

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILE 8672

1209 SCOMM 36: HOUSE SPEC. COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES 1983-84

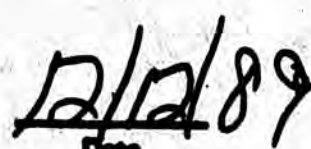


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Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

Special Committee on Fisheries
Room 4
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 482-2022

MEMORANDUM
APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL
MEMORANDUM
JACK FULLER
MEMORANDUM
CHARLIE HANCOCK
BOB HANCOCK
PETER GALL
JACK HANCOCK
FRED HANCOCK

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries
FROM: Mel *[Signature]* Professional Assistant
SUBJECT: Update on North Pacific Fishery Management
Council Halibut Actions
DATE: January 10, 1984

In my October 17th report on the status of the Council's actions towards a moratorium in the halibut fisheries I promised to get you an update at the beginning of the session on the latest action. Fortunately, the Council has made this a short, simple report.

At their December 7-9th meeting the Council voted 8 to 2 to discontinue efforts to impose a moratorium on the Alaska halibut fishery. They also stated they would be looking at other management alternatives for the fishery in cooperation with the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The Council also listed their objectives for halibut management:

1. Insure survival of the North Pacific halibut resource.
2. Distribute the halibut fishery in time and place to insure the harvest of the available surplus of all components of the halibut population over all areas of the North Pacific Ocean including the Bering Sea.
3. Continue to limit the harvesting of halibut to hook and line as the best means of utilizing and maintaining the resource at its highest sustained level of abundance.
4. Retain the International Pacific Halibut Commission as the primary management authority over the coast-wide range of the halibut population.

House of Representatives

Special Committee on Fisheries
Room 7
Bldg. 7100-55311
(907) 455-124

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ADELHEID HERPMANN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
JACK POLLEN
MEMBERS
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BEN GRUBENOW
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JACK MCKRIDE
FRED ZHAROFF

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Adelheid Herpmann
FROM: *M. Johnson*
DATE: September 31, 1983
SUBJECT: Naknek Coast Guard Anchoring Meeting Report

The meeting began at 9:00am on Thursday October 27. There were two individuals from the Coast Guard at the meeting a LTJG Cronin and McGuire. They opened the meeting by reading the attached preamble and then opening it up to comments.

The comments follow:

Coast Guard- we can formally set up a designated anchorage. This is a two year process. If set up vessels may only enter this area to anchor, fishing vessels may not pass through on the way to other fishing areas, they would have to go around. This also would not preclude vessels from anchoring elsewhere, it would only force anyone in the area to be at anchor. We could not enforce it effectively at this time with our low level of presence in the Bay. We feel it would be more productive to set up a voluntary anchoring area as in our current proposal.

Richard Johnson- the proposed solution you have is in the wrong place. It is too big of an area in a prime fishing grounds. It will cost us money. I would like to see every none fishing vessel below the line. Because of the concentration of processing vessels in the fishing area we often have to spend two hours clearing the guts and garbage out of our nets from a 15 minute drift. There is even green moss forming on the tide flats from all this processing, we have never had growth like this on the flats before. If you did have an area like on your map set-up the one you have is too far to the east and would take up most of the fishing area available in the Naknek section, this would be critical when the Kvichak section is closed.

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Ralph Angasan- I agree with Richard. We should keep the freighters out completely and move the area a little to the west so it is out of the Naknek section.

Don Bill- ADF&G supports moving the area to the west. Put the east side of the anchoring area on the west line of the Naknek section. Vessels not actively taking fish should be below the Johnston Hill line. Also, as a council man I would like to point out that delivery and processing of salmon outside of the Borough boundaries would not affect the tax collection as it is based on where the fish is caught.

Richard Johnson- Fishing boats always go to processors anyway it would be no problem if all none fishing vessels were below the line. We could drift down and deliver to them at low water.

Coast Guard- The pilots association told us that if we made vessels not actively taking fish stay below the line we would get more traffic going through the fishing areas, would this be a problem?

Ralph Angasan- That pilot must have never been on the grounds, we already have that problem. It couldn't be any worse than now.

Coast Guard- If this is just recommended how well do you think it would be followed?

George Tibbetts- If its voluntary, limited to active processors and those taking fish, and it is moved west; it might just fly.

Ralph Angasan- Shorebased processors keep their tenders out of the fishing areas, I can't see why it would hurt anybody else.

Richard Johnson- All the drifts pull you into the ships because of the winds and currents. They need to be moved out of the fishing area.

John Knutsen- We have this same problem in all the districts of Bristol Bay. We need to set something up that will work for all of them.

Coast Guard- We are responding to complaints. We have had some for the Nushagak and will starting this process over there next year with similar meetings. We have had no other complaints up to now.

