective, we're not asking local people to go out and try to stop the violations from occurring.

Keith Kelton - I don't think the state is trying to advocate any responsibility, we fully recognize it as our problem, we've got the laws and regulations to take care of it.

Rep. Herrmann - It kind of make me wonder though when DEC is on the grounds and Jim Allen writes to you and says that; everyone contacted regarding the 1983 pollution problem in Bristol Bay was very pleased, that the problem had improved. It makes me wonder when you guys are out there doing this and I still get tons of complaints.

Nels Anderson - What he's saying is absolutely not the case because these fishermen are sending in complaints all summer long and there's no evidence to support the observations that he made to you. I don't know if you've ever been out to the fishery, but I think it would be in your best interest to go out there sometime and look at the number of vessels that are operating out there, and then you look at the number of people that you put on plus the number of man days that are given to the effort, ten man days spent in the last two weeks in June, to do something. Then ten man days were spent in the first part of July to board floating processors for sanitary solid and fish waste discharge. That's all O.K., but I think what we're trying to tell you is that the problem makes the Normandy Invasion look like a small exercise. There's a lot of activity out there. We don't think that you people have caught up to the problem. The number of floating processors out there has increased substantially over the last five years. It just really built up and we expect to have that kind of activity again this year because of the fresh/frozen market - there's a heavy demand so you can expect these people are going to be out there doing the same as they were last year.

It seems to me that more interdivision, interdepartmental communication has to occur. I think you need to come to people like Rick, he's willing to help get the additional man hours or bodies out there to get it done. And I am willing to help do that and I'm sure there are a lot of others that are too. Make a full court press because this kind of thing is going to continue to happen.

Going back to some of the comments made by the EPA people. There has, as far as I know, for an awful long time not been EPA presence in Bristol Bay. I know it's not your fault because you don't handle the budget. I'm really kind of sick now that one of Senator Steven's staff isn't here to hear these comments and it would be good to have the coast guard. As Harvey mentioned in his letter to me just recently, the coast guard should be working with DEC to make sure we get a handle on these problems. I think that the processors,

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the ones that have been there for a long time, are geared up to your rules and regulations. But gear does break down, grinders do break down and I'll tel you, if you're going to close these guys down because their grinder breaks down, you're going to have the fishermen on your butts because they've got to get rid of their fish and the fish has got to get processed. So everybody gets hurt if we don't go into the season with a highly coordinated effort. Even though we're all trying to protect the environment out there and water discharge and everything else, you have to remember we've got fishermen and we've got investments in the whole business. The fishing industry, they've got to have those interests protected as well. There has got to be a two pronged effort. When one observes these observations here they sometimes seem to forget the human element.

Rick Lauber - I would like to see a concentration of the effort on the flagrant violator. They should keep their eyes on that which is significant. My complaint about DEC is the fact that they will nit pick on some minor violation while a major one is allowed to continue.

Rep. Herrmann - Don, if someone were stationed on the Vigilant or something and them you could run this person around like maybe at night when they were going to dump their garbage.

Don Tetsdaff - We could have room for somebody on the larger vessel like the Vigilant. They are welcome to come aboard one of our smaller boats on an actual patrol, that's no problem. As long as they have the understanding that we have a primary objective for being out there and that's to protect the resource. When we have the vessel and time available, we would divert our course to go check out one of their problems.

We peace officers of the state are obligates to protect all laws of the state, but our primary objective is to protect the fish & wildlife of the state. We all know there's a problem, we all know there's laws in the book that will slap a person with a harsh penalty for violating them, but I think we do have an obligation to find out why they are dumping the garbage over the side. Probably one is because there's no facility out there to dump it in, so what else are these people going to do. Public support of these laws are necessary otherwise they will never do any good. Issuing tickets is the last resort in getting people to comply with laws. The first is education.

Rep. Herrmann - There is someone in Naknek that is willing to provide a garbage collection service, but we don't know if it's a state problem or borough problem or who's responsible.

Don Penner - There's a local man who has expressed interest in hauling the king Salmon, Naknek waste. He may have a garbage collection scow of some kind and use the borough dump. In the last year or so we have come a long way in improving our facility.

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Harvey Samuelson - I think this waste disposal problem came about from the floaters coming out there and gutting their fish on board and then throwing them overboard with our grinding them up. That's what bothers me about this more than anything else. Collecting this garbage could be a thriving business for somebody if the state doesn't want to be in it.

