ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1981-1982 8672

1863 HRES SCR 31 - SJR 70

1863

Table 2 . Preliminary 1981 Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery
Chinook and Coho Salmon Catches by Fishing Period
(ADF&G 11/81)

Closed Periods (Days)	Open Periods (Days)	Chinook	Coho
Winter Season			
	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 1980	1,600	
	Jan. 1 - April 14, 1981	8,000	
Winter Season Subtotals		9,600	
Summer Season			
April 15 - May 14 (30)			
	May 15 - June 25 (41)	138,900	23,400
June 26 - July 4 (9)			
	July 5 - Aug. 9 (36)	83,400	577,500
Aug. 10 - 19 (10)[1]			
	Aug. 20 - Sept. 3 (15)	15,000	240,800
Sept. 4 - 12 (9)[2]			
	Sept. 13 - 20 (8)	1,700	19,200
Sept. 21 - 30 (10)			
Summer Season Subtotals (68)	(100)	239,000	860,900
Season Totals[3]		248,600	860,900

Notes: [1] Federal FCZ waters remained closed to fishing after Aug. 10.

[2] The Sept. 4-12 closure included all districts for chinook salmon and districts 5-10, and portions of 12 and 15 for coho salmon. These coho closures remained in effect to the end of the coho season on Sept. 20.

[3] Troll fishery harvest of other species included 576,000 pinks, 9,000 chums, and 8,000 sockeye.

Table 3 . Southeast Alaska region annual commercial salmon catches by gear in numbers and (percent), 1970 to present (ADF&G 11/04/81).

Species Coho

Year	Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Troll	Trap & Misc.	Total
1970	294624 (39)	166413 (22)	30279 (4)	267763 (35)	2510 (0)	761589 (100)
1971	326423 (36)	159240 (17)	37683 (4)	391569 (43)	12 (0)	914927 (100)
1972	390643 (26)	275527 (18)	46298 (3)	791668 (52)	4688 (0)	1508824 (100)
1973	129593 (15)	124369 (15)	41776 (5)	540104 (65)	557 (0)	836399 (100)
1974	166687 (13)	186583 (15)	77556 (6)	846620 (66)	1011 (0)	1278457 (100)
1975	70201 (16)	102237 (24)	37403 (9)	214254 (50)	3262 (1)	427357 (100)
1976	87613 (11)	156223 (19)	51744 (6)	524992 (64)	3089 (0)	823661 (100)
1977	160519 (17)	183702 (19)	92228 (10)	506927 (54)	1374 (0)	944750 (100)
1978	245074 (14)	223341 (13)	139500 (8)	1102066 (64)	4527 (0)	1714508 (100)
1979	177010 (14)	83214 (6)	95885 (7)	918596 (72)	9608 (1)	1284313 (100)
1980	194268 (17)	112608 (10)	119571 (11)	706521 (62)	2800 (0)	1135768 (100)
Average 1970 to present	203878 (19)	161223 (15)	69993 (7)	619189 (59)	3040 (0)	1057323
1981(Prelim.)	266000(20)	99700(8)	91000(7)	860900(65)	4200(0)	1321800

Footnotes: (1) Average percent harvest by gear type calculated from average harvest in numbers by gear type.
(2) Percents may not sum exactly to 100 due to rounding.
(3) Seine and drift gillnet catches inc[illegible] salmon harvested by Annette Island Reserve fishe[illegible]

Table 4 . Preliminary 1981 Southeast Alaska Commercial Chinook Salmon Catches by Gear (ADF&G 11/81)

Fishery	Preliminary Catch
Troll Fishery	248,600 1/
Seine Fishery (incidental harvest)	9,700
Gillnet Fishery (incidental harvest)	8,800
Trap and miscellaneous	1,000
Est. Total Commercial Harvest	268,100

1/ Includes approximately 1,600 fish harvested during that portion of the winter season from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 1980.

Table 5. Preliminary estimates of 1981 chinook salmon escapements to selected Southeast Alaska systems (ADF&G 11/81).

Note: Over 30 chinook salmon producing systems exist in Southeast Alaska. However, due to poor surveying conditions in many systems only those included below are currently surveyed in a consistent manner each year to provide a relative measure or index of total chinook salmon escapements to Southeast Alaska systems.

System - Tributary	Type of Survey[1]	Escapements			Minimum Escapement Goal[2]
		Ave. 1975-80	1980	1981	
		Major Systems (3 Total)			
Taku - Nakina	(1)	2,810	4,500	5,100	9,000
- Nahini	(1)	780	1,530	2,940	2,500
Taku Subtotal		3,590	6,030	8,040	11,500
Stikine - Little Tahltan	(1)	620	2,140	3,330	(2,100)
Alsek - Kluckshu	(2)	2,130	1,400	2,110	3,200
		Medium Systems (8 Total)			
Situk	(2)	1,490	1,120	810	(5,100)
Behm Canal Systems					
Keta	(1)	250	190	330	500
Blossum	(1)	100	90	160	800
Chickamin	(1)	220	260	280	900
Unuk	(1)	800	1,050	730	1,800
Behm Canal Subtotals		1,370	1,590	1,500	4,000
		Minor Systems (22 Total)			
King Salmon	(1)	76	70	100	200

[1] Type of Survey Codes (1) - Helicopter peak spawning count (primary method).
(2) - Weir total count.

[2] These minimum escapement goals, established in 1980, represent maximum escapements observed since the 1950's (except for the Situk) when Southeast Alaska chinook stocks were seriously depressed. Revision of goals for some systems, in particular the Situk and Stikine, is expected pending further data analysis.

SCR

48

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

(7) FURTHER:

5/17/82

Date: May 18, 1982

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Resources has had CSSCR 48(Res)

Relating to joint ventures between Alaska commercial salmon fisherman and foreign processors.

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

[ ] do pass [ ] do not pass

[ ] do pass with attached amendments(s)

[ ] replace with CS for _____ [ ] same title [ ] new title

and recommends _____

[ ] AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" [ ] New Fiscal Note

[✓] reports it back without recommendation

[ ] referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

Eric Sutcliffe

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Eric G. Sutcliffe
CHAIRMAN

H 60 (Rev. 3/81)

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

SUBPORT BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
PHONE:

May 3, 1982

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your interest in foreign processing and tendering of surplus salmon during 1982.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has reviewed information and data regarding expected salmon runs, anticipated processing capability of U.S. processors, the anticipated market situation and other pertinent information provided during its meeting on April 3, 1982. The Board has tentatively granted limited permission for foreign vessels to process surplus pink salmon in five of the State's commercial fisheries. For each of these fisheries the Board has tentatively identified the periods open to foreign processing operations and the potential surplus which may be available.

Norton Sound: From July 1 through July 31, three million pink salmon may be available. The projection for this run may be less reliable than more formal pink salmon forecasts compiled for other fisheries. The magnitude of this surplus is greatly beyond the historical high harvest of 300,000 pink salmon for this region. A possible shortage of available harvesting capacity may also exist. Any foreign vessel seeking to process these fish must be prepared to operate in either Golsovin Bay or Norton Bay as there are no other internal waters present in this region.

Nushagak Bay: From July 20 through August 10, four million pink salmon may be available. Foreign processing vessels must be located in Nushagak Bay.

Kodiak Island: From July 25 through August 15, 1.5 million pink salmon may be available.

Prince William Sound: From July 20 through August 20, three million pink salmon may be available. One million of these fish are expected to be taken in the terminal hatchery harvest area adjacent to the Port San Juan hatchery.

Southeastern: From July 25 to August 25, one million pink salmon may be available in southern Southeast districts 1, 2, and 3.

It is important to stress that in identifying these tentative surpluses, the Board makes no guarantee of the actual availability of these fish to foreign processing vessels. Catch projections are based on recent stock production trends and analysis of pre-season indicators. Actual run sizes may vary from those forecasted. Likewise, the timing of returning runs is variable and can only be estimated from historical data.

A Foreign Processing and Tendering Permit must be obtained from the Commissioner of Fish and Game before a foreign processing vessel can operate in State waters. The decision to issue a permit will be made by the Commissioner with concurrence of the Governor's Office on the basis of the determination that the requirements of the State foreign processing regulation and the Findings of the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Foreign Processing will be satisfied by this action. If a permit is issued to a foreign processing vessel, the actual processing operation cannot begin until the area in which the vessel is authorized to operate is opened to foreign processing by Commissioner's Announcement. Furthermore, the Commissioner may:

(1) modify, pre-season and in-season, locations and times open to foreign processing based on changes in anticipated and demonstrated processing capabilities;

(2) modify the number of salmon available for foreign processing based on demonstrated run strength and domestic processing capabilities;

(3) modify locations and times open to foreign processing based upon the timing and overlap of runs of non-target species; and

(4) terminate foreign processing operations if it appears that the product of those operations may displace domestically processed Alaskan salmon from normal domestic and foreign markets.

In order to promote the public safety and convenience to the fisherman and the Department, the Commissioner may designate within the State's internal waters those areas where a foreign processing vessel may operate. Foreign processing vessels are prohibited by State and Federal law from operating outside the State's internal waters.

Foreign processing vessels limited to receiving and processing pink salmon will be allowed to accept other species caught incidentally, in order to relieve the fisherman of the burden of sorting his catch. However, the Commissioner will monitor the magnitude of the catch of non-target species to determine whether the timing and location of foreign processing operations must be adjusted to protect domestic processors who may be processing non-target species.

Tentative surpluses have been identified only for pink salmon in the areas specified. At the present time surpluses are not anticipated for any species other than pink salmon. Permit applications will be finalized only for pink salmon in the areas indicated. However, permit applications to process other

species or in other areas will be accepted but will not be finalized unless new pre or in-season information indicates a change in the current assessment of capacity.

To apply for a Foreign Processing and Tendering Permit complete the enclosed permit application and return to Foreign Processing Coordinator, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 3-2000 Juneau, Alaska 99802.

Along with the permit application, a copy of the Findings of the Alaska Board of Fisheries on Foreign Processing, the foreign processing regulation and information on additional permit requirements are enclosed.

Sincerely,

George Utermohle
Foreign Processing Coordinator
Division of Commercial Fisheries
(907) 465-4215

Enclosures

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
FOREIGN PROCESSING DURING THE 1982 SALMON FISHERIES

I. FINDINGS

Under 5 AAC 39.198, commercial fishing and related operations by aliens not lawfully admitted to the United States are prohibited. The regulation provides that the Board of Fisheries may grant limited exceptions to 5 AAC 39.198 with respect to particular fisheries and permit foreign vessels and aliens to process fish resources at or transport fish resources from an existing or constructive port when the conditions specified in 5 AAC 39.198(d) exist.

The Board has reviewed information and data regarding expected Alaskan salmon runs, anticipated processing capability of U.S. processors, the anticipated market situation, the likelihood of waste, and the possibility of clandestine operations. The Board has received processing capacity reports from the Department of Fish and Game, marketing analysis reports from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, reports on anticipated foreign processing interest from the Office of the Governor, and considered comments made during public hearings in Anchorage on April 3, 1982.

The Board finds:

1. In the Norton Sound, Bristol Bay, Kodiak, Prince William Sound, and Southeastern Alaska salmon fisheries, pink salmon runs are expected to greatly exceed spawning escapement requirements in many of the contributing river systems and approximately 81 million pink salmon will be available for commercial harvest.

2. The volume of pink salmon available for harvest may exceed the processing capability of United States processors by approximately 12.5 million pink salmon.

3. The large volume of pink salmon in excess of the domestic processing capacity and anticipated marketing conditions are expected to cause suspensions of operations by domestic processors with a resultant loss of opportunities for the domestic fishermen to market their catches.

4. There is a likelihood of substantial wastage of pink salmon resources taken in the fisheries if foreign processing or transportation capacity is not utilized.

5. Allowing vessels from certain foreign nations to process salmon in selected internal waters of the State would most likely not result in a displacement of the commercial market away from domestic processors.

6. There is no significant likelihood of clandestine foreign fishing operations if a limited exception is granted.

II. EXCEPTIONS TO 5 AAC 39.198 GRANTED

Based on the above findings, the Board hereby tentatively grants limited exceptions to 5 AAC 39.198 allowing the use of foreign vessels to process salmon in the following locations during the specified times.

Management Area[1]	Foreign Processing Season[2]	Projected Processing Surplus[3]
Norton Sound district	July 1 - July 31	3,000,000 pink salmon
Nushagak district	July 20 - August 10	4,000,000 pink salmon
Kodiak	July 25 - August 15	1,500,000 pink salmon
Prince William Sound	July 20 - August 20	3,000,000 pink salmon
Southeastern Alaska	July 25 - August 25	1,000,000 pink salmon

[1] The Department will specify on the foreign processing permits locations within these management areas where processing operations can be conducted.

[2] The Department may adjust these dates dependent on timing of the various salmon runs and the degree of species overlap between runs.

[3] The possible amount of harvestable pink salmon which may be in excess of domestic processing capability. These numbers will be adjusted by the Department as additional run size, harvesting, and processing data becomes available.

Foreign vessels processing or tendering unprocessed salmon must adhere to the following conditions:

1. Only salmon harvested in the Norton Sound district (5 AAC 04.200(b)), Nushagak district (5 AAC 06.200(a)), Kodiak Area (5 AAC 18.200), Prince William Sound Area (5 AAC 24.200) and Southeastern Alaska Area (5 AAC 33.200) may be delivered to a foreign vessel.

2. The operator of each vessel engaged in the processing or tendering of salmon under this limited exception must obtain a "foreign processing permit" from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and keep it posted in a conspicuous place in the wheelhouse; requests for a "foreign processing permit" may be directed to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and shall specify:

   a. dates of operations;
   b. location of operations;
   c. place of intended delivering and processing outside Alaska;
   d. location of final market place;
   e. room and board arrangements for a State observer; and
   f. such other items as the Department may require.