Steve Angasan- I support AIFMA's position. Keep vessels out if they are not taking fish.

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I have attached a copy of Richard Johnson's written comments which were also submitted to the Coast Guard. The meeting ended at 10:40am.

The Coast Guard will be working something up on this over the next couple months and it will be sent out to everyone who participated at the meetings and all processors. I gave them my Anchorage address and phone number and they will keep me up to date on their progress.

PREAMBLE

271-5137
271-3530

I. INTRODUCTION - CAPT HAINES, COTP Western Alaska, Based at
USO Anchorage; LTJG GROWIN, PES Branch Chief.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

During June and July the Annual Salmon Fishery occurs in the
Naknek/Kvichak District. Complaints have been made to the Coast
Guard, and the State of Alaska by the Alaska Independent
Fishermen's Marketing Association (AIFMA) and others regarding
interference of drift fishermen by processing and cargo vessels
anchored in the fishing grounds. There are many opinions to the
extent of the problem and possible solutions which we will
discuss today. Other problems encountered are refuse dumping,
oil discharges, and lack of proper navigational lights or use of
floodlights which blind vessel operators.

III. REASONS FOR COAST GUARD INVOLVEMENT:

The Coast Guard's responsibilities include insuring the safety of
life and property at sea and the protection and safe use of ports
and waterways that support commerce. Our knowledge of this
fishery reveals the chance of significant marine casualties and
possible interference of commerce.

It is not our intent to strictly regulate vessel movements or
anchorage in this fishery. Rather, our purpose today is to
serve as an intermediary between involved parties with differing
points of view. Hopefully we can help the people who work this
fishery come up with a mutually acceptable, self-enforced system
of vessel anchorages. This meeting will provide an opportunity
for direct communication between involved parties in an attempt
to find a solution. The State of Alaska patrols the fishery
yearly. We plan to accompany them to enforce refuse and oil
discharge, and navigation regulations as well as observing the
anchorage area.

IV. MEETING FORMAT:

A. We will outline the problems encountered in the
Naknek/Kvichak Fishery, as explained to us by various involved
groups and individuals.

B. We will then present a proposed solution to the
problems as a starting point for your discussion.

C. Next, you will have an opportunity to voice your
comments one at a time from the microphone in front.

D. Finally, we will then summarize the meeting.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE PROBLEM AND OPINIONS:

A. The basic problem is that processors and cargo vessels anchor on the fishing grounds and take up potential fishing space and present obstacles for the drift fishermen who run the risk of losing gear in the larger vessels' anchor gear or colliding with them.

The processors actively receive fish during open periods and their presence on the grounds is important to prevent time-consuming trips off the grounds for delivery by the fishermen. The processors are restricted in where they can anchor by draft and their storage capacity of product determines how often they must transfer product to cargo vessels. Cargo vessels will often anchor or tie up alongside processors to facilitate cargo transfer and minimize trips into and out of the congested fishing grounds.

It has been proposed by A.I.F.M.A. that all ships stay south of the Johnston Hill Boundary Line except for tenders actively engaged in taking fish or those receiving fish within 24 hours. Various processors, non-affiliated fishermen, pilots, Borough and State officials have voiced opposition to this plan. Briefly summarized this plan would substantially increase the time for fishing vessels to get to the processors, it would place a number of fishing vessels outside of the fishery which increases the possibility of illegal fishing, and the issue of taxation would be raised if the processors are required to be south of the Johnson Hill Line.

ADF&G, and others have felt that concentrating the anchored processors and cargo ships in a small, known area would allow fishermen to plan their drifts to avoid the ships and obstruct less of the fishing area.

In summary:

1. Processors and cargo ships get in the way of fishing vessels and take up fishing space.
2. Processors are desirable on the grounds for timely delivery by fishermen.
3. Cargo vessels are desirable on the grounds for the processors with limited storage capability and to reduce vessel traffic on the grounds by these large vessels.

IV. PROPOSAL:

Many people felt that the fishery has worked well for years as is. Others obviously see a need for change. The following is hopefully a first try at a workable compromise:

We propose that all processors and cargo vessels, or other vessels desiring to anchor on the fishing grounds, do so only in the area outlined below:

The anchorage is along the line dividing the Naknek Section from the Kvichak Section (this line runs from $58^{\circ}-38'-30''$ N LAT., $157^{\circ}-22'-14''$ W LONG. to the outer end of the Libbyville Dock). Anchored vessels will remain within 1/4 mile on either side of this line allowing for swing on the anchor. The area will be bordered on the southwest by LORAN line 9990-Y-32430 and on the northeast by LORAN line 9990-Y-32385 (see chart).

This proposal will provide a more defined area for anchored vessels within the fishing area, which will in turn assist the drift fishermen in determining where they will encounter anchored vessels. It also provides a clear channel into Naknek for vessels underway.