Nels Anderson - I think it is the responsibility of DEC to listen very carefully to what's being said around this table. Where are the people dumping the waste, and why are they dumping it is a good question.

Keith Kelton - It's not the state's responsibility to construct or maintain a solid waste facility. For an organized government we can make a grant to build a solid waste facility.

Rick Lauber - If a facility is provided for the processors at the expense of local taxes, that's going to be unacceptable.

Don Penner - We aren't thinking in terms of local taxation to support it. We were thinking in terms of fee structure.

Karl Hellberg - Need to recognize the problem of getting this garbage ashore, there's a tidal problem and you need a dock.

Rick Lauber - I suspect that the grinders are on board but they are not using them. The floaters are too out of touch, this makes them difficult to monitor. If a floater has been out for 3 weeks and comes in without any garbage, don't you have a case?

Don Tetzlaff - No you don't have a case.

Joe McGill - Put your hot line on the radio. This would help make a case. I think it's a simple problem. Just a matter of some good enforcement.

Rep. Herrmann - (Reads August 2nd Memo and goes on to say that this garbage problem has been brought to DEC's attention) I think DEC should have put a little more effort into it.

Keith Kelton - Cited the fact that they were short handed and had a limited budget, thus making what was being asked of them difficult to do.

Nels Anderson - If the City of Dillingham is going to be involved, we need to have a policy meeting with whomever is going to set it up.

Robert Whicker - The Bristol Bay Borough extends its offer to DEC and EPA to come to the borough and have a meeting.

Wally Scarborough - Requested letters citing problems sent to government agencies.

Keith Kelton - The department (DEC) plans to have stronger requirements before issuing permits.

Bristol Bay Fish Processing Waste Meeting
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Dianne Soderlund - It's difficult to go aboard and inspect. There needs to be back-up and replacement parts for equipment.

Rick Lauber - Suggest to Dianne more emphasis on education.

Dianne Soderlund - Agrees.

Some General comments were made by Don Tetzcaff, Rep. Herrmann, Joe McGill, Rick Lauber.

Nels Anderson - In summarization, I received a lot of complaints on this problem. All this happens in a 4 to 6 week period. I recommend that the appropriate agencies start prior to the peak of the season. I commend the department on the work they did in the last season. I think DEC now realizes the magnitude of the problem. I think cooperation is important. I think a meeting should be organized with the Bristol Bay Borough. I recommend that it is recognized that the report written by Mr. Allen is misleading. I recommend the legislature to look into increasing the travel funding for DEC.

MEETING ADJOURNED

BRISTOL BAY PROCESSING WASTE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Bob Martin
Deputy Director
Southcentral Regional Office

DATE: February 1, 1984

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 465-2609

FROM: Keith Kelton
Director
Environmental Quality Operations

SUBJECT: Bristol Bay Solid
Waste Problem

During the afternoon of January 27, 1984, I met with a group of people regarding the solid waste and seafood processing waste problem in the Bristol Bay/Naknek area. These people, who are identified as follows, are concerned with the amount of debris, primarily the solid waste, plastics, lumber, bags, strapping material, etc., that is discharged into the water by the floating processors during the Bristol Bay commercial fishing season: the people identified below were at the meeting.

Attendees

Joe McGill
Nels Andersen
Wally Scarborough
Diane Soderlund
Karl Hellberg
Don Penner
Robert Whicher
Ed Hines
Mel Monsen
Don Tetzlaff
Rick Lauber
Representative Adelheid Herrmann
Keith Kelton

Representing

Fisheries Group
City of Dillingham
EPA - Juneau
EPA - Anchorage
Fisherman's Association
Bristol Bay Borough
Bristol Bay Borough
Fisheries Group
Fisheries Group
Fish and Wildlife Protection
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
District of Naknek
ADEC

- Those attending stressed that the solid waste problem was of major proportions and needed immediate attention by those State and federal agencies responsible for controlling solid waste into the Bristol Bay/Naknek waters. They requested that a task force be developed consisting of local governments, interested parties and the affected agencies to implement scheduled inspection and enforcement activities in the area. During this discussion, ADEC was criticized as being unresponsive to the needs of the people in the area and were requested to provide the assistance needed to solve the problem. It was stressed that we needed to greatly expand our resources and our inspections in the affected areas. Although improperly ground fish waste are also considered a problem, primary concern is the solid waste discarded overboard. The general opinion by those people present was that the waste problem primarily originated from the floating processors and should not be attributed to shore-based facilities or the 1,800 odd fishermen who use the Bay.