3. Each holder of a "foreign processing permit" shall report to the local representative of the Department the number and pounds of each species of salmon received each day pursuant to processing

operations permitted under 5 AAC 39.198(a) and other information required by the Department to assure the orderly harvest and documentation of the 1982 pink salmon surplus.

4. Each permittee shall abide by all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and ordinances and all other conditions required by the Commissioner to assure the orderly harvest of the 1982 pink salmon surplus.

III. GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMISSIONER

In accordance with 5 AAC 39.198(d), the Board directs the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game to adhere to the following guidelines when granting and terminating exceptions to 5 AAC 39.198:

1. Those general guidelines set forth in 5 AAC 39.198(d)(1) through (5).

2. Modify, pre-season and in-season, locations and times open to foreign processing based on changes in anticipated and demonstrated domestic processing capabilities.

3. Modify the number of salmon available for foreign processing based on demonstrated run strength and domestic processing capabilities.

4. Modify locations and times open to foreign processing based upon the timing and overlap of runs of non-target species.

5. Terminate foreign processing operations if it appears that the product of those operations may displace domestically processed Alaskan salmon from normal domestic and foreign markets.

DATED: April 7, 1982

Nick Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Clasby

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

1982 PROCESSING CAPACITY UPDATE TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Anchorage, Alaska
April 1982

1982 PROCESSING CAPACITY UPDATE

Introduction

The 1982 Alaskan salmon processing picture continues to demand serious attention by fishermen, processors, and government officials. Central to the success of what could represent a record commercial salmon season for Alaska is the ability of the salmon industry to catch and process the surpluses as they become available for harvest. The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Department of Fish and Game has attempted to anticipate potential harvesting and processing difficulties so that unplanned under utilization or wasteage of Alaska's important renewable fish resources may be avoided. The Department of Fish and Game compiled a preliminary evaluation of the potential 1983 domestic processing capacity for presentation to the Board of Fisheries in December 1981. It was recognized that important additional information would come available as industry plans solidified and that an updated evaluation of the processing picture would aid the Board of Fisheries in further considering possible regulatory solutions during their spring meeting. This update is intended to serve in that capacity by reporting what limited new information has come to light since December 1981.

The information contained in this report is intended to supplement the Preliminary 1982 Processing Capacity Report. Only those fisheries identified as strong candidates for processing shortfalls are addressed. It is also hoped that additional information will be brought to the Board's attention as a result of the public hearing.

It must be stressed that processing capacities described in this report as well as that of the Preliminary 1982 Processing Capacity are potential processing capacities based on either past observed actual capacities or estimates of capacity obtained through direct contact with local processors unless otherwise stated.

While it is difficult if not impossible to judge precisely what level of potential capacity will actually be utilized by individual operators, the information permits pre-season identification of likely problem areas. The following narrates new information concerning selected fisheries and provides recommendations for further consideration. Tables 1 and 2 list the revised harvest projections for the State's commercial salmon fisheries and projected daily processing capacity estimates derived for selected salmon fisheries.

Fishery Updates and Recommendations

A resurvey of Southeastern Alaska salmon processors did not detect major differences in the region's overall processing capacity situation as reported earlier. There is a possibility of two 1/4 pound canning lines being added to one processors capability, but it is not expected to significantly increase the region's canning operations.

Tender capacity remains an important uncertainty and will be a prime factor in deciding the region's successful handling of the anticipated

record harvest. While the Department believes adequate numbers of tenders will be available to processors to move fish within the southeast region and to areas outside for processing, it cannot be verified. One company has indicated plans to move a considerable number of pink salmon outside the State for processing. Other southeast companies with affiliation to Canadian or Washington processors may elect to follow suit.

In light of the importance of tendering support to region processors and to provide adequate export capabilities, it may be desirable to adjust the management strategy by spacing fishery openings to enhance the even supply and transportation of harvests to processors. This approach was successfully used during the 1977 purse seine fishery when one day openings were evenly staggered through the peak fishing weeks instead of the more normal three to five day consecutive fishing periods. The staggered daily opening fishing pattern must be applied cautiously as it does increase fleet harvesting effectiveness and not all southeast pink salmon stocks may be able to withstand the pressure.

Lastly, it remains evident that domestic processing shortfalls would likely occur if the harvest exceeds the 25.5 million pink salmon projection. In this event consideration should be given to permitting the use of foreign tenders to move fish outside southeast for processing.

Prince William Sound remains high on the list of fisheries potentially in need of additional processing capacity. Resurvey of all major salmon processors indicated only slight changes in individual plant processing capacities leaving the area wide picture as reported earlier.

A 2.5 million fish shortfall in potential domestic processing capacity is projected to occur during the two peak harvest weeks (July 26 to August 8). Like Southeastern, the Prince William Sound fishery must rely heavily on export capacity to processing facilities outside the area. In this regard several companies reported firm commitments with Cook Inlet plants to handle Prince William Sound catches. While Kodiak has in past years processed up to 50% of the fish exported from Prince William Sound that capacity may be needed to handle Kodiak harvests.

Certainly, the Prince William Sound pink salmon fishery stands as a prime candidate for foreign processing. Interest in accessing foreign processing capacity has been expressed by some domestic operators.

Though the Kodiak salmon fishery was not initially identified as a candidate for capacity problems based on past area harvests it is now apparent that Kodiak capacity may be stressed by fish imported from other fisheries that coincide with its peak harvest periods (Figure 1). Specifically, the 4.5 million weekly processing capacity estimated for Kodiak area operators while adequate for the expected maximum weekly harvest rate of 4 million fish may be inadequate to also cover a potential half million fish weekly export from Prince William Sound aside from other area exports. Comparison of pink salmon run timing shows similar peak harvest periods for both Kodiak and Prince William Sound fisheries. Clearly, the most direct resolution of this potential problem is to address the capacity deficiencies in Prince William Sound thereby reducing the potential burden on Kodiak.

No new information has been obtained from Bristol Bay salmon processors that would alter the preliminary capacity evaluation of the areas sockeye salmon fishery. Department biologists have revised the Kvichak River escapement goal from 2.0 to 4.0 million sockeye salmon spawners for the 1982 season to strengthen the normally weak mid-cycle year production. This lowers the anticipated sockeye salmon harvest to 27.2 million and may further ease the processing picture in the Naknek-Kvichak fishing district. Overall, Bristol Bay processors have demonstrated a 'equate capacity to handle the 1982 forecasted sockeye salmon harvest.

The situation may be considerably different during the Nushagak District pink salmon fishery which could potentially provide a record harvest of 8.2 million fish. Recent contact with processors show limited interest in this late July early August fishery. Although adequate processing capacity does potentially exist to handle the harvest it is now evident processing capacity shortfalls are likely. Unfortunately the Department cannot now quantify what the shortfall may be nor can the normally variable Nushagak River pink salmon forecast be expected to be precise. Certainly, the lack of processor commitment is related to confidence in the forecast; it is difficult to plan a processing operation for a fishery that may not materialize as predicted. The Nushagak District pink salmon fishery may be a strong candidate for foreign processing unless processors show considerably more interest.

The Norton Sound pink salmon fishery continues to share many of the same problems identified for the Nushagak District pink salmon fishery. Presently, no major processing effort is expected for the 1982 fishery,

which could potentially produce a 3.5 million harvest. Logistic problems, limited processing facilities, high transportation cost, and low price paid to fishermen is expected to prevent proper exploitation of surpluses available.

Foreign Processing Legislation Update

A bill is now before the U.S. Congress to prohibit foreign processing in State waters (Territorial Sea and Internal Waters) unless the Governor of the State invites them in. The bill is still going through a series of modifications, but the current language gives the Governor rather wide latitude on the criteria for allowing foreign processing and the procedures to be used. Lack of processing capacity is given as one basic criteria.

It is anticipated that this legislation will be in place before the 1982 Alaskan salmon season and will govern the State's use of foreign processing.

Table 1. Comparison of 1980 and 1981 commercial salmon harvests to harvestable surpluses projected for 1982 Alaska Fisheries.

Fishery	Commercial Harvest in Millions of Fish 1980	1981 1/	1982 Projected 2/
SOUTHEASTERN	18.7	21.0	29.2
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND	15.2	23.3	25.7
COOK INLET	5.2	6.7	5.8
BRISTOL BAY	28.1	27.7	36.9
KODIAK	19.2	13.1	15.9
CHIGNIK	2.3	3.6	3.0
ALASKA PENINSULA-ALEUTIANS	18.3	12.1	12.9
ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM	3.3	3.9	3.6
State Total	110.3	111.4	133.0

1/ Preliminary, compiled November 23, 1981.

2/ Revised March, 1982.

Table 2. Projected daily processing capacity estimates for selected Alaskan salmon fisheries in 1982.

Area	Daily Processing Capacity (numbers of salmon) Canning	Fresh-Frozen	Export	Combined
SOUTHEASTERN	750,000	274,000	350,000 1/	1,374,000
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND	545,000	97,000	290,000 2/	93[illegible]00
BRISTOL BAY	684,000	648,000	468,000	1,800,000
KODIAK	725,000	170,000	3/	895,000
SOUTH PENINSULA-ALEUTIANS	325,000	100,000	3/	425,000

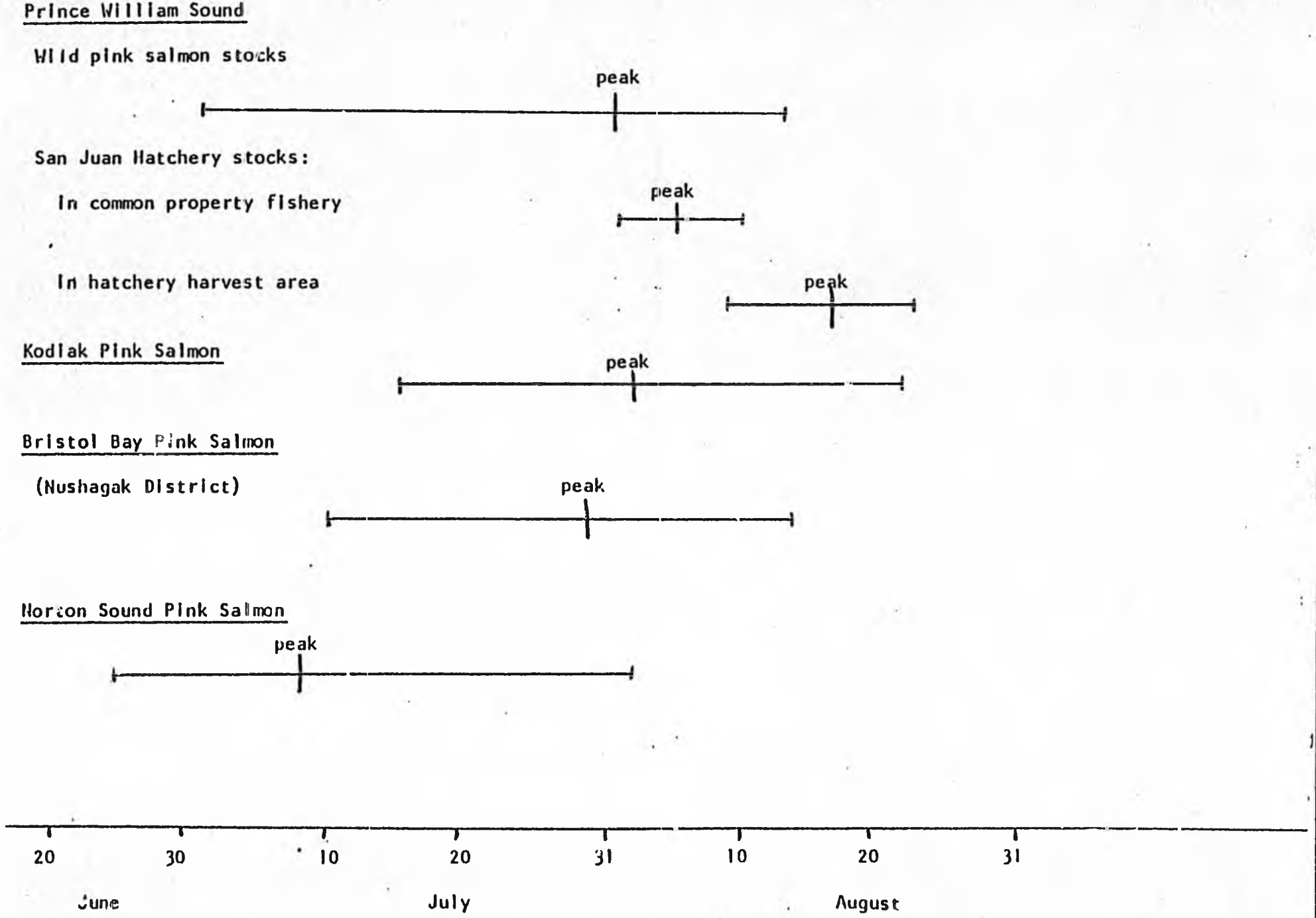
1/ The 1978 estimated export level, although a 250,000 lbs./week export capacity is planned by one processor for 1982.

2/ Considered a minimal level.

3/ Unknown.

Figur

Comparison of Commercial Harvest Timing and Peak Catches for Selected Pink Salmon Fisheries in Alaska.



