

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 1989-1990 8672  
6553 SENATE RESOURCES

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### CONCLUSIONS

1. The total herring bycatch in trawl fisheries was estimated to be at least 4,521-8,065 tonnes in 1989.
2. Bering Sea herring stocks are declining and are projected to decline below threshold levels where commercial fisheries are allowed at Nelson Island and Nunivak Island in 1990.
3. Herring bycatch exploitation rates have increased from less than 2% in 1983 to 4%-7% in 1989, and are projected to increase further in 1990.
4. When trawl herring bycatch is considered, the maximum allowable herring exploitation rates under the Alaska Board of Fisheries herring harvest policy are being exceeded.
5. Western Alaskan communities experienced difficulties in harvesting herring for subsistence purposes during herring stock declines in the 1970s.
6. Foreign fishing records and scale pattern analyses demonstrate that herring stocks that spawn in Bristol Bay migrate clockwise around Bristol Bay, arriving on the wintering grounds north and west of the Pribilofs in September.
7. Herring stocks spawning north of Bristol Bay appear to move more directly offshore after spawning. It is uncertain whether herring stocks from Kuskokwim Bay to Nelson Island move directly offshore or follow a clockwise migratory pattern like Bristol Bay stocks.
8. Fish ticket records of herring landed discard underestimate total herring catch, but range from 834-1,038 tonnes for the Unimak Pass area.
9. Herring bycatch estimated by applying 1983-1988 average foreign and JV observer bycatch rates by 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude area by month to 1989 fish ticket catches by 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude by month was 1,170 tonnes for Pacific cod fisheries, 3,921 tonnes for pollock bottom trawl fisheries and 386 tonnes for pollock midwater trawl fisheries.
10. Additional analyses of 1983-1988 observer bycatch rates by 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude area by month could be used to determine appropriate areas and time periods for possible herring bycatch control measures.

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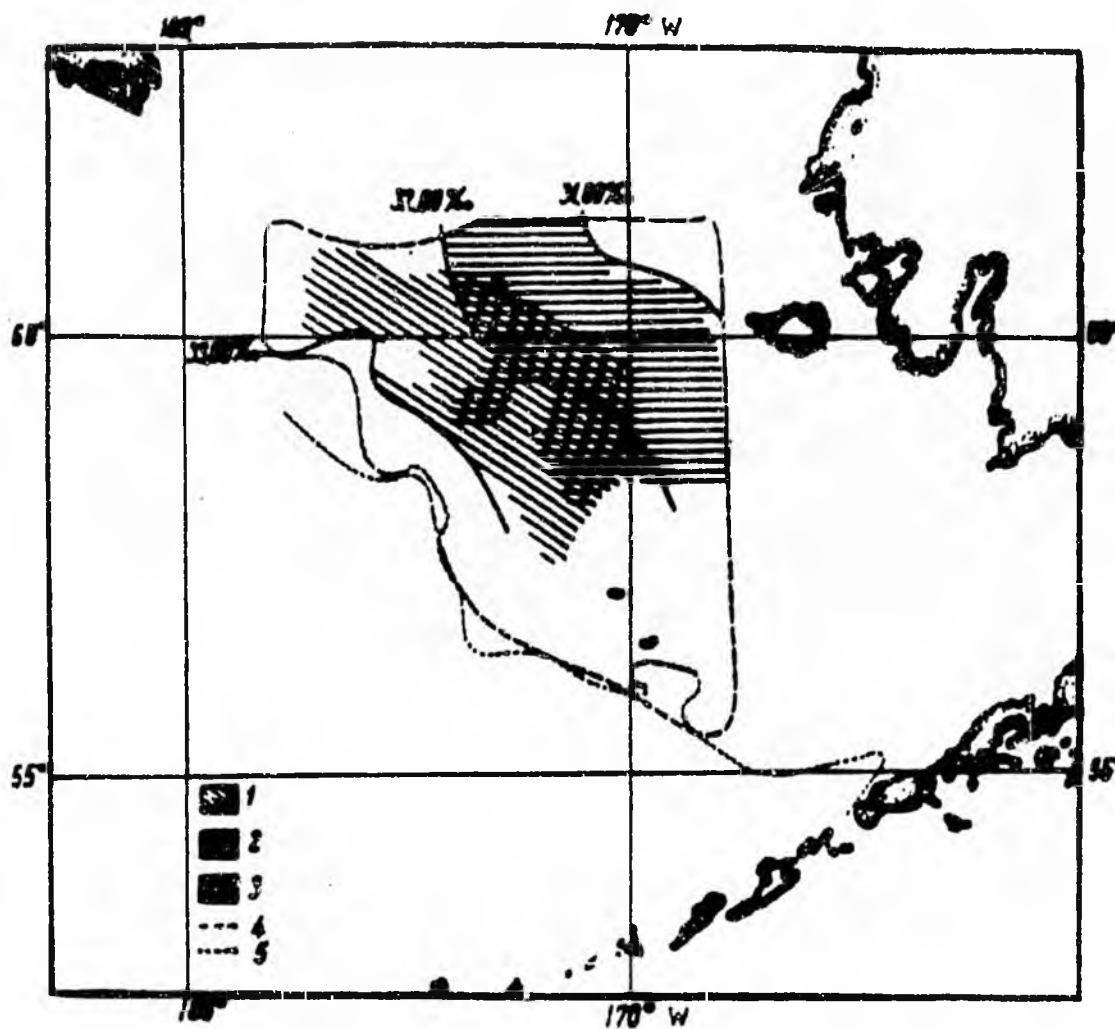


Figure 1. Distribution of herring in the eastern Bering Sea in October, 1964. (from Rumyantsev and Darda 1970).