- There was strong exception to Jim Allen's August 18, 1983 memorandum to me where he made the statement that conditions's have improved. Although people generally recognize there was improvement between the 1982 - 1983 season, they felt that Mr. Allen's report was not critical enough of the conditions that still existed. They also strongly resented Commissioner Neve's letter of May 17, 1983, to Representative Herrmann, where he stated that local government should share responsibility for correcting the problem. Those present felt that local responsibility should be minimized.
- In presenting ADEC's position, I stressed we would be expanding our resources locating positions in Dutch Harbor, Dillingham, Bethel, and Kodiak. These positions would be available to work on-site in the affected areas and would be supplemented by our normal inspections from the seafood industry program personnel. I also stressed we would be able to spend more time in the area due to our reorganization, allowing us to free up other sanitarians if necessary during peak processing times. It was pointed out that, although it would not be of much help this year, our requirements that processors submit a plan of operations, addressing all DEC permits, will be necessary prior to the issuance of seafood processing permits in the following years. It was stressed that there would be a general permit issued by EPA, certified by ADEC, that would be in effect for this season.
- During the meeting, ADEC received considerable support from Rick Lauber, and his testimony that the reorganization should, in essence, allow the Department more flexibility and personnel to address the problem. Mr. Lauber also stated that, if the Department wished, he would be willing to lobby the administration for additional staff members to aid in doing this work. We also received support from Mr. Tetzlaff in his offer to make Fish and Wildlife Protection vessels available to ADEC for our inspections. He offered to allow our personnel to go on their vessels for extended periods of time with the understanding that their work would come first but they would be more than happy to deliver us to the floating processors for our inspections and pick us up later when they had completed their work. He stated that we would be able to spend as much time as we wanted on their vessels at no cost to us. I strongly suggest that we organize our inspection schedules around the schedule of Fish and Wildlife Protection for this summer. The Bristol Bay Borough also offered the use of their fire vessel to transport personnel to the scene of some of the processing vessels in the Naknek area. This is with the understanding we schedule these trips in advance to allow adequate time for the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly to approve the use of their vessel for this purpose. It was also stressed that we should attempt to schedule these trips when tide conditions are favorable to allow the optimum access from port facilities.

The following comments are my recommendations as to how I would wish you to proceed with implementing those points that were discussed during this meeting.

1. I request that you and Jim Allen continue to develop and work with a task force to address the problem of solid waste disposal in the Bristol Bay area. It is important to develop a schedule of inspections coordinated with Seafood and Animal Industry personnel, the Bristol Bay Borough, Fish and Wildlife Protection, City of Dillingham, and all other interested parties at the earliest possible convenience. I would suggest this schedule be completed early in March with notification given to all affected parties in the Bristol Bay area, processors and fishermen, that ADEC will be greatly expanding its number of inspections and enforcement actions in enforcing permit conditions and solid waste disposal regulations.
2. I request that a meeting be scheduled in Naknek with all interested parties to discuss the proposed summer activities and coordinate use of vessels and inspection schedules, no later than the end of April.
3. In your review of the plan of operations for all processors, it is important that we give detailed attention to the disposal of solid waste. I recommend that, to the extent possible, we encourage on-board incineration of solid waste by all floating processors, since the number of shore based facilities are limited and it is unlikely that most processors will take the time during a busy fishing season to transport their waste to the shore. This, if possible, should be made a condition of their permit, which will be required if they are to obtain a processing permit.
4. I realize that our travel budget is extremely limited but I do request you expend the maximum amount possible from your budget to address this important problem in the Bristol Bay area. Hopefully, our next year's travel budget will allow us greater resources to address this problem.
5. It is important to remember that we are likely to be criticized from some processors and fishermen for over zealous enforcement of our regulations. The fisheries group that I met with was informed of the likelihood that they would be receiving criticism from their constituents if strict enforcement of our regulations was attempted. It is my recommendation that we not be concerned about this type of adverse criticism and enforce our regulations to the maximum extent possible.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Rep. Adelheid Herrmann, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries

FROM: Deborah L. Greenberg,
Committee Researcher, House Special
Committee on Fisheries

DATE: February 23, 1984

SUBJECT: Two Additional Recommendations by Nels Anderson on Fish Waste

I checked with Nels about any additional recommendations he might have on the DEC Fish Waste problems. The two he discussed most strongly were:

- 1) Making sure DEC has a plan in place for the 1984 season, and,
- 2) Increasing the budget for DEC waste problems over the FY 83 levels.