Clasby

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

PRELIMINARY 1982 PROCESSING CAPACITY REPORT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Anchorage, Alaska
December, 1981

PRELIMINARY 1982 PROCESSING CAPACITY REPORT

Introduction

Based on forecasts developed by Department of Fish and Game biologists, the 1982 Alaskan commercial salmon fisheries may well experience the largest harvestable surplus ever documented. Potential harvest of 135 million salmon from the State's commercial fisheries, if realized, would continue a seven year trend of increasing catches and surpass the previous record harvest of 126 million salmon established in 1936.

The 1982 statewide forecast is also unique, with 81 million (or 60 percent) of the total 135 million fish harvested projected to be pink salmon. Pink salmon harvest of that level would surpass the old record of 77.8 million pink salmon harvested in 1941. Record pink salmon surpluses in the major fisheries around the Gulf of Alaska may have profound effects on market availability and price paid to fishermen in many of the more remote pink salmon fisheries in Norton Sound, Nushagak Bay and along the Alaska Peninsula.

While a total statewide harvest of this magnitude provides important opportunities and great potential benefits, it also presents great challenges to the State and industry to ensure proper utilization of the valuable resource available. In recent past seasons large salmon harvests in some areas have stressed domestic processing capabilities which have resulted in some harvestable surpluses lost to the fisheries. The 1980 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery provides an example where fishing activities delayed by price disputes and processing capacity shortfalls resulted in approximately 13.5 million fish, worth $43 million to fishermen alone, lost to the harvest.

To seek a solution for these situations the Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Fisheries, with the aid of industry and fishermen, have attempted to document existing domestic harvesting and processing capacities and identify potential shortfalls in a series of annual processing capacity reports. The first report published in the spring of 1978 aided government and industry officials in developing plans to deal with the processing problems identified. Similar reports were also published in 1979 and 1980 to document problems anticipated as a result of record level forecasts.

Like the preceding reports, this report is intended to serve as a first step in the planning process for the anticipated record 1982 salmon runs by identifying fisheries where significant processing capacity deficiencies may well occur. Comparisons of actual processing performances observed during the past two seasons or potential capacities based on facilities available are made to the size and timing of the 1982 forecasted harvests by area and serve as basis for capacity determinations. Clearly, it is difficult if not impossible for this report to address actual processing capacities domestic processors may plan for the 1982 season as that will largely depend on price and marketing factors still largely undetermined. Government and industry officials should evaluate the material presented in this brief analysis and focus further analysis and planning efforts on the problems identified.

Capacity information provided in this report was compiled by Commercial Fisheries Division personnel in early November through direct contact with local area processors and/or assessment of industry performance in 1980-81 (Tables 2 and 3).

Statewide Overview

The 1980 and 1981 commercial salmon fisheries in Alaska provided total annual harvests of 110.3 and 111.4 million fish respectively. Many local salmon fisheries documented new record harvests during the two years and provided new challenges to the fishermen and processors alike. Harvest levels observed during those years provide one quick way to gauge how well fishermen and processors may respond to the record level salmon runs anticipated for the 1982 fisheries. A simple comparison of the 1980 and 1981 commercial salmon harvests by region or area to the estimated 1982 harvest levels identifies three fisheries (Southeastern, Prince William Sound, and Bristol Bay) that may face harvests significantly greater than those recorded in recent years (Table 1 and Figure 1). The other areas show anticipated reductions in salmon harvest and infer that harvesting and processing capacities may not become a problem in these fisheries, provided area capacities remain similar to what they were in 1980 and 1981. The three areas showing significant potential harvest increases warrant further discussion.

Southeastern

The 1982 Southeastern Alaska forecasts show dramatic increases in the harvests over that of 1980 or 1981 although the 1978 harvest of 25 million salmon compares closely. The mid-point forecasted pink salmon harvest for Southeastern is 25.5 million fish. Other species are anticipated to provide an additional 3.7 million fish to the catch. While pink salmon are taken by all gear groups, the region's purse seine fisheries will clearly dominate the harvest. Adequacy of domestic processing will be determined during the pink salmon fisheries. At the 25.5 million fish forecast level peak harvest levels should occur during the first two weeks of August when daily catches of 1.0 to 1.5 million fish can be expected (Figure 2). Regional processing capacity estimated at 1.0 million fish per day, together with a daily export capacity similar to that observed during the peak of the 1978 fishing, should be adequate to handle the situation. If the pink salmon run develops at the upper end of the forecast range where harvests are projected to be 33.5 million fish, domestic processing shortfalls may occur unless the export capacity increases above 1978 levels or additional canning lines are activated. At the upper end of the forecast range, daily catches in excess of 1.5 million fish could occur during the two peak harvest weeks.

Run timing, location of harvest, and fish size will also influence the ability of domestic processors to handle the harvest. Even year pink salmon run timing in Southeast is normally drawn out over a longer period of time than odd year runs. It is anticipated that major run strength should occur in early and late run areas in District 1 and late run areas in District 3, thereby providing large harvests near processing facilities. Even year pink salmon are also commonly small, enabling processors to handle large volumes. In 1978 the 20 million pinks processed averaged only 3 pounds, well below the more normal 4 pound average seen in most seasons.

In summary, the projected harvest of 25.5 million pink salmon would closely approach or exceed the capacity of domestic processors depending on tender availability, fish size, and run timing. Salmon returns above the mid point forecasts could also cause harvests to exceed domestic processor capabilities. Preseason planning and inseason activities should be directed at ensuring the availability of adequate tender support to the fishery to move unprocessed salmon to facilities outside the region. Biologists should closely monitor early season pink catches to determine fish size and assess run strength.

Prince William Sound

The 1982 Prince William Sound forecast indicates the potential for harvests to exceed the record 1981 levels by 3.4 million salmon. Attention should be limited to harvests of pink and chum salmon since 90 percent of the other species harvest occurs before and after the normal high volume period of July 20-August 10. This reduces the difference between the 1981 season harvests and 1982 projection to slightly over 2 million fish. Like Southeastern, fish size will have a large bearing on the significance of the 1982 harvest projections. In 1981 both pink and chum salmon were significantly larger than average (4.3 lbs average for pinks and 8.5 lbs for chums). If more average fish weights are observed in 1982 the resulting poundage of the harvest will likely be less than 1981.

Run timing based on average even year pattern should place the peak harvest period during the two weeks July 26 through August 8 (Figure 2). Daily catch of 1.0 to 1.5 million fish anticipated during this period would exceed the estimated daily processing capacity of 700,000 fish and minimum 260,000 fish daily export capacity. If the midpoint forecast proves accurate, 1.5 to 2.5 million fish short fall in processing capacity can be anticipated during the two week period based on the information now available. At the lower end of the range it is anticipated that local processing capacity would be adequate to handle the situation.

Area's salmon hatchery returns are projected to contribute 5.8 million fish of the total forecasted 25.7 million salmon harvest in the common property fishery. Most of the harvest will occur in conjunction with wild stock harvest but the terminal area fishery may result in some localized fishing immediately following the area wide peak harvest period. This may serve to lengthen the harvest period and spread out peak catch. Even so, hatchery harvest in the terminal area may be frustrated by reduced fish quality and nonavailability of markets.

Processing capacity in Prince William Sound may be exceeded by as much as 2.5 million fish during the July 26 to August 8 period, based on information now available. Export capacity will largely determine whether the projected harvestable surplus is handled. Above average fish size can potentially aggravate any processing shortfall. Domestic processors will have to provide increased export capabilities to processing facilities outside Prince William Sound to handle the available surplus if the run is at or above midpoint forecast.

Bristol Bay

The 1982 forecast of salmon harvest in Bristol Bay shows the greatest difference from the 1980 and 1981 catch levels presented in Table 1. If realized, the 1982 harvest will continue the exceptional salmon production first manifested in 1978. Annual commercial catches since 1978 have averaged 24.0 million fish. As a consequence the Bristol Bay salmon fishery has been the focus of all earlier processing capacity reports in an effort to forestall harvesting and processing problems. Even so, in 1979 and 1980 price disputes delayed fishing activities and resulted in harvests lost to the fisher and further aggravated domestic processing problems. In 1979 and 1980 exceptions were granted under the authority of 5 AAC 39.198, a regulation governing commercial fishing and related operations by aliens not lawfully admitted to the United States. The intent was that foreign vessels and aliens be allowed limited participation in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery in order to supplement domestic processing capacity.

In the 1982 season the 38 million salmon harvest projected for the Bristol Bay fishery should surpass all prior recorded harvests. Sockeye and pink salmon fisheries, the two most crucial, are expected to contribute 29.[illegible] and 8.2 million fish respectively to the harvest. Due to the nonoverlapping run timing of the two species, consideration of their harvest impacts on processing capacity is best accomplished separately.

Sockeye salmon harvests normally peak during the first week to ten days in July (Figure 2). In 1980 and 1981 daily catches of 1.0 to 2.0 million salmon were recorded from June 30 through July 12, while daily catches of 2.0 to 2.5 million were recorded between July 3 and 7. At the forecasted run level similar catch rates are expected during the 1982 sockeye fishery. Certainly this may vary as a result of changes in run timing or onshore migratory patterns and may drastically affect the ability of fishermen and industry to "stay on top of the run." Timing in both 1980 and 1981 was normal, consequently the sockeye salmon run was well spread over time and enabled the fishery to process the number of fish handled seasonally in both those years.

Size of fish can drastically affect the processors' ability to handle a run of this magnitude. The 1982 forecasted 29.2 million fish harvest would equal 161 million pounds at a 5.5 pound average and would increase or decrease 3 million pounds for every tenth of a pound change in average weight. Biologists are anticipating the run to consist of 53 percent 2 ocean fish, which may lower the average weight from the 6.5 pound average recorded in 1981.

The observed average daily sustained processing capacity of the Bristol Bay fishery in 1980 and 1981 provides the best perspective of processing capacity that may be available in 1982. Records show at peak harvest levels Bristol Bay processors were able to sustain an average 2.0 million fish daily processing capacity in 1980 and 1.6 million fish in 1981. Based on information available now, processors should be able to sustain at least a 1.8 million fish daily capacity during the 1982 season.

In summary, if similar capacities are on line for the 1982 sockeye salmon fishery as were observed in 1980-81, fishermen and industry have the ability to adequately handle the 1982 forecasted harvest. If price negotiations delay fishing activities, harvestable surpluses will be lost to the fishery. Fish size and run timing can also greatly impact the processing capacity picture and should be closely monitored by Department staff.

The anticipated pink salmon run in 1982 and processors' capacity to handle the harvest is a problem exclusive to the Nushagak District. The anticipated 9.2 million pink salmon run could potentially provide a harvest of 8.2 million fish and establish a new record catch.

Several factors will present major obstacles to the complete harvesting and processing of Nushagak District pink salmon in 1982. First, pink salmon returns have been extremely variable (from 126,000 in 1972 to 13.7 million fish in 1978) and the Department has not been able to accurately forecast returns, making it difficult for industry to plan operations. Secondly, the generally small size of the fish (average 3 pounds) slows processing and inhibits frozen production. Also, the soft nature of the Nushagak District pink salmon requires quick processing and inhibits transportation to distant plants for processing. Lastly, run timing coincides with both South Peninsula and Kodiak pink salmon fisheries, thereby reducing the availability of processing capacity outside Bristol Bay.

Large pink salmon runs were recorded in three previous years in Nushagak Bay: 3.8 million fish in 1966, 13.7 million fish in 1978, and 5.1 million fish in 1980. Based on those seasons, runs of 3 to 5 million fish are generally easily handled by what fishing and processing effort remains after the sockeye salmon fishery. Total runs in the magnitude of 1978 (13.7 million fish) created severe harvesting and processing problems, resulting in fish dumping and lost harvest. It is anticipated that the 1982 pink salmon run, if it occurs as forecast, would create similar problems. It is impossible to predict at this time what processing capacity will be on line for the 1982 pink fishery.

The projected pink salmon harvest level presents many problems to the fishery which may not be resolved. Market conditions and fishermen and industry interest will largely control whether the harvest is achieved.

Fisheries identified earlier as not strong candidates for processing capacity problems in 1982 as a result of projected harvests not exceeding prior levels may heavily influence the successful operations in the three key questioned fisheries as well as other minor fisheries. This is especially true in Prince William Sound, where successful handling of the anticipated 1982 surplus will largely be controlled by availability of processing capacity in adjacent areas.

As in past seasons Kodiak and Lower Cook Inlet facilities should provide a major outlet for surplus Prince William Sound pink and chum salmon harvests as well as for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery surpluses. Further, Kodiak should continue to provide supplemental capacity for the important fisheries

on Chignik sockeye salmon, Alaska Peninsula June sockeye and chum salmon, and August pink salmon. It is doubtful that any of these areas would be situated to lend supplemental capacity to Nushagak District pink salmon processing due to run timing conflicts with their own principle fisheries.

The Norton Sound pink salmon fishery shares many of the same problems identified for the Nushagak Bay pink salmon fishery. Though no formal forecast is made for Norton Sound pink salmon stocks, fisheries biologists anticipate the 1982 run may approach the 5 million fish level recorded for the 1980 parent run. Escapement requirements estimated at 1.5 million fish could provide a 3.5 million fish potential harvestable surplus. Records show that pink salmon runs of this magnitude are common to the Norton Sound fishery. Even so, the minimum fishing and processing effort is not anticipated to change from that observed during the 1980 fishery when 277,000 pink salmon were harvested. Logistic problems, limited processing facilities, and high transportation costs have all contributed to low prices paid for Norton Sound pink salmon and prevented proper exploitation of surpluses available. Improved markers and additional export capacity would be needed before substantial harvests gains could be realized.