- 1 = mature
- 2 = immature
- 3 = mixed
- 4 = investigated region
- 5 = 200 m isobath

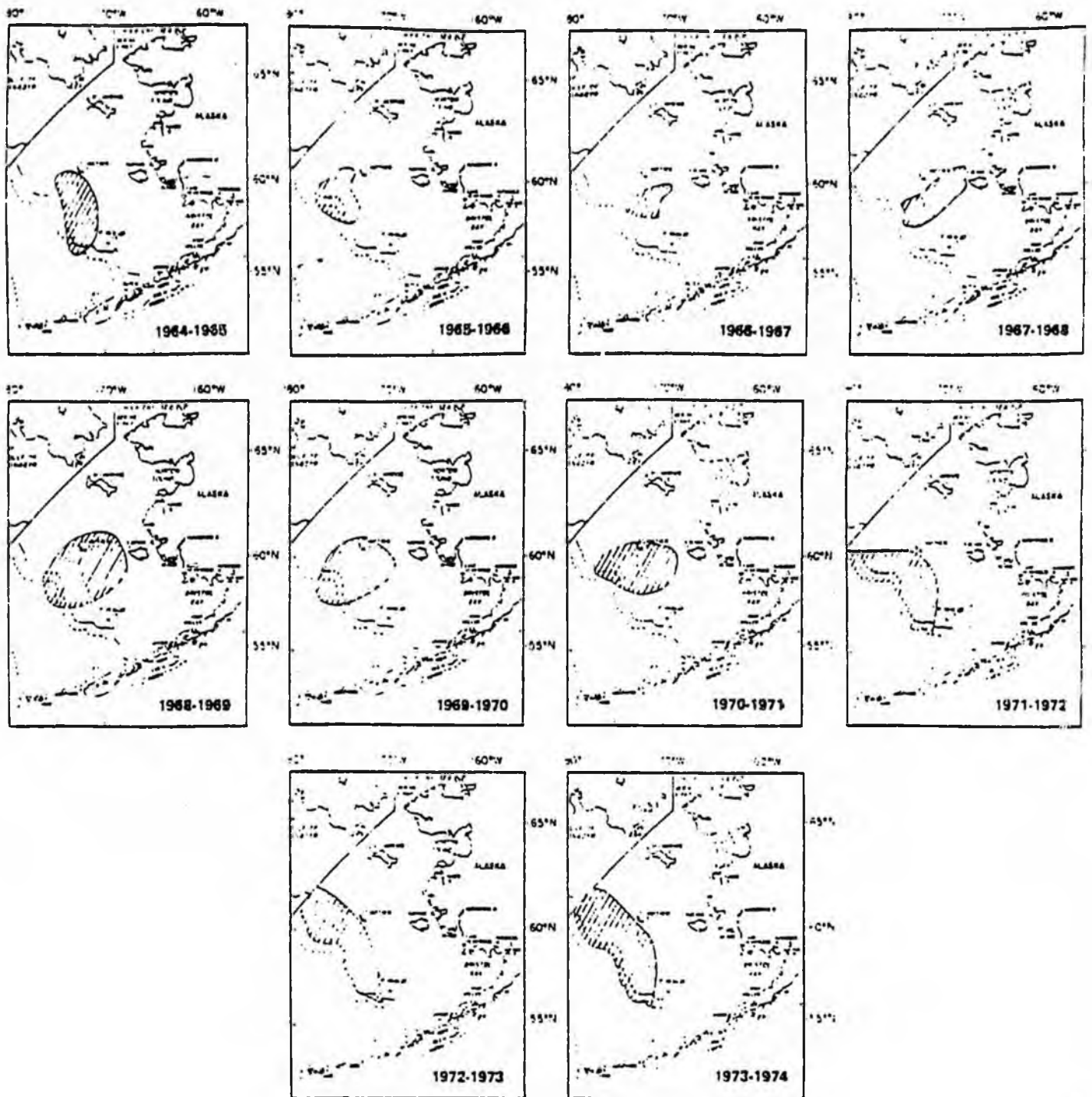


Figure 2. Location of Soviet herring fisheries in the eastern Bering Sea, 1964-65 to 1973-74 (from the draft Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Anchorage).