Please let me know if there are any other recommendations of Nels that I should review.

BACKGROUND ON FISH AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IN BRISTOL BAY

Fish and Solid Waste Disposal in Bristol Bay during fishing seasons is a problem. 1983 was no exception. The amount of pollution caused by dumping untreated fish and solid waste into Bristol Bay is almost impossible to determine. 1983 found 29 land processors and 38 floating processors operating in Bristol Bay. Also included are the estimated 400 to 500 support vessels. Add to that approximately 1800 gill net vessels and support vessels for approximately 900 set net operations. 39.1 million salmon were harvested in Bristol Bay.

This information is presented to give you an idea of how much disposable waste can be generated by the fishing industry. Fish heads, viscera, solid waste dumped into the rivers of Bristol Bay can be a monumental problem if the State fails to prevent pollution.

FISH AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A Fish and Solid Waste Disposal Program for the 1984 Fishing Season to be funded to accomplish the following goals:
 - a) Plan and implement a Bristol Bay Fish and Solid Waste Disposal Plan for the 1984 fishing season which would allow the Department of Environmental Conservation to station a permanent representative in Bristol Bay.
 - b) Send all processors, support vessels and fishermen information about bilge oil, sewage and fish waste regulations that will be in effect in 1984.
 - c) Increase the man days of actual on-site inspection and patrols of shore-based and floating processors. (ADEC presence is a must during the height of the season.)
 - d) Re-establish contact with enforcement and judicial officers regarding ADEC mission in Bristol Bay as it relates to fish and solid waste disposal.
 - e) Have ADEC establish a Fish and Solid Waste Disposal Task Force of concerned parties to address fish and solid waste disposal problems in Bristol Bay and make policy recommendations for legislative and administrative consideration.

BIO ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

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ECONOMIST

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September 13, 1983

Mr. James C. Allen
Anchorage/Western District Supervisor
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
437 E Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK. 99501

RECEIVED

SEP 15 1983

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
REGION II

Dear Mr. Allen:

This is to affirm my impression of the positive results of our meeting yesterday in your office regarding the solid fish waste disposal problem in the Naknek/Kvichak Rivers during the Sockeye salmon fishing season. There has been a dramatic increase in the volume of unground viscera, heads, and whole fish and other processing waste during the past two years. In my capacity as a representative of the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association, Coop I heard from a large number of the fishermen in respect to this problem. The concern was unanimous--the problem has gotten out of hand, and A.I.F.M.A. Coop must bring the problem to the attention of regulatory agencies for resolution. Obviously, of primary concern is the economic cost transferred to the fishermen by those processors who dump without grinding these fish wastes. Fishing productivity is adversely impacted since productive time is wasted in disentangling this material, especially viscera, from the nets. There is a concern also for the possible health hazard of infection, such as blood poisoning or fish poisoning, from constantly handling the decomposing fish wastes. Of no small significance is the detrimental impact on morale.

We realize that waste disposal is a fundamental problem in a primary processing industry such as salmon fishery. However, ADEC has essentially solved this problem in the case of shore-based processors by requiring that all fish wastes be ground before dumping it into the water-ways. The problem, with respect to the fishermen, is more acute in the case of floating processors because they dump directly in the prime fishing areas. Thus, there is no chance of some of the material washing ashore where it decomposes or is eaten by birds and animals, rather than being caught in gill nets.

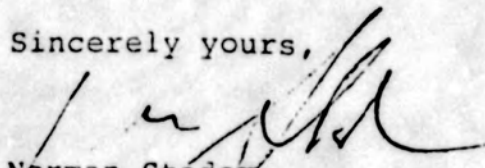
Your suggestion that ADEC take the initiative in organizing a meeting of concerned parties to discuss the general problem of waste disposal into the Bay, is taken as a positive step in seeking a solution to this increasing problem. We look forward to hearing more on this in the near future.