Status of State's Foreign Processing Regulation

On the 13th of February, 1981, the Bristol Bay Herring Marketing Cooperative and others sued the State of Alaska to prevent enforcement of the provisions of 5 AAC 39.198 and allow them to sell unprocessed herring to the North Pacific Longline-Gillnet Association, a group of Japanese fishermen. On March 27, 1981 Federal District Court Judge James H. Fitzgerald issued his findings, conclusions and opinion on the suit. The judge concluded that the State's regulation was "an unlawful burden under the commerce clause of the United States Constitution;" that the Coop would suffer irreparable injury as they would be precluded from honoring their contract with the Association and that the State had the ability to protect the resource. The judge restrained the State from enforcing its foreign processing regulations, but made the restraining order applicable only to the Coop's actions. Other groups could not engage in similar activities.

Federal Legislation

To remedy the implications of the U.S. District Court ruling, Alaska has actively pursued Federal legislation that would assure State authority to determine the need for and the regulation of supplemental foreign processing.

Several bills already exist in the Senate and House with the next action probably occurring by the House in late January.

Commissioner Skoog leads a work group of fishermen and processors which has been working since September at preparing legislative recommendations to reflect the interests of the State. This work group is currently preparing a draft bill that addresses the following points:

a) A remedy is necessary prior to the start of 1982 fisheries.

b) It is necessary to allow controlled utilization of foreign processing vessels for certain fisheries in the State's waters.

c) The determination of the need for foreign processing in Alaska's waters should be made by the State.

d) Foreign vessels should comply with all existing applicable laws.

e) The need for foreign processing should be based on the evaluation of the capability (capacity and intent to use such capacity) of domestic processors to handle the expected harvest, coupled with an evaluation of impacts of foreign processing on both the processing and the harvesting sectors of the U.S. fish industry.

The work group intends to provide final recommendations by the end of the year.

Recommendations

Considering the industry capacity demonstrated in 1980 and 1981 it would seem that if the runs materialize at or below the point forecast the vast majority of the available surplus would be harvested. The Department has pointed out that runs in Southeastern, Prince William Sound, and Bristol Bay are most likely to exceed past demonstrated capacity. We can obviously not guarantee at this point where the runs will fall within the forecast range. We also cannot predict industry intent due to our lack of firm knowledge of market conditions which will prevail this season. Nevertheless, we do know that pink salmon make up some 60 percent of the statewide total and would be a historical record if they materialize as forecast. The three fisheries identified as having possible surpluses in excess of capacity all would have surpluses of pink salmon. This may make the potential for surplus more credible.

We would also point out that, given the potential for a surplus of available pink salmon, there may be a lack of interest in harvest of this species in more remote areas or where quality is less than in the more usual fisheries. Unharvested surpluses of pink salmon have commonly occurred in Norton Sound and in recent years in Bristol Bay. Terminal area harvests at hatchery facilities may also produce lower quality fish of lessened demand.

We have highlighted certain area/species problems. None are so clear as to demand action without further consideration of industry intent. Nevertheless, the potential for unharvested surpluses clearly exists and we suggest this trigger the need for further study and possible action by appropriate bodies.

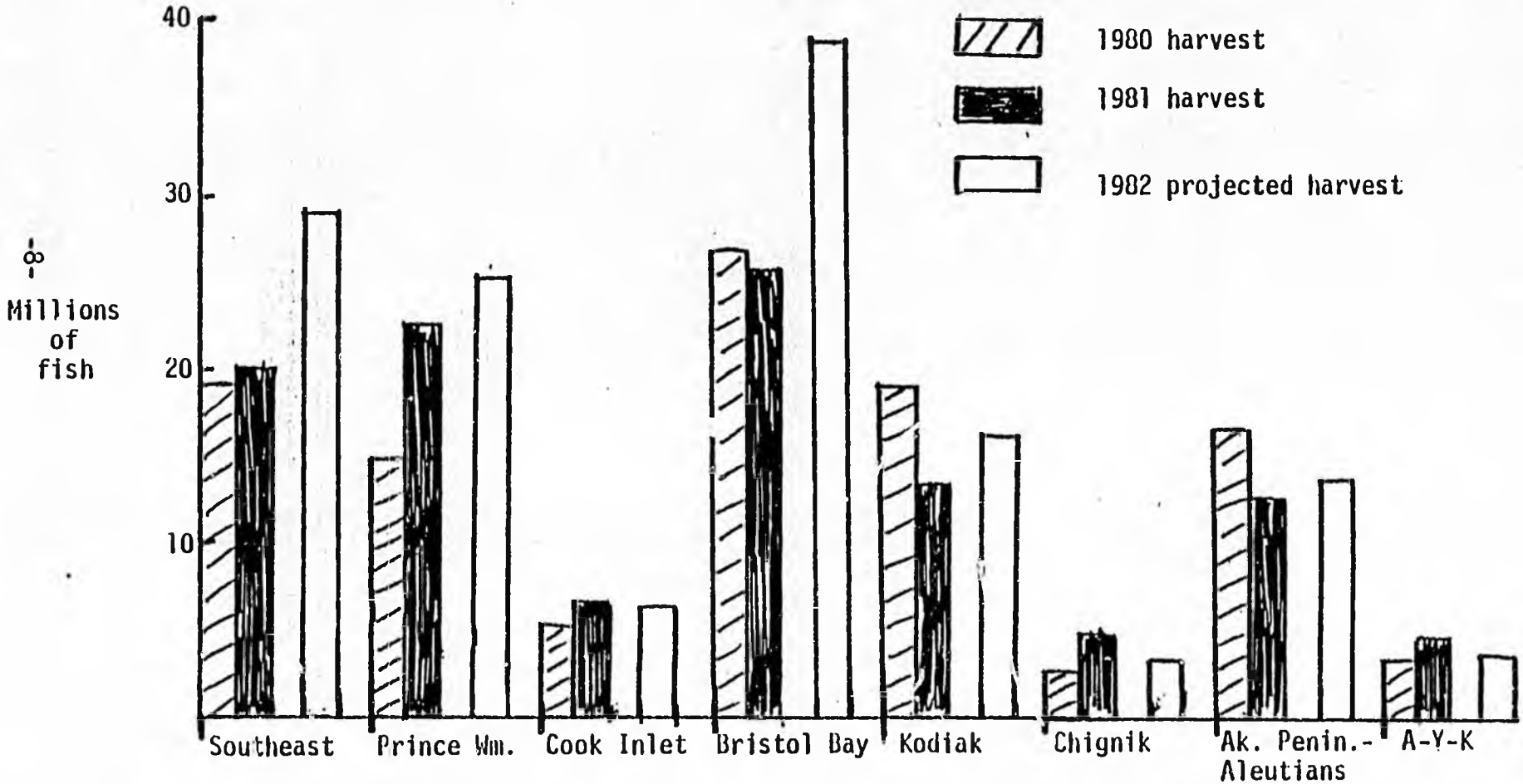


Figure 1. Comparison of 1980 and 1981 commercial salmon harvests to harvestable surpluses projected for major Alaska fisheries in 1982.

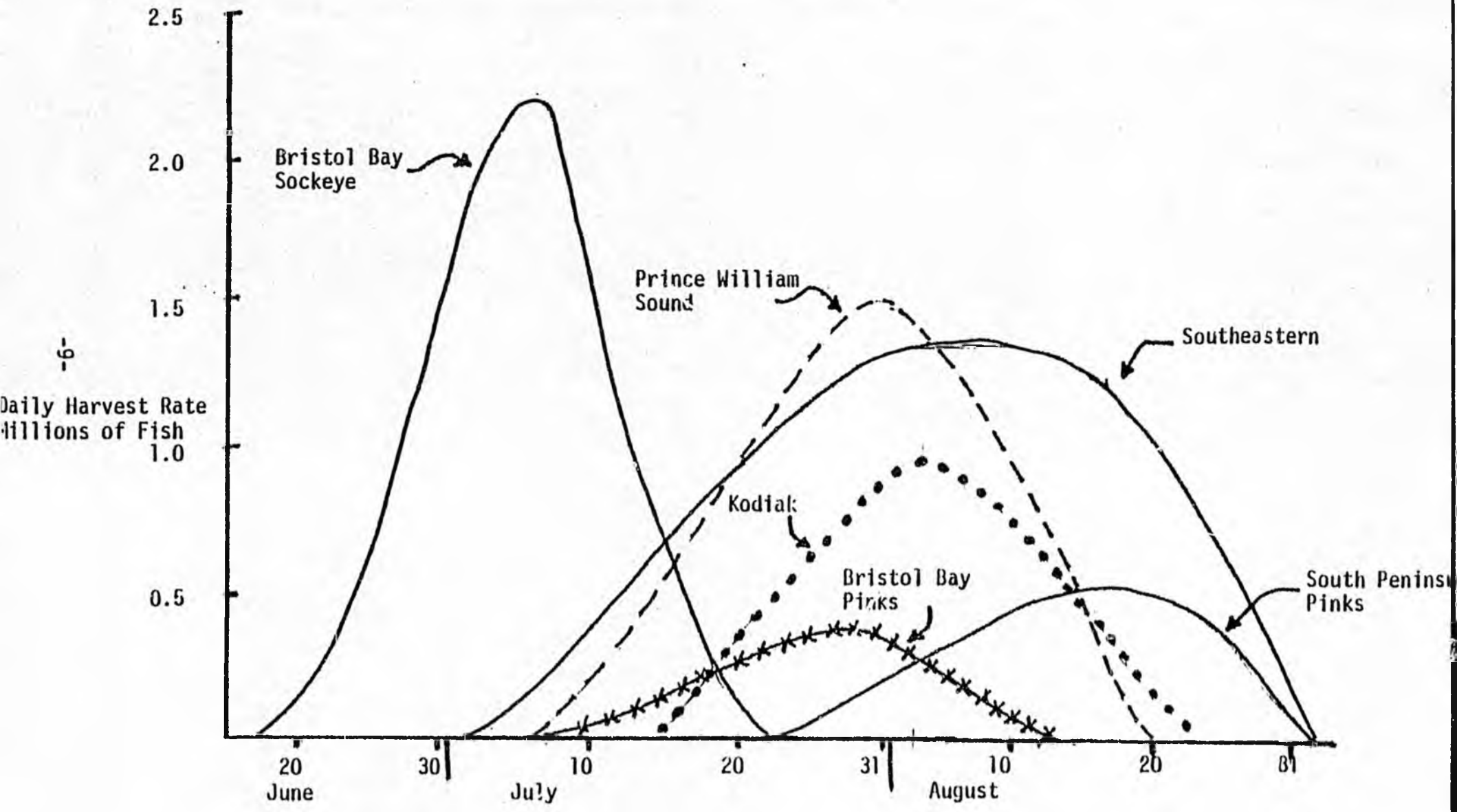


Figure 2. Projected daily harvest rates for selected 1982 Alaskan commercial salmon fisheries.

Table 1. Comparison of 1980 and 1981 commercial salmon harvests to harvestable surpluses projected for 1982 Alaska fisheries.

Fishery	Commercial Harvest in Millions of Fish 1980	1981 1/	1982 Projected
Southeastern	18.7	21.0	29.2
Prince William Sound	15.2	23.3	25.7
Cook Inlet	5.2	6.7	5.8
Bristol Bay	28.1	27.7	38.9
Kodiak	19.2	13.1	15.9
Chignik	2.3	3.6	3.0
Alaska Peninsula-Aleutians	18.3	12.1	12.9
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	3.3	3.9	3.6
State Total	110.3	111.4	135.0

1/ Preliminary, compiled November 23, 1981.

Table 2.
Projected daily processing capacity estimates for selected Alaskan salmon fisheries in 1982.

Area	Daily Processing Capacity (numbers of salmon) Canning	Fresh-Frozen	Export	Combined
Southeastern	750,000	274,000	350,000 1/	1,374,000
Prince William Sound	597,000	100,000	260,000 2/	957,000
Bristol Bay	684,000	648,000	468,000	1,800,000
Kodiak	715,000	171,500	3/	886,500
South Peninsula-Aleutians	400,000	100,000	3/	500,000

1/ The 1978 estimated export level.
2/ Considered a minimal level.
3/ Unknown.

Table 3.
Summary of plants and operational canning lines available for the 1982 salmon season in selected areas.

Area	Plants	Operational Canning Lines Available				
		1/4 lb.	1/2 lb.	1 lb.	4 lb.	Total
Southeastern	9	2	8	13	2	25
Prince William Sound	5	3	6	6	1	16
Kodiak	8	0	7	8	1	16
Chignik	1	0	1	2	0	3
Alaska Peninsula-Aleutians	3	0	3	6	0	9
Bristol Bay	12	2	18	18	0	38

SJR

10

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

(7) FURTHER: JUDICIARY

3/22/82

Date: May 4, 1982

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had SSSJR 10am

Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to agricultural rights in state lands.

under consideration and ~~(a majority of the committee) (the committee)~~ reports it back with the following recommendations:

[ ] do pass [ ] do not pass

[ ] do pass with attached amendments(s)

[ ] replace with CS for _____ [ ] same title [ ] new title

and recommends _____

[ ] AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" [ ] New Fiscal Note

[X] reports it back without recommendations Individual

[ ] referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

Eic Sutcliffe

Lee Fanning

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bill Hudson No Rec.

Lee Fanning Do Not Pass

Eic Sutcliffe
CO-CHAIRMAN

H 60 (Rev. 12/78)

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE
Resources Committee

Offical Business

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
VIC FISCHER, Vice-Chairman
BRAD BRADLEY
DICK ELIASON
DON GILMAN
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI

POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

MEMO

TO: Bonnie, House Resources Committee Staff

FROM: Tom Johnson, Senate Resources Committee Staff

DATE: May 4, 1982

RE: Background materials on SSSJR 10

Per your request this morning, attached please find background materials from our files on SSSJR 10, for your Committee hearing this afternoon.