I AM Richard N. Joltassu
I have lived here at Naknek
Area for 40 years
Am married & raise my family here
Since fishing the Salmon is main part
of income. I have fished for 34 years
for Salmon all times and all seasons
also for Herring in Togiak district.
This is Gillnetting his a set netter &
driftor. I've drifted for 26 years.
Fishing got real poor and had to look
for other income. Went to work for
State of Alaska to help thru winter here.
Before it was low price and
poor catches which made poor seasons.
Now we have poor prices along
with too many Tenders & especially
big processors ships in two of
the best fish areas in the
Naknek Kuichak. The Tenders &
processors in what we call the
Y or ships channel are the
biggest problem to everyone.
They have create a waste or
garbage problem in the drift areas
call Tide rips where all trash
seems to collect.

(2)

In the past before all these
processes we were able to drift trash in
now we are in mud drift. These boats
to pick out fish guts and pulled out
then this except fishing which are
dead fish. They strike out
These process. Drums, Fuel Tanks, Rubber
ing straps - plastic bags & disposable sheets
Also Toilet wastes. All fishing
process parts such as heads, guts &
slugs which are identifying. This ends
up on the shore flats from
Nakrak point to Lower Cut Bank
Area. These flats go dry for
miles out in the bay on low
water and grows a green slime
which also gets on nets which
create a problem. Never was about 5 years ago.

Besides this they are also
anchored ~~on the~~ in one of the
best fishing areas in the bay.

There is also another anchorage
being start outside of sands
at the Hatt Area bay area. This
also creates drift problems
& trash problems.

The biggest problem created by these anchored ships which are getting in the way of the fish is the catch they are keeping fishermen from getting. The catch is losing money and total catch per boat which could be greater because they get a 3.3 per fish tax on boat total catch per season.

State of Alaska also loses on some type of land protected area to work harder to patrol limit lines because boats have to go other places to catch great amounts of fish. Only the processors don't lose a thing.

A fishermen's losses here than any one. Can't even make a decent night drift.

Processors + Tenders create a night time navigation problem also.

During closer of Kluhuk side these processors + tenders tend to ~~attract~~ concentrate greatest portion of

Open fishing area and the
Nakvak School. You can't drift
out getting tide and miss
Three Anchorage. No way to
Anchorage vessels as to allow
free drifting because of tides
winds & currents.

Years ago I brought this
problem to Borough Assembly
as they can tell you.

Also to the fish & game meetings
then to Paigvik Village Council
and to the Nakvak Village Council.
I ask them to please look
into this matter. Am real please
to see it get this far.

I believe that all governments
are to concerned about the processes
floating & shore making money on
the fish they they are for the
fisherman & there one selfs.

Believe that they all have
part to share in this problem.

I will now give you
my ideas of what can be done
and each party's particular
role as is needed.

Told Borough to
contact coast guard
to designate anchorage

(5)
I Believe These processor Tenders
Should be Moved outside or South
of The South Limit Line which
Lies on a Loran C Reading of 32400

The processor Vessels & tenders won't
Leave anything on this beach.
Fishermen still have to sell their fresh
Fish products to them.

The fishermen should be free
This move because it will improve
their catch and also rid bay of
great amount of trash and also enlarge
fishing area.

Borough should take part as the
local government to increase safety
on their waters, insure cleaner
and unpolluted waters in there
jurisdiction and mainly to collect more
tax on bigger catches fishermen will
be catching.

State of Alaska should help
on this situation also for the
same reasons as borough and because
of big state money investments on

Boat Loans or Such a Better
Fishermen's Catches - Effort Still
Payments to be Made

Fish & Game - Protection - Fishermen
Lessor of any vessel from to
Patrol - Talking about South Side
Lider By putting all tenders & prospects
below South Side - Stingered you
Have your protected fishings boats
Cannot break the line all the time
State State Money on protection
Money They ^{could} use else where for
Sure

Alaska Coast Guard for Simple
Reason of Navigation Safety And
Equal opportunities for both sides
parties involved,

Pauvik Village Corp & Nakuok Village
Council To help insure better
pay days for Their Native
Fishermen.

One more thing, years ago
State of Alaska made a law
that shore facilities had to
grind all fish guts, heads +
bones before dumping. Shore
facilities in cleaning up the sticky
shore environments. This cost
shore facilities much money,
before that all planting
processors should have to abide
by these same rules and shall
be inspected for this summer
operation. Levels quit dumping garbage
over banks on beaches, we have a swimming fall.

Hope also that processors +
Terees can be moved for
1984 season.
Will help fishermen for
Next two years good seasons and
Also for bad seasons coming

Thank you for letting me
Speak my piece