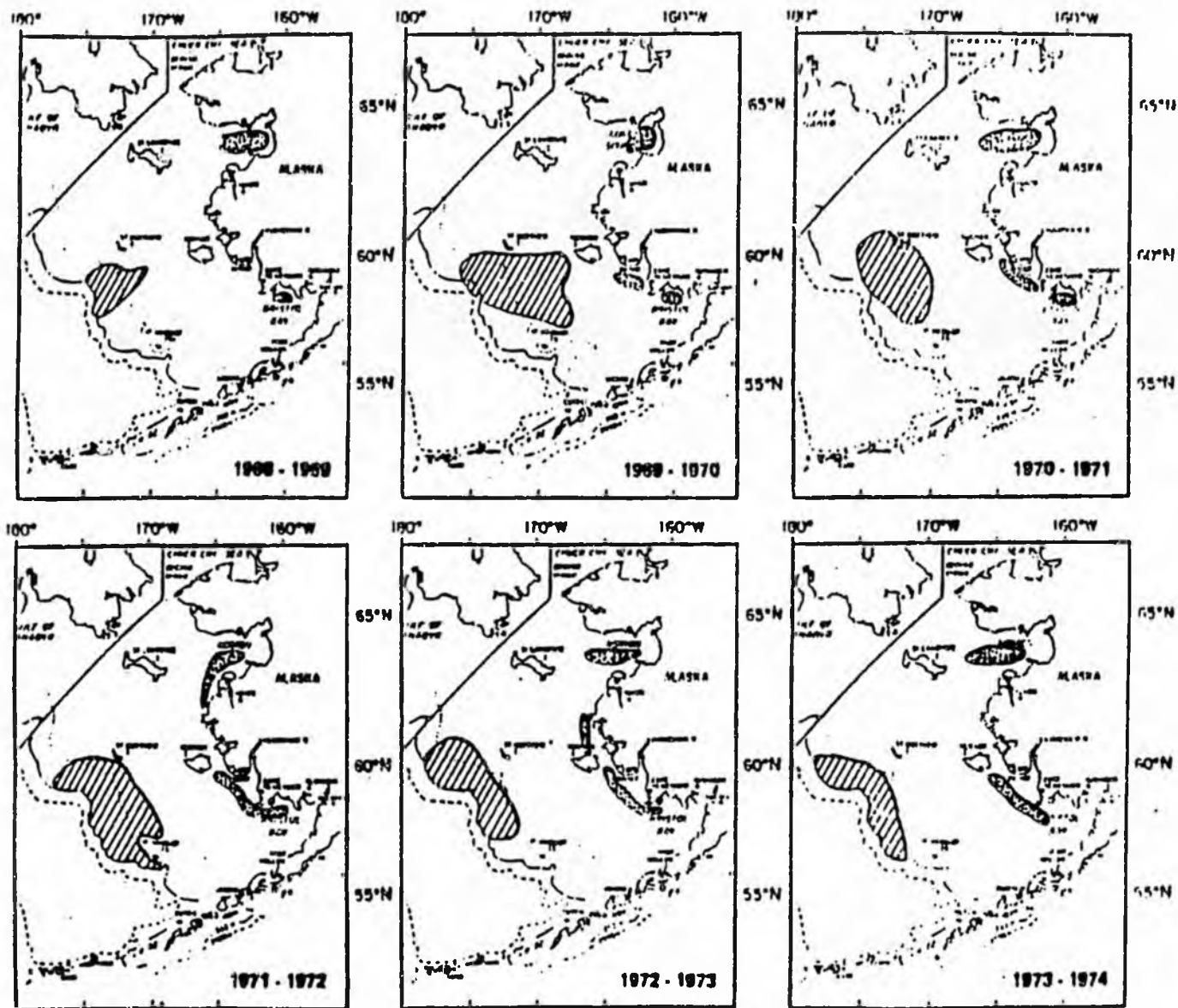


Figure 3. Location of Japanese trawl (striped) and gillnet (stippled) fisheries in the eastern Bering Sea, 1968-69 to 1973-74 (from the draft Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Anchorage).