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, CHAIRMAN
VIC FISCHER, VICE-CHAIRMAN
BRAD BRADLEY
DICK ELIASON
DON GILMAN
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI

POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3034
(907) 465-3035

Senate

Committee on Resources

April 8, 1981
1:40 p.m.

Beltz Room
Room 211 - Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp
Senator Fischer
Senator Sturgulewski
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Gilman

Hearing:

SSSJR 10 Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to agricultural rights in state lands.

SCR 17 Relating to the development of a wood products industry in the state.

SB 245 An Act amending the agricultural loan program to authorize loans for the harvesting, storage, and delivery of peat.

Bob Palmer, Coordinator, Special Projects for the Governor, stated that, nationwide annually, 3-5 million acres of are taken out of agricultural production. A number of states have recognized the negative impact of this and have been purchasing agricultural rights from private land owners. He indicated that SSSJR 10 would alleviate several potential problems: first, the sale of only agriculture rights could be repealed by a future legislature. And, second, with the approval from the adjacent city and the Division of Lands, the owner of agricultural lands can obtain full title. He indicated that there has been an increase in the number of people speculating in agriculture lands in hopes they can someday sub-divide the land and sell it. SSSJR 10 will elminate this speculation.

Senator Fischer put forth the motion to move SSSJR 10 with individual recommendations.

RESOLUTION NO. AASCSD-80-1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION Loss of agricultural lands to subdivisions

ORIGIN OF RESOLUTION Kodiak Soil Conservation Subdistrict

DATE OF ORIGIN November 15, 1980

It is sometimes necessary for ranchers and farmers to subdivide agricultural lands to pay off the mortgage on said lands. This is drastically depleting Alaska's agricultural land base and its subsequent ability to become self sufficient in food production.

RESOLVED, that the Alaska Association of Soil Conservation Subdistricts support the Kodiak Soil Conservation Subdistrict in recommending that the Alaska State Legislature pass legislation to purchase the development rights of private agricultural land parcels to eliminate the necessity of ranchers and farmers to subdivide.

ACTION TAKEN BY AASCSD STANDING COMMITTEE Approved

ACTION TAKEN BY AASCSD RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE Approved

ACTION TAKEN BY AASCSD Passed by unanimous vote

SJR

21

ALASKA

STATE LEGISLATURE

MEMORANDUM

JOHN MANLEY
HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4/20/82

RE: SJR 21

PER YOUR REQUEST ATTACHED IS BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FEDERAL PREEMPTION OF STATE OIL POLLUTION LEGISLATION.

RESA KING
SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, CHAIRMAN
VIC FISCHER, VICE-CHAIRMAN
BRAD BRADLEY
DICK ELIASON
DON GILMAN
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI

POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3034
(907) 465-3835

Senate

Committee on Resources

March 4, 1981
1:30 p.m.

Beltz Room
21: - Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp
Senator Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski
Senator Eliason
Senator Gilman

Hearing: SJR 21 Relating to federal preemption of state oil pollution legislation.

Ernie Mueller, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation stated that Congressman Biaggi has introduced H.R. 85. This bill is modeled after the Superfund legislation proposed in the previous session of Congress. This legislation would preempt states from establishing oil pollution laws relating to liability and financial responsibility. The bill would also prevent any action from being taken in the state courts for any damages that would be incurred by Alaskans as a result of an oil spill. State and local government officials are best able to address local environmental problems and should be allowed to conduct oil pollution cleanup and restoration. State courts and liability systems have been established in recognition of these special local concerns. He said the Department recommends that everything possible should be done to insure continuation of the State's authority to maintain a spill prevention and clean-up program.

Senator Sturgulewski put forth the motion to move SJR 12 as amended with individual recommendations.

COMMITTEE REPORT

SENATE

3/3/81

FURTHER: None

Date: _____

Mr. President:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had SJR 21

preemption of state oil pollution legislation

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

[X] do pass [ ] do not pass

[X] do pass with attached amendments(s)

[ ] replace with CS for _____ [ ] same title [ ] new title

and recommends _____

[ ] AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" [ ] New Fiscal Note

[ ] reports it back without recommendation

[ ] referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

_____ CHAIRMAN

SENATE AMENDMENT

BY [illegible]

To: _____ SENATE BILL No. [illegible]

To: _____ HOUSE BILL No. _____

PAGE: [illegible] LINE: [illegible]

[illegible] after the word Congress insert the period and add the following:

"The Honorable Jay Hammond, Governor of the State of Alaska and the Governor's and Legislative Affairs' offices located in Washington, D.C."

Testimony of the ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
to the SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE,
ALASKA LEGISLATURE
on
H.R. 85 (97th Congress, 1st Session)
a bill to provide a comprehensive system of liability
and compensation for oil spill damage and removal costs

March 4, 1981

Superfund legislation, in the form of H.R. 85 has been recently introduced into the 97th Congress by Congressman Biaggi. This bill is modeled after Superfund legislation proposed by Mr. Biaggi in the previous session of Congress. This legislation would preempt states from establishing pollution laws relating to liability financial responsibility, and cleanup funds. In addition, H.R. 85 also prevents any action from being taken in the state courts for any damages described in the bill that would be incurred by Alaskans as a result of an oil spill.

The Department cannot support the blanket preemption provisions contained in H.R. 85. State and local government officials are best able to address local environmental problems, and should be allowed to conduct oil pollution cleanup and restoration to the level the determine is appropriate, not be bound by a distant federal bureaucracy. State courts and liability systems have been established in recognition of these special local concerns, concerns based upon the value of natural resources and the benefits they provide to the State's residents.

The national pollution cleanup fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency does not always have sufficient funds to cope with each and every spill that occurs in the fifty states;

The U.S. Coast Guard's priorities with regard to spill cleanup are not the same as the state's. Previous experience with the Coast Guard has shown that they may be required to discontinue cleanup operations at an earlier stage than would be chosen by the state or local residents.

This occurred in the recent oil spill from the Japanese ore carrier LEE WANG ZIN. Citing dwindling fund reserves the U.S. Coast Guard stopped cleanup operations and pulled out, leaving a substantial amount of oil still in the water and on the beach. The present cleanup fund that was created as a result of last year's legislation relating to the prevention and control of oil pollution (HB 205) could have immediately been used to provide adequate cleanup of the remaining oil from the LEE WANG ZIN.

The Department recommends that we do all we can to assure continuation of our ability to maintain a spill prevention and clean-up program.

FEDERAL OIL SPILL LEGISLATION (July 1979)

The federal government has for five years, attempted to establish a federal scheme for the cleanup and compensation for damages of oil spills. During this time many states have set up their own programs, funds, compensation and liability schemes. Many of these programs have proven to be very effective in responding to the problems of oil spills.

NCSL believes that if Congress does enact federal law for these same purposes, the Act(s) should be based upon the following principles:

1) States should not be preempted from levying their own fees and creating their own liability funds to cover the cost of cleanup and damages from oil spills, nor should states or local governments be preempted from filing suit against any oil spiller to recover for damages to publicly owned resources or for loss of tax revenue due to injury to real or personal property.

2) Any oil spiller should be absolutely liable for all costs incurred by federal, state or local government or any private party for the removal of spilled oil discharges in harmful quantities or for any reasonable measures to prevent or reduce damages to public health and welfare.

3) If it can be shown that the spill was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct, or violation of any applicable safety, construction or operating standards, the oil spiller should be liable for the full amount of damages.

4) Any federal fund covering damage and cleanup costs should extend to all land-borne as well as water-borne oil discharges in quantities determined to be harmful under the federal Clean Water Act (or determined to be harmful under the federal Clean Water Act) or determined to cause damage to real or

personal property on land.

5) Any person claiming to have been damaged by an oil spiller is entitled to file his claim directly to any federal domestic oil spill liability fund.

Senator Fahrenkamp:

This is the policy language that NCSL currently has on the books. As I mentioned to you, they will testify on March 11 opposition to the preemption portion of H.R. 85. Donna Wise has also scheduled a briefing by the House majority and minority staffs of the Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee and Coast Guard Subcommittee for legislative reps on March 3rd. I will attend that and keep you up to date.

As soon as language is drafted, please have Juneau LIO telecopy it down.

Cynthia

SJR

22

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH V, STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

-4986-

TO RESOURCES

REMARKS: Mr Sutliffe

118

Please return SJR 22 and SJR 41 to chief clerk's ofice. Resources has been waived, and the resolutions now go to Rules.

FROM edith DATE 6/18/81

LAA 25-H

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER:

4/15/81

(11)

Date: _____

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had SJR 22

Relating to proposed regulations of the Department of the Interior adopted under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

[ ] do pass [ ] do not pass

[ ] do pass with attached amendments(s)

[ ] replace with CS for _____ _____ [ ] same title [ ] new title

and recommends _____ _____

[ ] AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" [ ] New Fiscal Note

[ ] reports it back without recommendation

[ ] referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

_____

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MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

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CHAIRMAN

H 60 (Rev. 3/81)

SJR

70

DRAFT

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Alaska commercial fishing industry provides the highest employment of any industry in the state; and

WHEREAS Alaska commercial fishermen, especially trollers, depend for their livelihood on the North Pacific chinook (king) salmon; and

WHEREAS since 1977, the fishery management plan and amendments implemented by the Secretary of Commerce under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 have resulted in substantial reductions in the harvest of chinook salmon in the fishery conservation zone off the coast of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS in 1981, Alaska commercial fishermen suffered more than a 15 per cent reduction from the 1980 allowable harvest of chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries, in joint session, voted to direct the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska chinook salmon fishery toward the lower end of the 1981 optimum yield range with a target of 255,500 chinook, which would be a 20 per cent reduction in yield since 1980; and

WHEREAS Alaska has established a plan for the rebuilding of depressed Southeastern Alaska natural chinook stocks and has managed its fishery in accordance with this plan; and

WHEREAS chinook escapements in British Columbia are only one-third of the optimum, due primarily to chronic over-harvest by Canadian fisheries; and

WHEREAS Canada has not established a plan for the rebuilding of its severely depressed stocks; and

WHEREAS Canadian troll, net, recreational and Indian fisheries are the major coastwise harvesters of chinook salmon, averaging some 1.8 million fish per year; and

WHEREAS Canadian commercial and recreational fishermen throughout British Columbia have not experienced a regulatory reduction comparable to that experienced by Alaskan fishermen; and

WHEREAS Canadian commercial fishermen continue to harvest chinook salmon in great quantities, despite reductions imposed on Alaskan and other American fishermen for the benefit of all those who participate in the fishery; and

WHEREAS the less stringently regulated Canadian harvest and interception of chinook salmon poses a severe economic threat to the commercial fishermen in Alaska and other Pacific coast states; and

WHEREAS salmon interception treaty negotiations between the United States and Canada have continued for several years without resolving the international dispute over the harvest of chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS the Columbia River chinook slamon stocks have been seriously depleted by habitat degradation caused by hydroelectric development on the Columbia River; and

WHEREAS the management authorities on the Columbia River have not been successful in explaining or rectifying adult and juvenile salmon losses in the river due to habitat degradation and illegal fishing problems; and

WHEREAS a major barrier to achieving a United States/Canada salmon agreement which would address coastwide conservation problems is the allowable level of United States interception of Fraser River salmon in Puget Sound;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Alaska Board of Fisheries to direct the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage

the Yakutat-Southeastern Alaska chinook salmon fishery at the 1980 optimum yield range; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to direct the Secretary of Commerce to disapprove any amendments or modifications to the Fishery Management Plan submitted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to reduce the harvest of chinook salmon in the Yakutat-Southeastern Alaska region below the 1980 level; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries is respectfully requested to reconvene the Alaska Board of Fisheries to reinstitute the optimum yield of chinook salmon in the Yakutat-Southeastern Alaska region at the 1980 level; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Department of State to move toward a speedy resolution of the United States/Canada salmon interception issues; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Congressional delegation work with the delegations of the States of Washington and Oregon to ensure that a successful plan is implemented to reverse the unexplained mortalities of adult chinook salmon in the Columbia River.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States: to the Honorable Malcolm Baldridge, Secretary of Commerce; to Mr. Nick Szabo, Chairman of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, to Mr. Ronald Skoog, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; to Mr. Clem Tillion, Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE
Resources Committee

Offical Business

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
VIC FISCHER, Vice-Chairman
BRAD BRADLEY
DICK ELIASON
DON GILMAN
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI

POUCH V
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pat Lawler
House Resources Committee Staff

FROM: Tom Johnson
Senate Resources Committee Staff

DATE: April 1, 1982

RE: Back-up information on SJR 70 and SJR 79.

Per your request, attached please find back-up information from our files or SJR 70 and SJR 79.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE
Resources Committee

Offical Business

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
VIC FISCHER, Vice-Chairman
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POUCH V
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MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp
Senator Eliason
Senator Gilman
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

March 22, 1982
1:35 p.m.

Beltz Room
Room 211 - Capitol

Hearing:

SB 731 Establishing the Shuyak Island State Park.
SB 769 Removing the requirement that power projects constructed under the energy program for Alaska be owned by the State.
SB 843 Relating to surface coal mining and the surface effects of underground coal mining.
SJR 70 Relating to commercial fishing of North Pacific chinook salmon.
SJR 79 Requesting the National Park Service to adopt procedures providing public notice of proposed regulations, emergency regulations, and field orders for national parks, preserves, and monuments in Alaska.

SB 731

Senator Mulcahy said a Committee Substitute had been prepared, changing the word "compatible" to "other".

Jim Lieb, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, expressed support for the Committee Substitute.