Mr. James C. Allen

-2-

September 13, 1983

Sincerely yours,



Norman Stadem
Assemblyman, AIFMA Coop

cc: State Rep. Adelheid Herrmann
Mr. Mitch Kink, Gen. Mgr., AIFMA Coop

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Bob Martin
Deputy Director, EQO

DATE: September 14, 1983

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 274-2533

QEA
FROM: Jim Allen
Anchorage/Western
District Supervisor

SUBJECT: Bristol Bay

Norman Stadem visited this office on September 12, 1983 regarding the pollution of Bristol Bay during the 1983 Salmon Season. Mr. Stadem is a economist by profession, a professor at APU and a member of the board of the Alaska Independent Fisherman's Marketing Association Cooperative (AIFMAC) and a fisherman. Mr. Stadem is representing AIFMAC during his visit. The AIFMAC has a membership of 500 plus fishermen.

We reviewed my report to Keith Kelton dated August 18, 1983 on the same subject.

Mr. Stadem is still concerned with the type and volume of pollution to the bay and cited several examples where fishing boats had become disabled and were required to be towed to shore to untangle plastic binding material from the propellers. This material is used to bind fibers used for packing processed fish.

* We both agreed that in-addition to reducing pollution that a greater distance between boats would tend to reduce incidental pollution from the ships and boats.

It is my recommendation that we expand beyond our regulatory role and into one where we can obtain cooperation from all departments, organizations, and individuals involved in Bristol Bay.

DEC should form a committee to form a task force on the problem and make recommendations for implementation of a program to further reduce pollution. Formation of the committee and members of the task force should include but not limited to the following:

1. The Departments of Fish and Game and Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife Protection
2. DEC, Seafood and Animal Health
3. Alaska Independent Fisherman's Marketing Association Cooperative

Bob Martin

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September 14, 1983

5. Local Native Associations
6. City of Dillingham
7. Western Alaska Commerical Fisherman's Association
8. North Pacific Processors Association
9. Alaska Fisherman's Journal

Grants are needed to establish local landfills and collection points located where waste oil and refuse can be stored. The committee should start work on plans for a task force in January or February 1984.

JCA/dsm

cc: Keith Kelton
Norman Stauen
Jeff Skrace
Joe Campbell

MEMORANDUM

437 E. Street, Suite 200

State of Alaska

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

TO: Keith Kelton
Director, EQO

DATE: August 18, 1983

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 274-2533

FROM: James C. Allen
Anchorage/Western
District Supervisor

SUBJECT: Disposal of Salmon and
Solid Waste in Bristol
Bay 1983

Based on my 1982 observations, the following plan was initiated for the 1983 season:

1. Five-thousand, six-hundred fisherman and two-hundred and eighty-eight processors applied to fish and process herring in Bristol Bay for the 1983 season. Our main concern and that of Fish and Game was oil pollution from the fishing and processing vessels. Herring roe is very susceptible to the effects of petroleum products. Letters were sent to all processors and made available to processors when they reregistered locally with the Department of Fish and Game. Ten man days was spent on the Fish and Wildlife vessel Vigilant for enforcement purposes. No oil pollution was observed. I feel this was due to the fact that we sent out the letters, we were there and excellent weather conditions. Last year ten fishing boats were sunk or driven on shore by bad weather.

2. Bristol Bay Salmon Processors are located at:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Land</u>	<u>Floating</u>	<u>Tenders</u>	<u>Freighters</u>
Dillingham	6	-	-	-
Queen Slough	1	-	-	-
Clarks Point	-	8	-	-
Ekuk	1	1	-	-
Naknek	5	21	48	17
South Naknek	3	-	-	-
Egegik	1	2	-	-
Pederson Point	1	-	-	-
Togiak	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	32	48	17

This represents the majority of the plants and processors in the immediate area. Tenders and freighters were only counted in the area off of the Naknek River. It is difficult to estimate the amount of fish waste produced from the 36 million red salmon that were processed. Kings, silvers and other salmon are not included in this figure. It is also difficult to estimate the amount of solid waste generated from the processing and the crew.

5227

Keith Kelton
Page 2
August 18, 1983

Again, letters were sent to all processors and copies were provided to Fish and Game offices in Dillingham and King Salmon for distribution.

Ten man days were spent during the last two weeks in June to primarily inspect land based plants for water, sewage and fish waste discharge systems. Ten man days were spent the first two weeks in July to board floating processors for sanitary, solid and fish waste discharge.