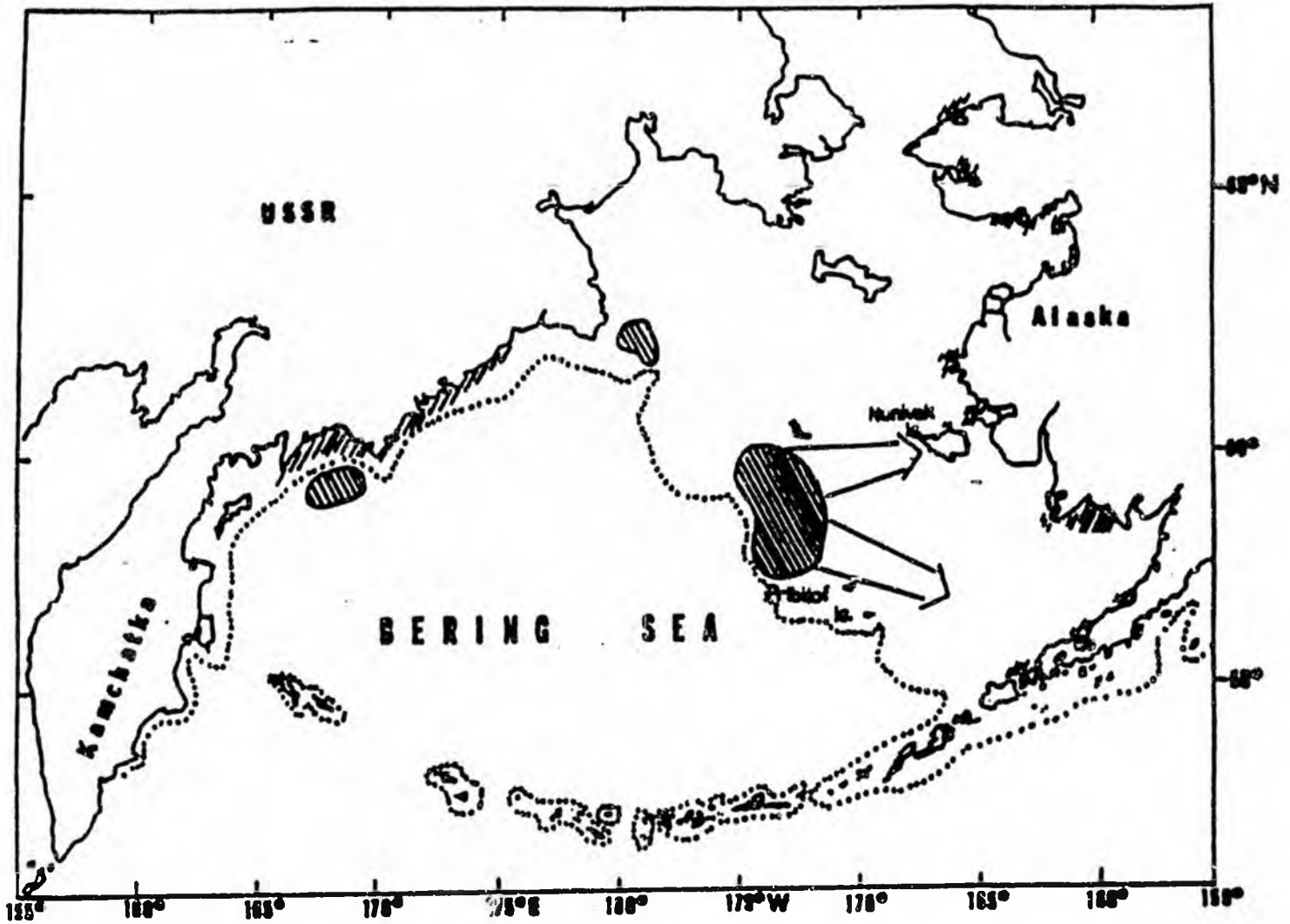


Figure 4. Location of the spawning and winter grounds (oval areas) of main western and eastern Bering Sea Pacific herring stocks and routes of migration of eastern stocks to spawning areas (from the draft Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Anchorage).