Senator Gilman moved the acceptance of the Committee Substitute. He then moved CSSB 731 with individual recommendations.

SB 769

Senator Gilman explained that a Committee Substitute with a changed title had been prepared. It requires that federal power projects in which the State participates must meet the same tests as all State projects, and gives the Alaska Power Authority approval to proceed with the Bradley Lake project.

Senator Mulcahy moved the acceptance of the Committee Substitute. He then moved CSSB 769 with individual recommendations.

SB 843

Jay Nelson, Alaska Environmental Lobby, stated that some provisions of SB 843 are not strong enough to protect the people and the environment. He stressed the need for revegetation with native species, the designation as unsuitable for surface coal mining areas that are highly biologically productive, and the recognition of the fisheries value.

Mark Wittow, Department of Natural Resources, stated that the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Environmental Conservation both have permitting requirements that protect fisheries which would still stand. He further stated that performance standards will determine the type of reclamation and the amount of habitat protection required.

Senator Sturgulewski stated that State lands on which surface mining will not be allowed should be further defined.

Phil Holdsworth, COAL, in supporting the bill, clarified the point that all State agencies will continue to work together, so there are "built in" protections.

Senator Fahrenkamp stated that SB 843 would be held until 3/24/82.

SJR 70

Senator Mulcahy stated that SJR 70 had been heard in the Fisheries Subcommittee. He moved the acceptance of the Committee Substitute. He then moved CSSJR 70 with individual recommendations.

SJR 79

Senator Mulcahy stated that SJR 79 had been heard in the Fisheries Subcommittee. He moved the acceptance of the Committee Substitute. He then moved CSSJR 79 with individual recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

JUNEAU, ALASKA

RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

TO: Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senate Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries

SUBJ: SJR 70 "Relating to commercial fishing of North Pacific chinook salmon".

The subcommittee has taken testimony and replaced SJR 70 with CS SJR 70, and reports CSSJR 70 back to the committee as a whole with the following recommendations.

Members		Recommendation
Senator Mulcahy	Bob Mulcahy	No Rec
Senator Eliason	Chas Eliason	Do Pass
Senator Gilman	Dan Gilman	DO PASS

Amendments to SCR 40, SJR 70, and SJR 79 suggested by TROLL PAC

SCR 40: page 1, line 8 delete "tollers" and insert "state wide troll entry permit holders".

page 1, line 13 delete "trollers" and insert "state wide troll entry permit holders".

page 1, line 17 insert "without adverse effects on salmon stocks" after ity.

SJR 70: Page 1, line 17 delete "10" and insert "15".

Page 1, line 22 insert "which would be a 25% reduction since 1980" after range.

Page 2, line 9 delete "upp end of the 1981" and insert "1980".

SJR 79 Page 1, lines 15 and 16: delete lines 15 and 16 and insert "WHEREAS the National Park Service failed to provide timely notice of the closure; and

Page 1, line 21 delete "several"

Page 1, line 21 insert "sever , unnecessary, and unwarranted" before economic.

THESE AMENDMENTS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SJR 79 AND SJR 70.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

SJR 70: Relating to commercial fishing of North Pacific chinook salmon.

WHEREAS commercial fishing provides the highest employment of any industry in the state, and that Alaska commercial fishermen, especially trollers, depend on the North Pacific (king) salmon for their livelihood, and that the fishery managemnt plan implemented by the Secretary of Commerce since 1977 have substantially reduced the harvest of chinook salmon in the fishery conservation zone off the coast of Southeast Alaska, and that Alaska commercial fishermen suffered a more than 10% reduction for the 1981 allowable harvest, and that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has tentatively voted for management of the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska chinook salmon fishery at the lower end of the 1981 optimum yield range, and that Canadian commercial fishermen off British Columbia have not experienced a similar reduction, and continue to harvest chinook salmon in increasingly greater quantities, and thereby present a severe economic threat the Alaska and other Pacific coast state commercial fishermen, and that salmon interception treaty negotiations between the United States and Canada have not resolved the international dispute;

RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that North Pacific Managemnt Council to provide for the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska chinook salmon fishery to be managed at the upper end of the 1981 optimum yield range, and requests the President of the United States to direct the Secretary of Commerce to disapprove amendments to the North Pacific fishery management plan that would reduce the harvest of Chinook Salmon in the Yakutat-Southeast Alaska Region below the 1981 level, and further requests the President to direct American participants in salmon interception treaty negotiations with Canada to effect a speedy resolution of North Pacific salmon fishery issues.

PRIME SPONSOR: Ziegler

CO-SPONSOR(S): None

Relating to HJR-78
SJR-70

F I N A L

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/PRELIMINARY FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

High Seas Salmon Fisheries of Japan

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

P. O. Box 1668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

January 1977

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

JUNEAU, ALASKA

RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

TO: Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senate Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries

SUBJ: SJR 79 "Requesting the National Park Service to adopt procedures providing public notice of proposed regulations, emergency regulations, and field orders for national parks, preserves, and monuments in Alaska".

The subcommittee has taken testimony and replaced SJR 79 with CS SJR 79, and reports CSSJR 79 back to the committee as a whole with the following recommendations.

Members	Recommendation
Senator Mulcahy	Do Pass
Senator Eliason	
Senator Gilman	Do PASS

Amendments to SCR 40, SJR 70, and SJR 79 suggested by TROLL PAC

SCR 40: page 1, line 8 delete "tollers" and insert "state wide troll entry permit holders"

page 1, line 13 delete "trollers" and insert "state wide troll entry permit holders"

page 1, line 17 insert "without adverse effects on salmon stocks" after ity.

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Page 1, line 22 insert "which would be a 25% reduction since 1980" after range.

Page 2, line 9 delete "upper end of the 1981" and insert "1980".

SJR 79 Page 1, lines 15 and 16: delete lines 15 and 16 and insert "WHEREAS the National Park Service failed to provide timely notice of the closure; and

Page 1, line 21 delete "several"

Page 1, line 21 insert "severe, unnecessary, and unwarranted" before economic.

THESE AMENDMENTS WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SJR 79 AND SJR 70.

February 17, 1982

Senator Richard I. Eliason
State Capitol
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Eliason:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I wrote to Govenor Hammond concerning the troll fishery in Southeast Alaska. I would appreciate it deeply if you would take time to read this letter so that you may become more aware of the unfortunate situation in which we find our fishery today.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David R. Carlson
F/V Quest
PO Box 1232
Petersburg, AK 99833
772-3765

February 16, 1982

The Honorable Jay S. Hammond, Govenor
State of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Hammond;

I am a commercial Salmon Power Troller in Southeast Alaska. I am writing this letter to you to apprise you of the dire situation in which we now find our fishery. I will try to make this letter as short and brief as possible but there are certain facts and events which have recently taken place of which I believe you should be aware.

Presently, and since 1973, our fishery has been under Limited Entry which has limited the number of participants in the fishery. Although the concept of Limited Entry has been ruled unconstitutional by Judge Carlson, I trust that the Alaska Supreme Court will uphold the Limited Entry Law. In 1980, the Alaska Board of Fisheries in conjunction with the North Pacific Management Council (NPFMC) imposed a "Quota" or "Optimum Yield" on the King Salmon harvest for the first time.. This allowed us a harvest of 320,000 King Salmon which was supposed to be the last ten year average of King Salmon harvests in Southeast Alaska. However, this did result in a substancial reduction from the 1979 harvest level. We were led to believe that this harvest level would remain in effect for the forseeable future thus stabilizing our harvest levels. This quota or optimum yield was imposed, for the most part, because both boards believed, although scientific data was grossly inadequate, that we were harvesting a large number of the Columbia River Bright stock of King Salmon which was not reaching the desired excapment goal as outlined by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 1981, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the NPFMC again recommended a further reduction of the King Salmon harvest level. There was, however, a difference of opinion as to whether the reduction whould be ten or fifteen percent. No agreement was reached so we fished last season under a quota or optimum yield range of 272,000 to 288,000 King Salmon. The net result of these quotas or optimum yields and subsequent reductions resulted in a loss of approximately 40% of fishing time as compared to 1979.

In January of this year, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the NPFMC again met to discuss the Southeast Troll Fishery and regulations for the 1982 season. The NPFMC again recommended <u>another</u> reduction which would lower our King Salmon Harvest to 243,000. The Alaska Board of Fisheries declined to vote in favor of this further reduction at this time. Thus, we now have a range in the quota or optimum yield

of 243,000 to 288,000 King Salmon. Both boards will meet again in March to decide on which figure, or somewhere inbetween, will be the King Salmon harvest for 1982. The Alaska Board of Fisheries did not agree with the NPFMC recommendations for the following reasons: In 1981, we harvested 52,000 fewer King Salmon than in 1980. Although our quota for 1981 was 272,000 to 288,000 King Salmon, we actually harvested only 268,000 King Salmon. (This figure includes harvest by all gear types in Southeast Alaska). This was because Alaska Fish & Game made a "double-entry" error with their computer calculations which resulted in an additional closure late in the season. Bear in mind, now, that the primary purpose for these reductions in our King Salmon harvests was to allow more escapment of the Columbia River Bright stock of King Salmon. As a result of this reduction of 52,000 fewer King Salmon harvested in 1981, the number of King Salmon reaching the Bonneville Dam near the mouth of the Columbia River increased by a paltry 2000 fish. This indicates a cost-benefit ratio of 25 to one. In other words, for every 25 King Salmon we allow to pass through Southeast Alaskan waters, one makes it to the mouth of the Columbia River. The worst of the situation is yet to come. By the time these fish made it to the McNary Dam and, thus, to their spawning grounds (I believe four dams and about one hundred miles upriver) there were actually fewer fish than there were in 1980. It is obvious that the reductions in King Salmon harvests in Southeast Alaska have had absolutely no effect on this stock of King Salmon. The escapement goal as proposed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Bright stock of King Salmon is 40,000 fish. 63,900 made it to the Bonneville Dam but only 25,500 made it to the McNary Dam. That means an interdam loss of SIXTY PERCENT. What happened to these fish? Well, the dams certainly don't help the fish on their way to the spawning grounds but poaching and other illegal harvesting of these fish is certainly to be considered. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has refused, or at least been very reluctant, to solve the problem. It has been much easier to point their finger at Alaskans than at the problem in their own "backyard". It has already been determined that if we were not to harvest any King Salmon at all in Southeast Alaska, the escapement goal would still not be met for these stocks of fish. In fact, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has now built in a 60% interdam loss in escapment goals. They are obviously not willing to determine the reasons or attempt to alleviate this loss of King Salmon between the dams. An obvious solution, although perhaps an unorthodox one, would be to truck these King Salmon the hundred or so miles to the upriver side of the McNary Dam and thus to their spawning grounds. So Washington and Oregon again approached the NPFMC and the Alaska Board of Fisheries to further reduce our harvest quota or optimum yield which history has shown will provide no benefit to these stocks of King Salmon. It must

also be pointed out that the Canadians harvested more than three times the number of King Salmon that we harvested in 1981. I'm sure you are aware of the fact that geographically they are much closer to the Columbia River than we are in Southeast Alaska.

This brings me to the purpose of writing this letter to you. I urge you to support and encourage the Alaska Board of Fisheries to adhere to their 288,000 harvest range of King Salmon for 1982. Further reductions will NOT reduce or alleviate the problem of the Columbia River Bright King Salmon stocks. We simply DO NOT catch that many to make any significant consequence. Our King Salmon harvest has already been reduced by approximately one-third since 1979. Further reductions would deal an almost fatal blow to our troll fishery.

I purchased a permit in 1979 and the value of that permit has been reduced by a third since then. The vessel I own is essentually unsellable for a "fair" price because no one is willing to enter the fishery with all the "chaos" we have been going through for the past two years. Although our seasons and harvest levels have been significantly reduced over the past two years, the level of participants allowed in the fishery has remained the same. It doesn't take a mathimatical genius to figure out that reduced harvest levels and fishing seasons means less money for the fisherman. I am unable to make a living at trolling, however, I cannot sell out because the present market values would not cover the existing loans I have on the boat and permit. Since 1979, we have had absolutely no stabilization in our fishery. Every year we have been confronted with even further cuts and reductions in our harvest levels and seasons. This year, again, we will not know how many King Salmon we can harvest or what our fishing seasons will be until the end of March. Sonehow, someone has got to make some coherent sense out of this situation if there is to be any hope at all of maintaining this fishery for those other than school teachers, vacationers, etc.

I offer the following recommendations or suggestions to save the fishery from virtually becomming extinct:

. Support the Alaska Board of Fisheries with their 288,000 King Salmon harvest level and urge them to resist any further reductions until it can be shown, for biological and NOT political or allocation reasons, that further reductions will benefit the fishery.

2. Take a hard look and make revisions in the Limited Entry system so that reductions in our harvest levels will result in a reduction of participants allowed to enter the fishery so that those remaining in the fishery have a reasonable opportunity to make a living which was the whole purpose of instituting Limited Entry in the first place. I purchased my permit expecting to have this opportunity. With all the reductions imposed on us over the past two years, I can no longer do this.

3. Urge our two Senators and one Representative in the United States Legislature to offer an amendment to revise the Federal Marine Fisheries Act to allow more representation by Alaskans on the NPFMC. At the present time, Alaskans do not even have a voting majority on this body; the very body that regulates our traditional fisheries. In addition, all persons appointed to the NPFMC should fully support Alaskans and their fisheries. Clem Tillion, a present member of the board, has repeatedly been quoted as saying that if he has a choice between voting for the fisherman or the fish, he will vote for the fish every time. He <u>has</u> voted for the fish but the fish he has voted for in our situation have wound up in the hands of Canadian or Washington fishermen or in some cases, poachers on the Columbia River. It would also be exceedingly helpful if there was a troller on the NPFMC. As long as this bod is going to continue to concentrate on the troll fishery, we need an Alaskan troller to represent and convey our interests and conserns.

