

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILE 8672
1767 SCOMM 70: SEN. SPEC. COMM. ON HIGH SEAS SALMON INTERCEPT. 1989-90

Northwest

1988

Japan, Canada, U.S. agree to take action against driftnets

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The program was decided during a recent meeting of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission in Tokyo, Davis said Tuesday. Canada, the United States and Japan are the only members of the commission.

It includes a network to exchange information on the fishing activities of non-commission nations in the north Pacific, a coordinated overview of each country's regulations, coordinated investigations of the traffic in non-INPFC salmon and diplomatic pressure.

Deepsea driftnets have been called the ocean-going equivalent of strip mining. The fence-like nets set by about 1,700 ships hang from the surface to a usual depth of about 25 feet. Individual nets are often 30 miles long.

Their fine nylon threads snag not only their main targets - salmon and squid - but also tuna, marlin, whales, porpoises, dolphins, seals and seabirds.

The Fisheries Council of British Columbia says the unregulated offshore fishery could be the cause of a drastic shortfall in the return of pink salmon to northern British Columbia rivers this year.

Fishing vessels and processors in Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia and Korea are believed to be involved in the unregulated fishery.

The Seattle-based Pacific Seafood Processors Association recently reported that Asian squid-fishing fleets are catching salmon and landing them in Singapore, where they are frozen, or in Bangkok, where they are canned and shipped to European buyers at half the price of Canadian, Japanese and U.S. canned salmon.

Controversial cleric back from Rome

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Cutter reassigned

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Ten people, including the crew of the 82-foot Point Glass and support personnel from the nearby Point Glass Coast Guard Station - both have the same name - are slated to make the move in mid-April, Chief Petty Officer Roy Compton said Monday.

Compton said the Point Glass had been assigned to the waters around the San Juan Islands about 80 days a year and was available for law enforcement, search-and-rescue missions and other work the rest of the time.

Lack of a cutter will not affect search-and-rescue capabilities in the area, Coast Guard officials said.

Cultist sentenced

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) - The founder of an athletes' prayer group that prosecutors say became a destructive cult was sentenced Wednesday to three years in prison for his part in the death of a boy whose parents belonged to the nameless Christian sect.

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CORRECTION

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HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

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Wavemaker



Locksmith works quickly

Wavemaker:

How did we find out why the management at Seaview Terrace, the subsidized housing complex, suddenly and without notice changed the locks on the doors? Several oldtimers were confused and angry when they couldn't get into their apartments. Aren't residents supposed to be notified?

Signed,
Hearing Complaints

Hearing Complaints:

Seaview Terrace manager Nadine Robertson tells us she called a locksmith to change the locks on the front and ground floor doors and was so prompt she just wasn't prepared with the notices she planned to distribute to residents. The new keys were already on hand when residents came home. She posted notes on doors and gave instructions for residents to buzz neighbors to let them in until all the new keys could be distributed. She says the lock change was a routine maintenance measure.

Einstein has good alibi

Wavemaker:

Don't understand Southeast Island School District superintendent Bob Einstein went south to look at computers for his school district. I find it wondering why the superintendent does this personally. Anyone who goes south during the holiday season on tax dollars is suspected of using it as an excuse for Christmas shopping. Can you clean this up?

Signed,
Stay Home in December

Stay Home in December:

Einstein went south to look at computers, office furniture and so on. As for Christmas shopping, he says, "I'm Jewish."

If you have a question or are seeking information, write to the Wavemaker. Inquiries will be handled promptly and professionally. The Wavemaker's address is P.O. Box 7900, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901.

Japanese deny illegal fishing

Japanese government officials told Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski Wednesday that their country's fishermen are not involved in the illegal taking of salmon on the high seas.

Described by one participant at the meeting as "a knock-down-drag-out," Murkowski called on the Hirohisa Tanaka, Director General of Fisheries Agency of Japan, and other government officials to take stronger policing action against their fishermen involved in the illegal fishery, according to a press release from Murkowski's Washington D.C. office.

Murkowski said that he was in Tokyo not only to represent U.S. fishermen, but also to represent the fish.

"If all the countries of the Pacific Rim do not get together on this problem we are going to lose the resource itself," Murkowski told Tanaka.

Tanaka responded that Japanese fishermen were not involved, that his government had cracked down on their fishermen, according to Murkowski.

"In contrast to Taiwan, where officials readily admitted that they couldn't control their fishermen, and that there was a problem with high-seas interception, Tanaka just flatly denied that the Japanese were doing it, Murkowski reported after the meeting.

"So we went through the laundry list: numerous documented violations by Japanese boats crossing the line and crossing the boundaries; marketing literature offering salmon for sale from Japanese sources; and a drastic reduction in our run," Murkowski said.

Murkowski said that evidence is enough for him to believe the Japanese are involved.

He told the Japanese officials that he appreciated current Japanese efforts to police their fishermen.

"But it is apparent that Japanese fishermen are still part of the problem," he said.

The governments of all three Pacific Rim countries, Japan, Taiwan and Korea, plus the United States and the Soviet Union, have to be part of the solution.

"There has to be a cooperative effort to make sure that this doesn't continue to happen, otherwise we'll lose the resource," he said.

In a second meeting, Murkowski delivered the same message to a member of the Japanese Diet, Mutsuki Kato, who is chairman of fisheries group of the Liberal Democratic Party.