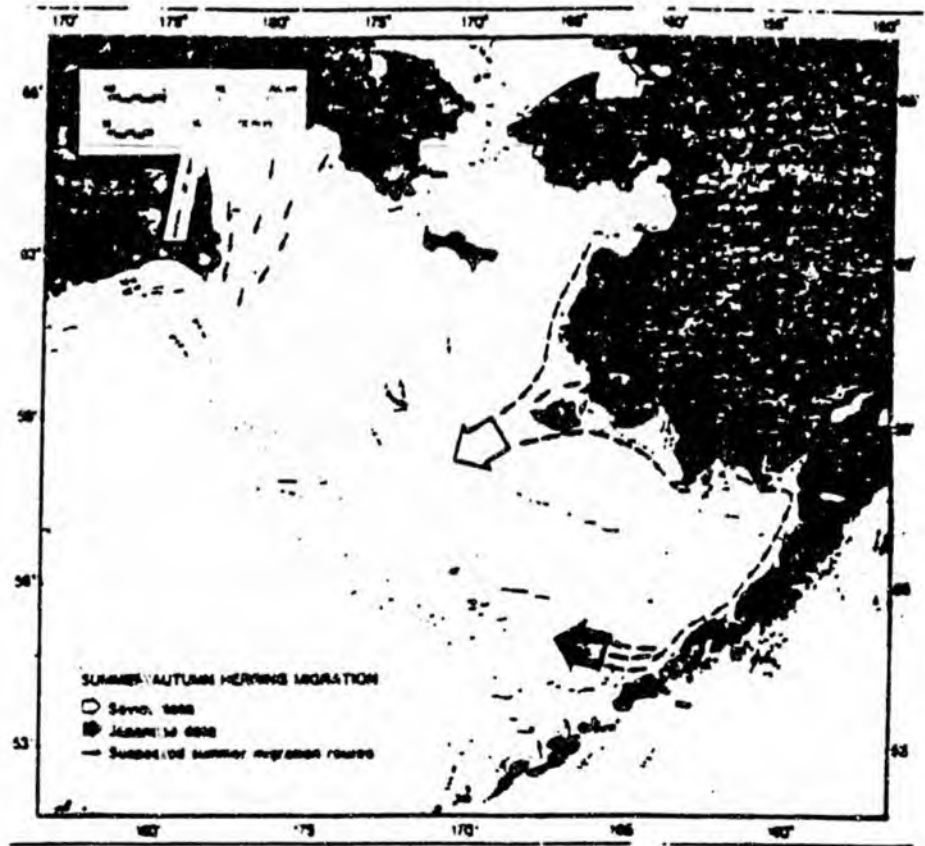


Figure 5. Summer and autumn migration routes to winter grounds. Large solid arrow: area of reappearance in offshore waters as determined by Soviet research and Japanese catches. Large dashed arrow: area of autumn reappearance in offshore waters reported from Soviet research. Small arrows possible summer feeding routes and autumn migration routes (from Weststad and Barton 1979).

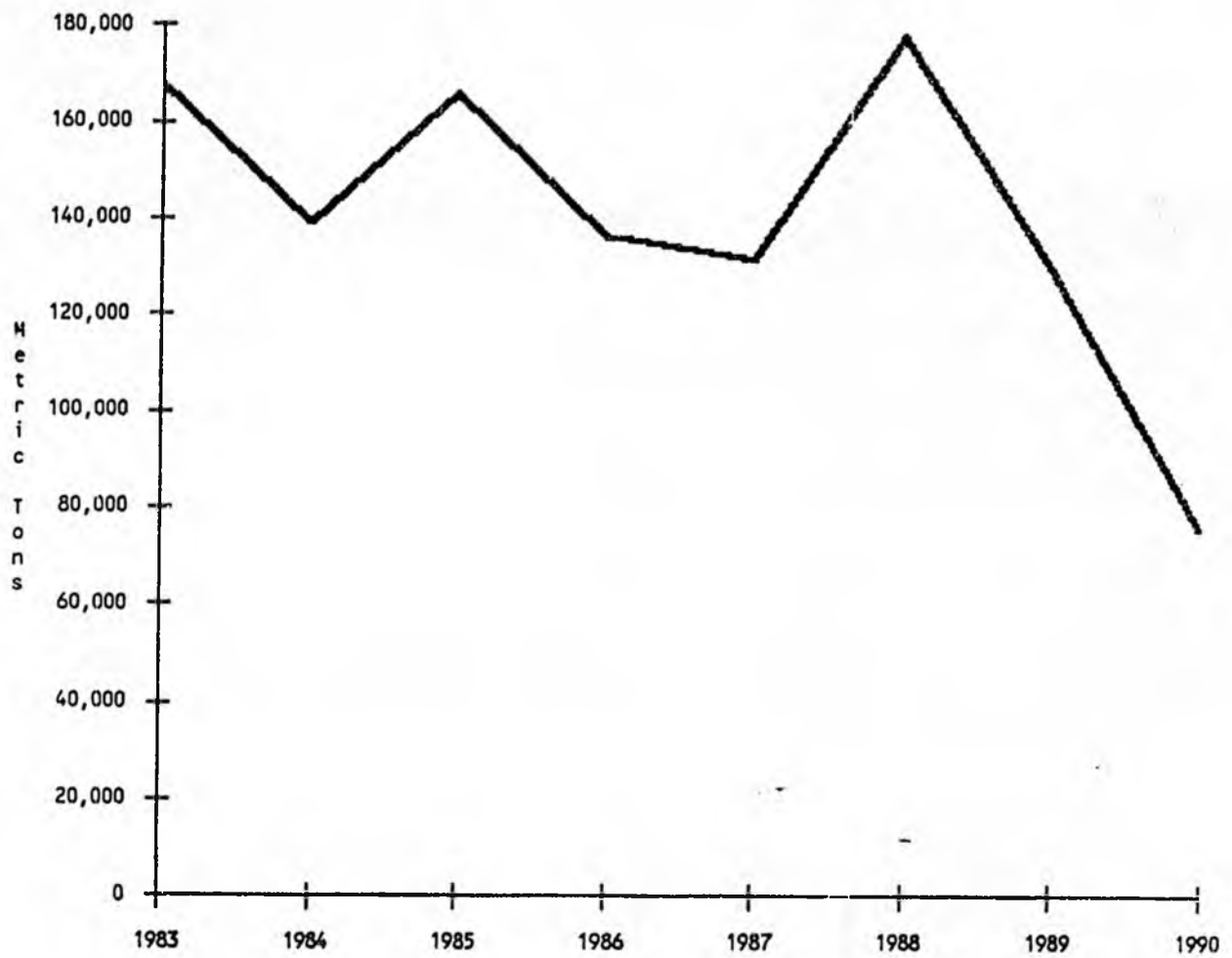


Figure 6. Spawning biomass of eastern Bering Sea herring stocks from 1983 through 1989, and the projected 1990 spawning biomass.