4. Mandate that all regulations be reviewed by the local advisory boards. At present, most regulations that are passed by the Alaska Board of Fisheries are not those which have been reviewed and considered by the advisory boards. This has led to a total lack of confidence by fishermen in these boards. This does not help in promoting trust in government.

5. Lastly, I and many other trollers, would like to know what the future of our fishery is going to be. If it is the desire of the State of Alaska and the Federal Government to put trollers out of business, I'd like to know it now so I can do something else. We can't take being "nickled, dimed, and quartered" to death. We HAVE to have some stabilization and confidence in this fishery if it is to survive.

I know this letter is lengthly and I apologize but I am very concerned and dissappointed over what has happened to our fishery and my investments and livelihood. I rely on fishing to support my family and make a living. I can no longer do this. I would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

David R. Carlson
F/V Quest
PO Box 1232
Petersburg, AK 99833
772-3765

February 26, 1982

Senator Ziegler
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3001)
Juneau, AK 99811

Mr. Ziegler:

Thank you for introducing SCR40. The troll industry has been trying to regain our privilege to fish statewide as we had before 1976.

I feel the reduction in the take of the Japanese High Seas gill net salmon has dramatically helped the return of fish runs in western Alaska. With an ever watchful eye I feel the king salmon returns will increase even more.

The high quality of the troll caught king salmon and the supurb demand is a very good reason to make the troll industry state wide.

The enclosed information shows the dramatic catch increase by other gear groups in Alaska. In the one area where fish are not on an increase, I propose that the troll fleet not fish these stocks.

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Alaska Department of Fish are operating in a data void for king salmon stocks in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. At least a small group of boats should be allowed to sample stocks and tag king salmon to help determine run sizes and areas where fish travel.

For example, only 2 and 5 year old Taku River king salmon are caught by Alaska fishermen. Where are the 3 and 4 year old fish? The troll industry would certainly like to know.

Mr. Ziegler, I'd again like to thank you for your support of the Alaska troll industry, and I also fully support SJR70.

Sincerely yours,

Walter C Pasternak

Walter C. Pasternak

WP/dw

Alaska
Trollers
Association

CHINOOK CATCH BY AREAS

		Catch	Change
Prince William Sound	1981	21,400	
	1980	8,700	+146%
Cook Inlet	1981	12,000	
	1980	12,900	- 7%
Bristol Bay	1981	239,000	
	1980	95,000	+152%
Kodiak	1981	1,400	
	1980	500	+180%
Chignik	1981	2,700	
	1980	2,200	+ 23%
Alaska Peninsula	1981	27,400	
	1980	22,000	+ 25%
Alaska, Yukon, Kuskokwim (AYK)	1981	246,300	
	1980	207,500	+ 19%
Total chinook in areas outside Southeastern	1981	550,200	
	1980	348,800	+ 58%
Southeastern	1981	268,100	
	1980	320,600	- 16%

8/11/81

Table 1. Incidental catch of prohibited species in Gulf of Alaska by foreign trawlers, 1977-1980

Table 1

	Shumagin	Chirikof	Kodiak	Yakutat	Southeastern	Total
Halibut (m.t.)						
1977	1,291	848	1,001	279	208	3,627
1978	666	158	152	196	45	1,217
1979	165	73	438	1,375	278	2,329
1980	120	38	1,356	443	131	2,088
Average	560	279	737	573	166	2,315
Salmon (no's.)	90% of Salmon catch are Kings					
1977	1,071	166	3,184	607	244	5,272
1978	34,738	8,089	2,318	312	128	45,585
1979	13,916	3,084	2,424	82	212	19,718
1980	19,179	8,746	7,377	404	61	35,767
Average	17,226	5,021	3,826	351	161	26,586
1981	9,000	12,000	500	300	0	22,000
King Crab (no's.)						
1977	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1978	89,692	0	99	750	0	90,541
1979	20,385	9	54	127	19	20,594
1980	1,691	0	79	312	21	2,103
Average (78-80)	37,256	3	77	396	13	37,746
Tanner Crab (no's.)						
1977	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1978	6,757	14	337	7,521	0	14,629
1979	240	202	7,033	1,308	57	8,840
1980	3,111	0	6,124	2,588	7	11,830
Average (78-80)	3,369	72	4,498	3,805	21	11,766

NPFMC - AGENDA ITEM E-5
9/81

The last salmon

(First of three parts)
By BILL DIETRICH
Vancouver Columbian

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Who will catch the last salmon in the Columbia River? Will it be an Indian? A white gillnetter? A sportsman?

A thief, most likely.

As runs dwindle, seasons shorten and the value of salmon climbs to as much as $100 a fish, the attraction of illegal fishing grows.

"It's better than robbing a bank," said Joe. Salte of Cathlamet, a Washington state fisheries agent. "If you go out and poach for a season, you can make maybe $40,000 or $50,000."

If caught in Washington, the fine for a first offender is sometimes less than the wholesale price of a night's catch. Jail time is unlikely.

While Oregon has made illegal commercial fishing a felony, Washington's Legislature voted in 1979 to keep it a misdemeanor after lobbying by some commercial fishermen.

One Skamokawa man amassed 23 fishing violations, three resisting arrest charges and one escape in just four years.

In 1979, a Skamania County grandmother was sent to prison in Oregon for selling an estimated $380,000 of illegal fish in just three months.

An undercover sting operation last year led to charges of illegal fish-buying against three Portland brokers. Two have pleaded guilty.

Five state and federal agencies and four Indian tribes with enforcement powers are attempting to crack down. But enforcement remains understaffed and uncoordinated.

"I think we're barely scratching the surface," said Salte. "There's no question we need more people" to police the fish laws.

Washington and Oregon officials are belatedly recognizing that as salmon runs decline, poaching may be serious enough to push the fish to extinction.

Half of the fall chinook wild run disappeared between Bonneville and John Day dams in 1980 and 1981. Biologists fear poaching may be the cause.

Maintaining the Columbia River fish run this year will cost the public more than $16 million. The annual value of the stolen fish is not known, but based on undercover investigations, fisheries agents believe it is hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some guesses run more than $1 million.

Some fish are sold to restaurants and brokers in the Vancouver-Portland area. Others have been flown to California or the East Coast.

One 33-year-old poacher now in prison boasts of making more than $1 million from fish caught illegally in the lower Columbia River. Upriver, a minority of Indians are believed abusing ceremonial fishing privileges to poach. In tributary streams, so-called sportsmen have been caught snagging and clubbing spawning fish for later sale.

Each group tends to point accusingly at the other as the real culprit.

"Uppermost should be the preservation of the resource, but too many fishermen of both races look on it as who's going to catch the last salmon in the Columbia River," said Jeff Sanders, police chief of Oregon's Warm Springs Tribe.

If a group of organized thieves annually embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from government coffers, one would expect a public outcry and police crackdowns.

Yet the thefts from the Columbia are often ignored by the public, condoned by some fishermen, inadequately policed, unenergetically prosecuted and punished with light sentences.

Because the salmon are hidden from human eyes until caught or they go over a fish ladder, there are no reliable numbers on how many are illegally caught in the Columbia.

Yet authorities fear illegal fishing may be threatening to annihilate the fall wild chinook that spawn at Priest Rapids near Hanford, the last free-flowing part of the river.

In 1980, 30,000 natural spawning fall chinook disappeared when swimming between the fish ladders at Bonneville and John Day dams. They were not reported as commercial catches, did not show up at hatcheries and did not swim up tributary streams.

Some fishermen contend they were killed by dam turbines. Washington fisheries biologist Don McIssac of Vancouver said most scientists think it is more likely the majority were caught illegally.

Last fall, the problem worsened. 33,000 wild chinook and 20,000 hatchery fish ended up missing.

"Our needed spawning escapement was not realized," said McIssac. "We got half of what was needed to perpetuate runs at maximum sustained yield."

State biologists were concerned enough to ask for a halt to river fishing on the fall run in 1981, but the courts awarded the Indian tribes eight days. Biologists may seek a shutdown again this year.

And, in a science-fiction-like twist, they hope to implant some fish at Bonneville with radio transcelvers so they can be tracked while swimming upstream to John Day. Then scientists could say with certainty whether it is poaching or dams that cause the fish to disappear.

Even without thousands of fish mysteriously missing, undercover investigations and arrests have consistently forced authorities to increase their estimates of illegal fishing.

"It's a pretty widespread problem," said Salte. "I think it's severe enough that it's affecting the fish runs."

Simple arithmetic is one reason agents are concerned. Saturation patrols in 1981 brought five to six arrests on Bonneville Pool alone for four to five consecutive nights, said Oregon State Police Sgt. Joe Schwab. Some 47 illegal nets were confiscated during 1981 in the vicinity of The Dalles. About 200 nets were confiscated on the river last year.

Ed Wickersham, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent who lives in Vancouver, said one illegal floater net near Spring Creek hatchery above Bonneville was found so full of fish it had been dragged under water. In 1979, just two illegal nets yielded 2,500 pounds of chinook. On Sept. 6, 1980, four illegal nets contained 4,138 pounds of chinook.

"It wouldn't be uncommon to catch 100 fish in a single night," Salte said. That number easily could be worth $5,000.

Veteran poacher Marvin Tolva Jr., now in prison, said up to $10,000 can be caught a night when runs peak.

James Lithgow, a Portland fish broker, pleaded guilty in December and paid a $1,000 fine. His Lithgow Bros. Inc. fish brokerage was fined an additional $5,000. Carlson Seafood Inc. pleaded guilty and was fined $4,000; owner Craig Carlson was fined an additional $1,000. Action is pending against Joe Jaha of Sea Sands brokerage.

Those cases were prosecuted under Oregon's felony law. Under Washington law, the crime is at worst a gross misdemeanor, with a fine up to $5,000.

(See LAST SALMON, Page 8B)

Last salmon/ from page 1B

and a penalty of a year in jail. In reality, most fines remain well below $1,000 and jail time is given only to repeat offenders.

Fisheries agents suspect many area restaurants, knowingly or unknowingly, are buying and serving stolen fish. Arrests, however, are rare.

Tracing illegal fish to the retail market is difficult. Most legal salmon served or sold outside regular fishing seasons have been frozen and stored. Black market fish need only be frozen to prevent enforcement officers from determining when it was caught.

Even if fish is sold fresh out of local season, sellers often point to other legal salmon seasons elsewhere. There is a legal salmon troller fishery for chinook salmon in the Strait of Juan de Fuca almost year around.

The Columbia River experiences spring, summer and fall runs of salmon, but because the number returning to the river to spawn continues to decline, river commercial fishing has been sharply reduced.

Under a compact agreed to between the states of Washington and Oregon and the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce Indian tribes, about one-third of the fish destined to migrate upriver from Bonneville Dam are reserved to lay eggs for future runs.

Of the remainder, Indians are supposed to get 40 percent of the spring chinook and 60 percent of the fall chinook, with the rest for non-Indians. However, the tribe's recorded catch often lags behind those percentages.

One winter commercial fishing season is planned for later this month and March, agreed to by the states and tribes. A brief fall fishery may be set later. Tribal fishing seasons are different from those of non-Indians to try to ensure the tribes catch the percentage they are allowed.

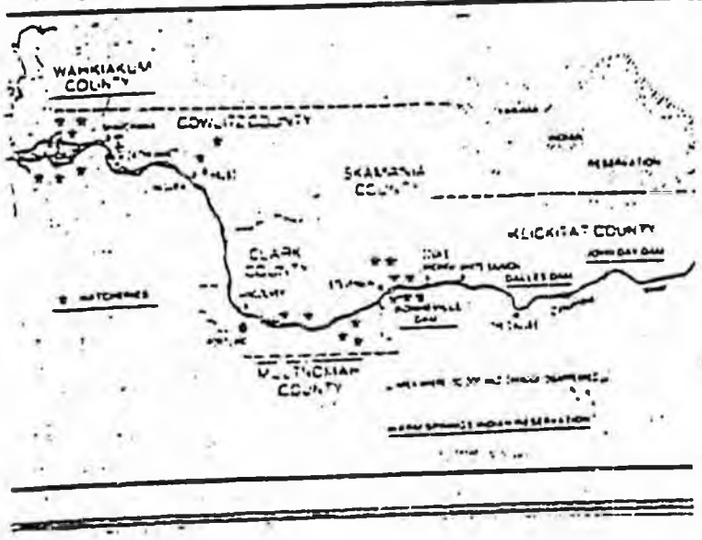
Indian tribes also are allowed to set their own special seasons for ceremonial fishing, to provide fish for traditional religious or tribal gatherings. The catch is not supposed to exceed the number needed for the ceremony, and the recorded number of fish caught for ceremonial purposes is small.

But fisheries officers believe large numbers of unrecorded surplus fish are caught on out-of-season ceremonial permits and sold on the black market.

Fisheries agents say a distinct part of the Northwest's heritage is at stake.

"Unless more is done, in our lifetime we will see the extinction of the run," said Sanders, the Warm Springs reservation police chief. "You will have to go to an aquarium to see salmon."

Next week: Law Enforcement.



Warm Springs Tribal Chief Jeff Sanders warns that if poachers aren't stopped, future salmon will be seen only in aquariums.