"He responded positively, although he also tried to say he didn't think Japanese fishermen were

involved," Murkowski said.

He was encouraged, however, because Kato "recognized that there is a problem and that it would take a cooperative effort on the part of all the countries involved to address it."

The Japanese legislator told Murkowski that he is under a huge amount of pressure from Japanese fishermen who want to institute retaliatory action against the United States for not giving them allocations of bottom fish from the U.S. 200-mile zone, and for a court ruling which resulted in the loss of a marine mammal permit required for a Japanese salmon fishery previously allowed in our 200-mile zone through an international treaty which reduced the level of Japan fishing on the high seas.

The Japanese claim the loss of the fishery violates their treaty with the United States.

City manager job draws 35 hopefuls - so far

By JERI LESSARD
Daily News Staff Writer

Thirty-five applications for the city of Ketchikan's city manager position had been received in the city clerk's office by Wednesday. The application deadline is Dec. 15.

Four Alaska residents appear on the list of applicants to replace City Manager Jim Van Altvorst, who announced his resignation in early October. The in-state hopefuls are David C. Smith, of Juneau, Lee A. Wyatt of Wasilla, and Bruce E. Vonada and Richard L. Weaver, both of Anchorage.

Other applications arrived from as far afield as Maine and Florida, and as close as Oregon and Washington state.

Two women appear on the list of 35 - Elizabeth S. Haeseker of Clearwater, Fla., and Melinda Rae Carlton of Topeka, Kansas.

Five of the applicants are from Washington state, four from Florida, and two each from New York, Kansas, Texas, Colorado and South Carolina. Other states represented are Idaho, Oregon, California, New Mexico, Arizona, West Virginia,

Michigan, Illinois, Maine, Oklahoma, Utah and New Jersey.

During its Dec. 15 meeting, Mayor Ted Ferry said the City Council will receive a time schedule for reviewing applications and a form which will be used to grade candidates.

The nine-member committee which will narrow down the applications includes Councilmen Chuck Freeman and Jim Carlton, and community representatives Paul Young, Tom Friesen, Dave Thompson, Virginia Klepser, Carroll Fader, John Clifton and Judy Auger.

Ferry said the committee likely will develop a list of 20 candidates then determine the final 10 applicants to pass on to the City Council for consideration. It will begin its work on Dec. 19.

The mayor also expects no fewer than three finalists may visit Ketchikan for personal interviews, at the city's expense, before the process is complete. He believes it is unlikely a new city manager will be on board before April.

Van Altvorst has resigned as of Jan. 1, but said he is willing to continue working for the city perhaps on a contractual basis. He has not revealed any future work plans, although he will remain a Ketchikan resident.

Meetings & brevities

Deadline for written and in copy for this column is noon at the Moose Club. Election of Ketchikan School Board members.

vention as "much ado about nothing," saying that the collection was a "prudent and esthetically appropriate" purchase, and that was acquired "with professional advice and appraisals a full authorization by the bank's board." He also said the Rubens had been in

Continued from Page D-1

McKinnzie, 39, engineer, said the airline industry will see a greater separation between ownership and operation, as we have seen with real estate and hotels. King added that GPA

lines in 32 countries. Clients include Braniff TWA, Pan Am, Midway Royal Jordanian, Air Tami ca, and Bangkok Airways

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House members from Washington and Oregon urged President Bush on Tuesday to take trade action against nations refusing to regulate fishing fleets which use huge nets in the North Pacific.

U.S. fishermen claim the so-called driftnets are used to illegally snare millions of salmon, while environmentalists contend the nets are responsible for killing thousands of porpoises, seals, seabirds and other marine life every year.

The nets, which can stretch up to 35 miles, have been used since the early 1980s by about 700 vessels from Japan, South Korea

and Taiwan to catch squid.

Rep. Jolene Uncoiled, D-Wash., introduced a non-binding resolution, backed by her House colleagues in the Washington delegation and Oregon's three Democrats in the House, urging Bush to impose trade sanctions if nations with such fleets refuse to "enter into and implement adequate driftnet monitoring and enforcement agreements."

"This has been called 'biological strip-mining of the sea' and that's exactly what it is," Unsoeld said at a news conference. "The drift-net fleet can lay 30,000 miles of net on any given day, catching and suffocating virtually every porpoise, seal,

fish or bird that comes into contact with it.

"That's not fishing; that's indiscriminate slaughter."

Unsoeld said the resolution "sends an unmistakable message that we want these pirates put out of business." She said driftnet fleets are "stealing" an estimated 10,000 metric tons of salmon worth an estimated \$21 million annually.

American fishermen say the illegal salmon netting has already hurt fish runs in Washington state, Oregon and Alaska.

By international agreement, driftnet fishing is limited to certain areas that are supposed to be well away from salmon grounds, but

Unsoeld said the regulations are ignored.

Talks with the Japanese aimed at reaching an agreement to monitor the driftnet fleet and enforce various regulations broke down over the weekend.

The secretary of commerce, under a 1987 law, has until June 29 to notify the president of any country failing to enter into such an agreement. Bush could then impose trade restrictions on imports of fish products from those countries.

Unsoeld said that if Bush fails to act, she and other lawmakers were prepared to introduce legislation that would require trade sanctions.

Gasoline prices up again

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Continued from Page D-1

RUBENS: Regulators say sell

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Lawmakers seek sanctions for fishing violators

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