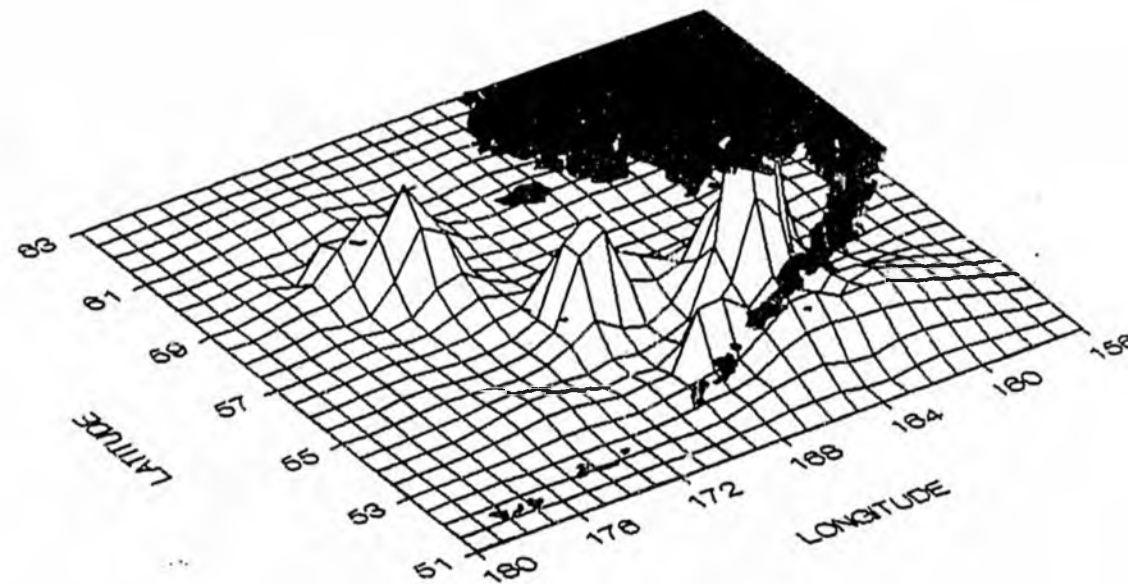


Figure 7. Spatial distribution of the pollock catch from the 1989 domestic groundfish trawl fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutians area from fish tickets, by  $1/2^\circ$  by  $1^\circ$  statistical area, smoothed by distance weighted least squares.