Juneau Empire
March 2, 1982

Columbia River

Dear Editor:

Trollers in Alaska apprehensively await a decision by Craig, a Federal judge. Craig's decision concerning returning king salmon to the Columbia River system will decide the future of Alaskan trollers. If he decides Alaskans must let more king salmon go-by, in order that Indian tribes in Washington get their 50% share of the run, Alaskan trollers will have a king quota of 240,000 and a bleak future. Next year, the king quota will probably be dropped again, and again the next year, and on and on until Alaskans will have no quota. I believe this will happen because the Alaska king quota was supposed to stay at 320,000 the first year it was instituted. The very next year it was lowered to 272,000. This year the quota may drop to 240,000, depending on Judge Craig's decision.

Before Craig makes his decision, I hope he considers the following information:

—In 1976, 2,800,000 king salmon were killed during a test to see how low the water level on part of the Columbia would go if water were used to cool two nuclear plants at Hanford Washington.

—The "Royal Chinook" run was practically wiped out with the building of the Grand Coulee Dam.

—Stream fluctuations on Washington's Cowlitz River killed up to 18,000 small fish a day.

—Irrigation interests along the Columbia River system can now take water below minimum levels of the past.

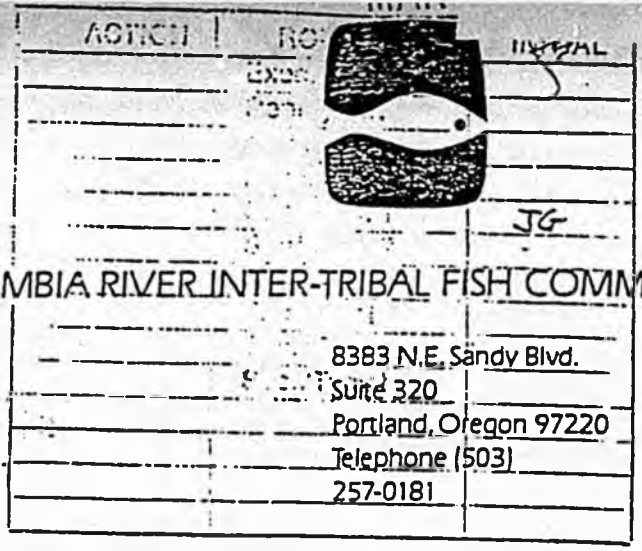
—The Japanese incidentally caught 700,000 king salmon last year and the Canadians caught about three times as many king salmon as Alaskans.

—The cutting of Alaska's king quota this last year has shown no noticeable difference upon the Columbia run.

—There is not conclusive biological proof that Alaskans are catching detrimental numbers of the Columbia king salmon run.

Last of all, I hope Judge Craig is a reasonable man and sees that a minority of people are receiving a majority of a natural resource which more than meets the U.S. government's treaty obligations to them.

Yours very truly,
Ronald L. Merritt
P.O. Box 912
Wrangell, AK



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

8383 N.E. Sandy Blvd.
Suite 320
Portland, Oregon 97220
Telephone (503)
257-0181

March 17, 1982

Mr. Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. Tillion:

The Columbia River Indian tribes have rights, secured by treaty, to fish in common with all other citizens of the United States. That treaty fishing right has been adjudicated, and given substance, by a long series of federal court decisions. See, e.g., Sohappy v. Smith, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D Or. 1969), subsequent order aff'd sub nom. United States v. Oregon and Washington, 529 F.2d 570 (9th Cir. 1976); United States v. Washington, 384 F. Supp. 312 (W.D. Wash. 1974), aff'd, 520 F.2d 676 (9th Cir. 1975), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 1086 (1976); Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Association, 99 S. Ct. 3055 (1979).

In the pending case of Yakima Indian Nation v. Baldrige, No. C80-342T (W.D. Wash. 1980), the Columbia River treaty tribes have alleged that management of ocean fisheries by the Secretary of Commerce has violated and continues to violate the plaintiffs' treaty fishing rights as well as provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Senior Federal District Judge Walter E. Craig has ordered the parties to seek a negotiated resolution to the issues subsumed within Yakima Indian Nation v. Baldrige.

As part of the court-ordered negotiation process, the plaintiff Indian tribes submitted the enclosed proposals, as revised, for management of 1982 ocean fisheries by the Secretary of Commerce, the state of Oregon, and the state of Washington. These proposals were designed to provide an interim regulatory regime for comprehensive, coastwide management and conservation of Columbia River chinook and coho salmon stocks that are subject to treaty allocation.

Since the Yakima Indian Nation v. Baldrige litigation is pending, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is submitting the above-referenced proposals as its recommendations for management of 1982 ocean fisheries.

The Inter-Tribal Fish Commission will submit no other written comments to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, other than to incorporate by reference its comments submitted to this council for the years 1979, 1980, and 1981.

Sincerely,

S. Timothy Wapato

S. Timothy Wapato
Executive Director

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR S.E. ALASKA TROLL SALMON SEASON - 1982

Recommended Season: July 15 - September 20 all species

Quota: 128,000 chinook (53% reduction from 1981 optimum yield)

Intent:

1) Minimize catch of Columbia River and other non-Alaska chinook salmon in S.E. Alaska troll fishery while minimizing impact on S.E. Alaska fishery as a whole.

2) Maximize coho harvest consistent with above.

3) Maximize transfer of non-local (Columbia River) stocks through competing fisheries.

4) Provide meaningful progress toward satisfying conservation and Columbia River treaty Indian harvest requirements.

Background:

1) Most chinook stocks contributing to S.E. Alaska troll fishery are of non-Alaska origin.

2) Many of those stocks are seriously and chronically underescaped which significantly impacts the productivity of the chinook resource coastwide.

3) One of the major contributors to the Southeast Alaska fishery is the upper Columbia River bright chinock stock.

   a) This stock has steadily declined since the early 1970's and was underescaped by an average of 27% during the past five years.

   b) Additionally, this stock is subject to a treaty allocation of up to 50%. Present treaty allocation is far below that level as shown in the following table (1981 allocation):

Harvester	Thousands of Upriver Brights 1/	% U.S. Harvest
Alaska	37.9	74.8
WA/OR	4.6	9.1
Col. R. Non-Indian	1.4	2.8
Total Non-Indian	43.9	86.6
Indian	6.8	13.4
Total harvest	50.7	

4) Reductions in ocean fisheries to date have clearly been inadequate to halt the decline in returning fish, or to satisfy treaty obligations.

   a) The 1981 Alaska fishery was reduced 17% from the 1980 harvest and 23% from the 1980 upper OY range of 320,000 chinook. 2/

   b) Reductions must be significantly greater to have a noticeable effect on escapement or allocation.

1/ Source WDF/NBS catch regulation model simulations and WDF-ODFW inriver catch estimates.

2/ Assuming 1980 and 1981 Alaska catches were 299,900 and 247,000 respectively as specified by ADFG, November 1981.

Rationale:

1) S.E. Alaska troll fishery primarily harvests chinook and coho salmon.

   a) Chinook stocks contributing to the fishery are largely of non-Alaskan origin (Natural Resource Consultants, 1981)

   b) Coho stocks are mainly of Alaska origin with significant numbers of British Columbia stocks contributing (NRC, 1981).

2) Contributing chinook stocks, both local and non-local, are seriously depressed, whereas coho stocks are apparently experiencing adequate escapement.

3) The timing of chinook catch largely occurs prior to coho catch (attached figure).

   a) About 60% of chinook catch occurs prior to July 15.

   b) Only 13% of coho catch occurs before this date.

4) Thus closing fishery prior to July 15 affords significant protection to depressed chinook stocks while leaving the coho fishery relatively untouched. Closure at this time would also provide maximum transfer of fish to southern points.

   a) WDF model simulations estimate maximum Alaska and Canadian transfers in July and August (WDF, 1981a).

   b) Canada is considering at least a two week closure of the northern British Columbia fishery in the June-July time frame.

Preliminary estimate of long term benefit of proposed season to Columbia upriver bright (URB) chinook. 1/

		Base= 320,000 2/	Base= 272,000 2/
1.	Reduction in Alaska Catch	192,000	144,000
2.	Estimated 1981 contribution of URB's to Alaska fishery	15.3%	15.3%
3.	Reduction in URB's	29,400	22,000
4.	Transfer rate of Alaska reductions to Washington (WDF, 1981 a)	63%	63%
5.	Benefit to Columbia River	18,500	13,900
6.	Estimated return to Col. R. without proposed regulation change (WDF, 1981 b)	62,900	62,900
7.	Estimated return to Col. R. with proposed regulation change. 3/	81,400	76,800

1/ These estimates were made using the best date available at the time of the analysis. Refinement of the estimates may be approriate as more recent and detailed information regarding contribution and transfer rates becomes available.

3/10/82

2/ Estimated benefits for both the pre-1981 OY (320,000) and 1981 OY (272,000) are provided for the edification of those interested in such distinctions. The choice of base for comparison should have no effect in determining the actual benefit to the Columbia River, since in both cases we are dealing with the same population size and the same reduced harvest (128,000). The slight difference in the bottom line of the two estimates is caused by the inability of the WDF estimate of 1982 URB return without regulatory change, to distinguish between the 1981 and earlier regulatory schemes. Theoretically, the right figure in line 6 should be larger than the left figure to reflect the reduced 1981 OY. In which case, the two numbers in line 7 would be the same.

3/ Assuming a constant population size.

3/10/82

March 31, 1982

Open letter to our legislators and the people of this state.

RE: SJR 7(

Fishermen in this state cannot keep their head stuck in the sand this time. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has again, without justice or reason, arbitrarily struck down the Alaskan fisherman and the state's right to manage their resource. Our present state administration has turned time back to 1958 and is counting backwards toward the future. What's become of our rights to our own resources? We've become subjects of a dangerous thrust from powers back east, towards national socialism. Our resources are nothing more than a treasure chest of federal properties.

This quota system for troll caught Chinook and all its accompanying closures cannot be accepted for many reasons. These are just some of them.

- Optimum Yield or quota has been found to be an arbitrary lid on the troll fishery for control or suppression purpose rather than for conservation.

- The OY level should be frozen at 320,000 to 288,000 until equitable forum found.

- The OY level should be re-evaluated to incl le S.E. Alaskan social and economic data (The Fisheries Conservation Management Act of 1976's mandate has not been addressed).

- There should be no foreign trawl fishing of any kind in the eastern Gulf of Alaska inside the 200 mile limit.

- While fishing for other species of salmon, there should be an incidental catch of Chinook allowed the Troll fleet during closures imposed by OY (Foreign fleets should not receive preferential treatment).

- White King salmon should be excluded from any Washington Department of Fisheries model projections on Chinook interception rates in Southeast Alaska and transfer figures.

- The Washington Department of Fisheries model should be updated to include ecological impact statement on 'Bright' stock (Columbia River up-river Chinook) due to dams and Hanford Atomic works.

- Poaching or disappearance of Chinook (30,000 to 40,000 last year) in Columbia River should be stopped before any further cuts in the Alaskan OY are made.

- The 1978 and 1979 Alaskan troll catch figure should be included, or the OY should be based on those two years alone.

- Japanese high seas gillnet fisheries should be shut down before any reduction in Alaskan OY is made (Chinook tagged in S.E. Alaska was caught in U.S. trawler in the Bering Sea, and over 2 million North American Origin salmon impacted a year by Japan's mothership salmon gillnet fishery, alone).

- At least a 15% reduction in Canadian Chinook catch should take place before any reduction in the Alaskan OY is made.

- Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Canada should be co-operatively pursuing aquaculture programs to enhance Chinook stocks and stop harassing the people involved in salmon fishing.

- Chinook (Bright stock) should be trapped in the lower Columbia (Bonneville Dam) and transported to spawning grounds to insure escapement (this would allow fishermen in Washington and Oregon to utilize hatchery production of Chinook on the Columbia River which they are denied at this time because of the 'Bright' situation).

- Chinooks that feed and grow in Alaskan waters are Alaskan property or, are we not all American citizens and should be given equal rights to harvest American Salmon (20% of troll fleet that fishes Alaskan waters are out of state residents but still American).

Please consider these points and decide whether or not to do something. If we don't do something about it, you can hang up more than a gaff hook in the near future.

Sincerely,

Larry Smith

Larry Smith, Juneau Chair
Troll Political Action Committee

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Ronald O. Skoog, Commissioner

Steven Pennoyer
Director
Commercial Fisheries Division

Southeastern Region
230 S. Franklin #301
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Contact: David Cantillon
Regional Supervisor
465-4250

For Immediate Release

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON OPTIMUM YIELD HARVEST LEVEL SET FOR 1982

In a meeting on March 23-24 the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council jointly adopted an Optimum Yield range of 243,000-272,000 chinook salmon for Alaskan commercial fisheries that are located east of Cape Suckling. The Board and Council further directed the respective staffs of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage for a harvest of 255,500 chinook salmon in 1982. In 1981, 268,000 chinook salmon were commercially harvested in Alaskan waters east of Cape Suckling.

Before taking action to set a 1982 chinook salmon harvest level the Board and Council reviewed extensive reports and data on coastwide chinook salmon stock status and the fisheries that share in the harvest of these stocks. Extensive public testimony from fishing groups, processors and individuals was received by the Board and Council both at their March 23-24 and January joint meetings. After reviewing all the available data and testimony the Board and Council determined that substantial declines in chinook salmon escapements in Canadian rivers and for some Columbia River stocks were a definite cause for concern as these stocks support a major portion of the chinook salmon catch in Southeastern Alaska. It is becoming apparent that without immediate conservation actions by all parties involved in the management of these stocks the future of the Alaska troll fishery is in serious question. The chinook salmon information made available to the Board and Council demonstrated that conservation measures in Alaskan fisheries alone cannot solve coastwide chinook salmon problems. It was determined that significant actions to conserve chinook salmon in Canadian fisheries and