On two occasions, The Bristol Bay Borough made available their fire boat. Within three hours we were able to check the sterns of seventy-eight vessels. Fish and Wildlife Protection provided a boat ride to Queen Fisheries which eliminated an air charter cost.

Meetings were held with the Magistrates in Naknek and Dillingham and letters were sent to reconfirm our conversation and included regulations, waste discharge requirements for land and floating processors and types of misdemeanors. This information was also provided to Fish and Wildlife personnel in Dillingham and Naknek.

Observations:

1. Everyone contacted regarding our 1983 activities to reduce pollution in Bristol Bay were very favorable. Other than the improved esthetic effects to the water and beaches, there were other positive benefits, i.e., fish-heads no longer effected set nets; fish intestines no longer effected drift nets; plastic bands on fiber etc., no longer fouled propellers. *Question -*
2. Everyone contacted that had been in the Bay had noted a decrease in the amounts and types of solid and fish waste which was also our own observations.
3. Sixteen NOVs were issued in the four week period and essentially dealt with improper fish waste discharge.
4. Nine of the twenty-one floating salmon processors in the Naknek area had installed incinerators to reduce the volume of combustible waste.
5. As the results of our letter and activities, the refuse collector contractor for the Bristol Bay Borough instituted a refuse collection service by boat for salmon processors off of the Naknek River. *?
Sum 13
20*

Recommendation:

To continue the present program for the 1984 season however, this is in conflict with the Regional and District work plan and the approximately 40% decrease in travel budget for the Anchorage/Western District.

JCA/nsm

274-2533

SCRO
437 E Street
Suite 200
Anchorage, AK
99501

June 6, 1983

Dear Seafood Processors:

This is further to our April 18, 1983 letter of information regarding oil, sewage and solid waste pollution of Bristol Bay.

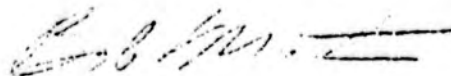
All processing plants have Seafood Processing Wastewater Permits. These permits require grinding Seafood wastes to a size that is capable of passing through a 0.5 inch mesh screen. The effluent seafood wastewater is to be discharged at a depth equal or greater than mean lower low water for shore based plants. Floating Seafood processors wastewater effluent shall be discharged at a depth equal to or greater than 42 feet below mean lower low water.

Acceptable methods of solid waste disposal are to incinerate combustibles and compact and store non-combustibles for transportation to an approved landfill site in Alaska or outside. The Department will have personnel in the Bristol Bay area for the Salmon processing season to assist operators in meeting these requirements and to enforce state regulations. Violations of provisions of the oil, wastewater and solid waste regulations will be subject to appropriate enforcement action.

Your cooperation will assist us to protect the environment of Bristol Bay.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact this office at 274-2533.

Sincerely,



Bob Martin
Regional Supervisor

BH/JCA/msn

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

☒ 437 E. STREET
SECOND FLOOR
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
(907) 274-2533

☐ P.O. BOX 615
KODIAK, ALASKA 99615
(907) 486-3350

☐ P.O. BOX 1207
SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669
(907) 262-5210

☐ P.O. BOX 1709
VALDEZ, ALASKA 99686
(907) 835-4698

☐ P.O. BOX 1064
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
(907) 376-5038

April 18, 1983

Dear Fishermen and Seafood Processors:

Marine intertidal and nearshore areas require special attention as they are very productive and supply habitat essential to the life cycles of many important species. Herring and salmon are among the many species where the intertidal and nearshore regions play an important role in their productivity. This habitat is extremely sensitive and easily damaged by oil spills and improper waste disposal, particularly in areas where spawning takes place. The State of Alaska has implemented regulations to protect these resources from various forms of pollution.

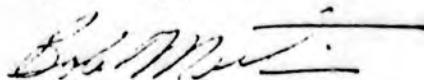
The most common pollution incidents in the fishing grounds have been the discharging of bilge oils and fuel spills, the dumping of solid waste overboard and on beaches, and the discharging of untreated sewage and processing wastes. These incidents can significantly impact the future fisheries of the area.

This fishing season, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will be in the field working with other agencies in an effort to reduce the pollution incidents associated with the harvest of fishery resources. This work will entail routine patrols amongst the fishing fleet, boarding vessels to alert the vessel master to pollution prevention, and responding to pollution incidents as they are reported.