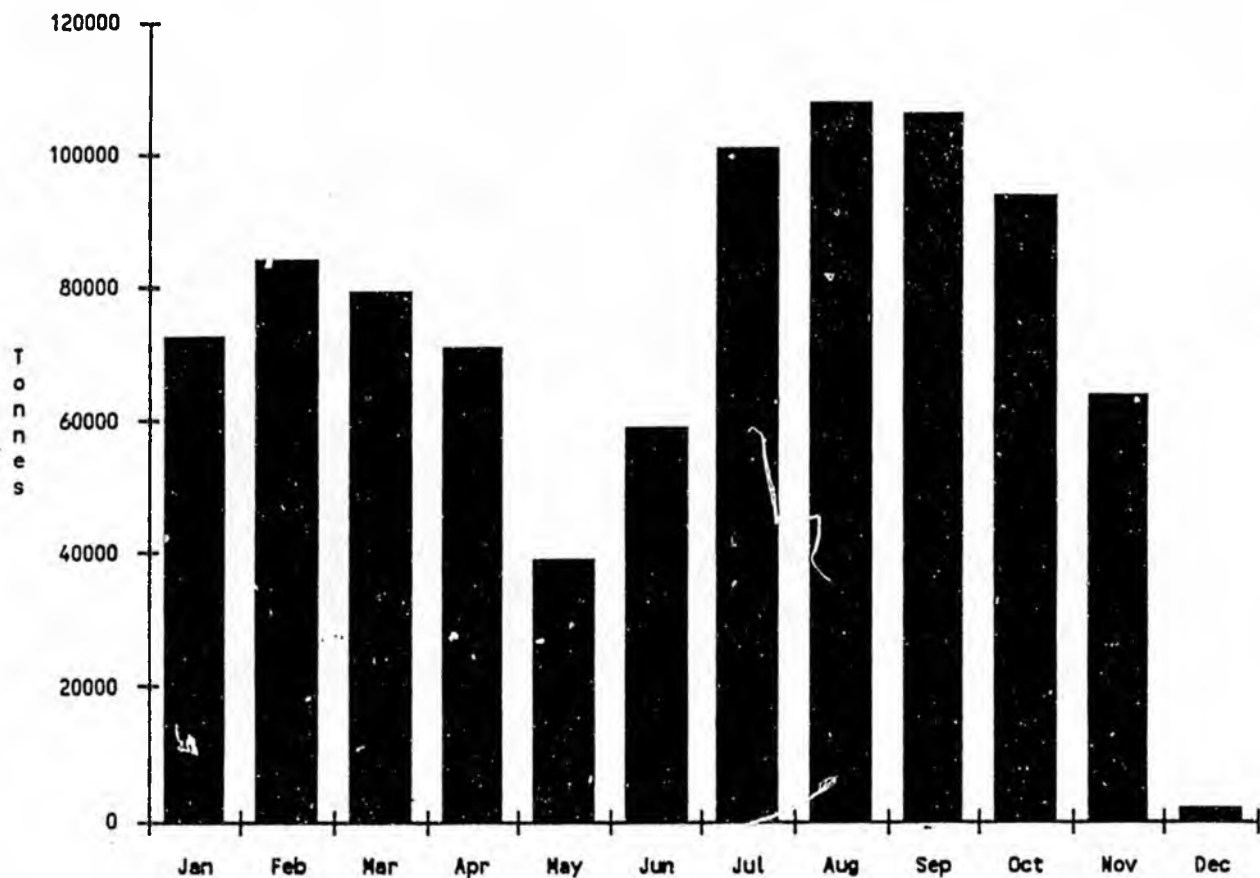


Figure 8. Monthly catch of pollock from the 1989 domestic trawl fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutians area through December 9 (source: Pacific Coast Fishery Information System, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland).

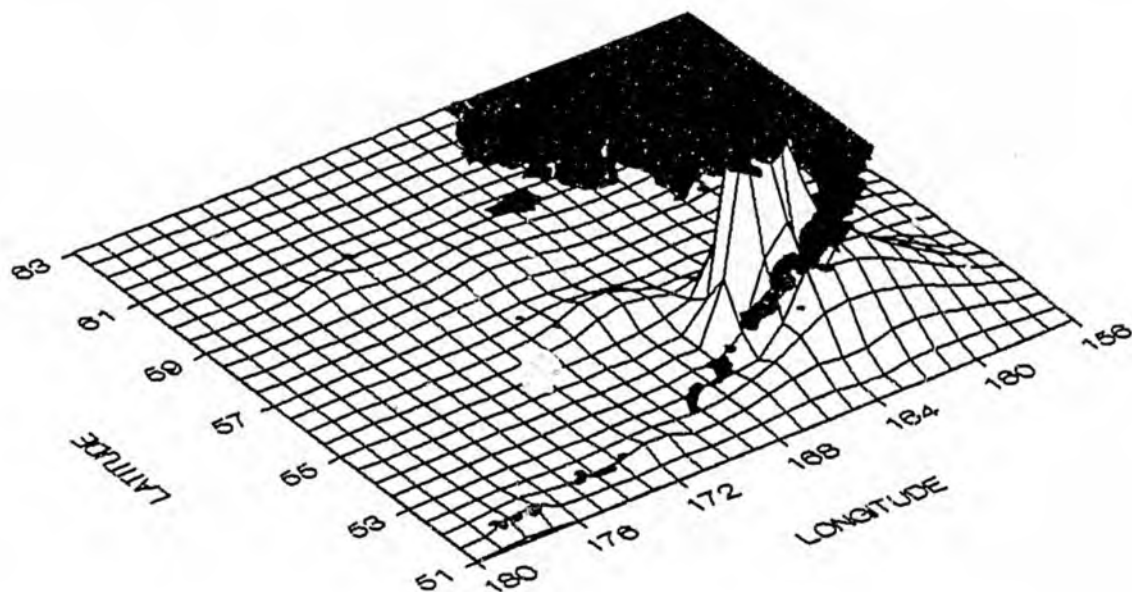


Figure 9. Spatial distribution of the Pacific cod catch from the 1989 domestic groundfish trawl fishery in the Bering Sea/Aleutians area from fish tickets, by  $1/2^\circ$  by  $1^\circ$  statistical area, smoothed by distance weighted least squares.