State law requires prompt reporting of oil spills and other serious pollution incidents. This reporting helps to facilitate quick cleanups thereby reducing environmental impacts and damage to fishing equipment. During the upcoming fishing seasons you should be able to contact this Department in the field through the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection Service or the Alaska State Troopers or in Anchorage dial 274-2533. If you cannot contact this Department, contact the U.S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, or the local police.

We enlist your support in our efforts to prevent pollution which may affect fishing resources.

Sincerely,



Bob Martin
Regional Supervisor

BM/SZ/msm

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Peter Ashman, Charley Shawback
Magistrates

DATE: June 7, 1983

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 274-2533

FROM: *James C. Allen*
James C. Allen
Anchorage/Western
District Supervisor

SUBJECT: The Pollution of
Bristol Bay

This is to confirm our recent conversations regarding seafood and solid wastes that are discharged from land based and floating processors.

Attachments #1 and #2 are letters sent to all Bristol Bay Processors by mail and were forwarded to Fish and Game Offices in Dillingham, and King Salmon for distribution to processors who must also re-apply locally for processing.

Attachment #3 is my memo of January 24, 1983 to Joe Campbell regarding fish and solid waste regulations and policies.

The wastewater and solid waste regulations are attached as are formats #21 and #23 which are the examples of the permits for land and floating processors and are marked attachments #4, #5, #6 and #7 respectively.

Foreign processors must also comply with the Department's regulations.

There are three types of misdemeanors that could result from improper discharge of seafood or other solid waste. (AS 46.03.790):

(1) A violation of a statute or regulation which has been committed wilfully may be considered a Class A misdemeanor. Class A misdemeanors under AS 12.55.035(b)(3) carry a maximum fine of \$5,000. Under AS 12.55.135(a) such persons can also be sentenced for up to one year in jail.

(2) A violation which has been unintentionally committed may be considered a Class B misdemeanor, and under AS 12.55.035(b)(5) carries a maximum fine of \$300.

(3) Failure to provide or falsely state information with respect to unlawful discharge is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$25,000 as set out in AS 46.03.790(d).

Peter Ashman, Charley Shawback
Magistrates
Page 2
June 7, 1983

Furthermore, each day on which the violation occurs is considered a separate violation (AS 46.03.790(c)).

The penalties assessed depend on the severity of the violation. A description of the type and severity of the violation will be provided to the proper authority by a representative of this Department.

Please contact this office at 274-2533 if you have any questions regarding the above information.

JCA/JFH/msm
Attachments

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Joseph W. Campbell
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Protection
Department of Public Safety

DATE: January 24, 1983

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 274-2533

FROM: *JCR*
James C. Allen
Anchorage/Western
District Supervisor

SUBJECT: Nondomestic Wastewater
and Solid Waste Regulations

Joe, I waited until the attached revised regulations became law, December 30, 1982, to forward them to you with the following comments.

AS 46.03.020.(10)(A) allows for the Department to develop AAC to "control, prevent and abatement of air, water or land or subsurface land pollution." And (D) the "collection and disposal of sewage and industrial waste."

Title 18, Chapter 72, Articles 1 and 2 pertain to domestic and nondomestic wastewater. The definition for nondomestic wastewater, 18 AAC 72.990(29) includes food processing.

Section .210 requires a permit issued by the Department before a person can discharge nondomestic wastewater into or onto the water or land in Alaska.

The Department and EPA both issue nondomestic wastewater permits. EPA at one time issued all discharge permits which were co-signed by DEC so the Department could also enforce the provisions. Since Reganomics, the EPA staff has been reduced so they placed priority on only the large discharges whereas we do all the rest.

Enclosed are examples of our permit requirements used in the Bristol Bay area. These types of permits would not be issued in Kodiak or Dutch Harbor. Format 21 would be used for a land based operation and 23 for a floating processor and the letter form is only for those floating processors which process less than five tons of raw product per day.

The permit requirements are more alike than different. Wastewater is separated from domestic sewage. Some methods (grinders) is required to reduce solids to a size small enough to pass through a 0.5 inch mesh screen. The requirements A,1,d says what can't be included in the wastewater or allowed to accumulate on the beach. A,1,c for land processors says that the waste discharge line has to be at least below mean low water.

Domestic wastewater (sewage) for floaters is more specific than land based processors as noted in 2, a, I, II, III and IV.