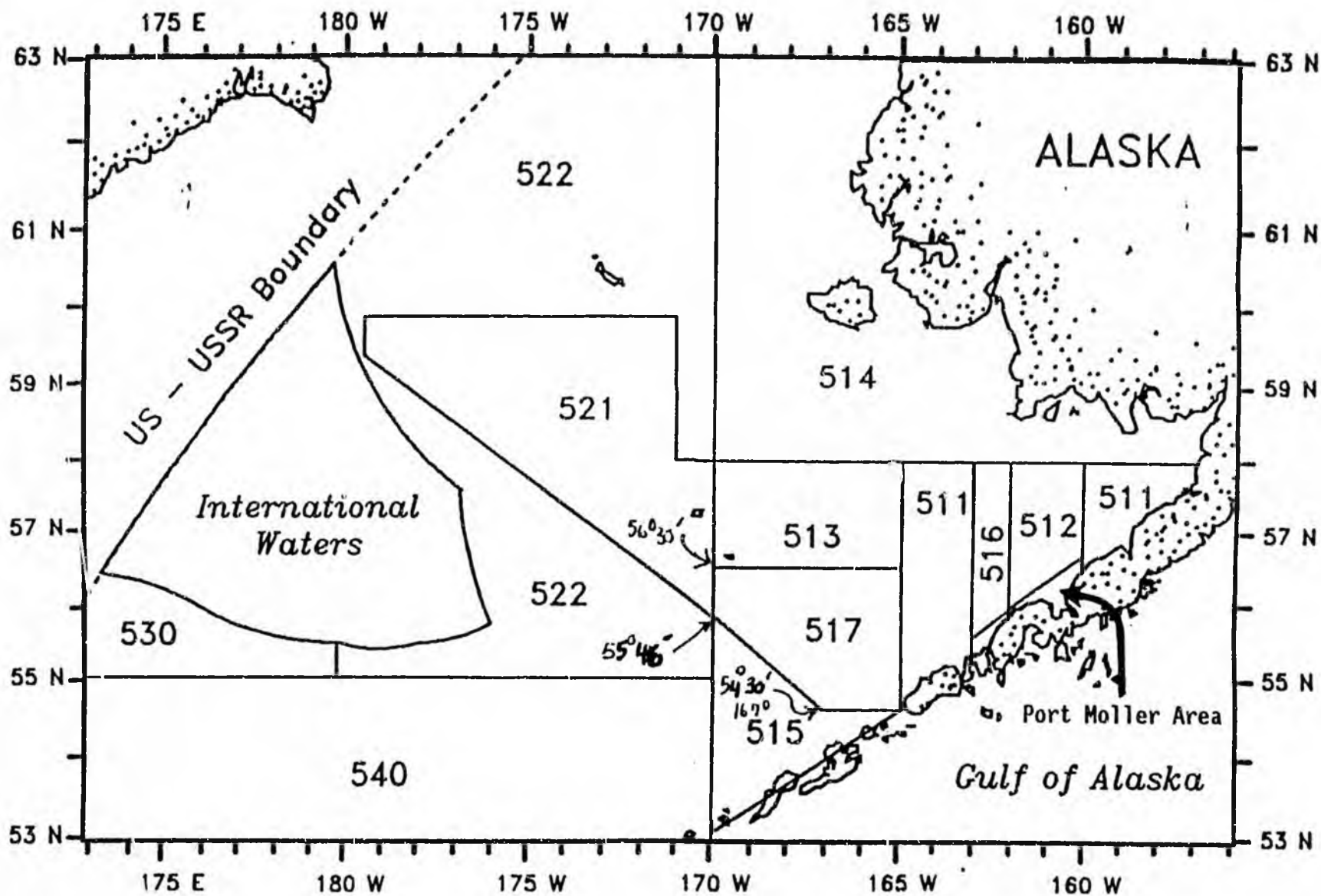


Figure 10. Statistical reporting areas in the BS/AI (Amendment 12A)

Bycatch protection zones: Zone 1 = 511 + 512 + 516  
 Zone 2 = 513 + 517 + 521  
 Zone 2H = 517

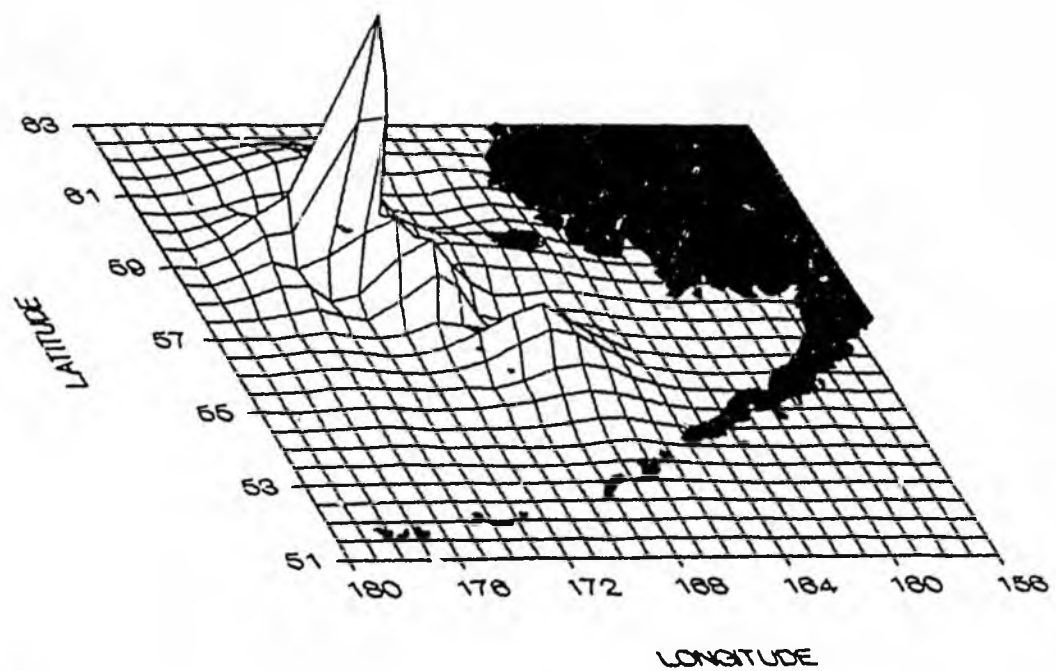


Figure 11. Spatial distribution of the combined 1989 domestic pollock and cod harvest in NMFS reporting areas 521 and 522 in September and October 1989, smoothed by distance weighted least squares.

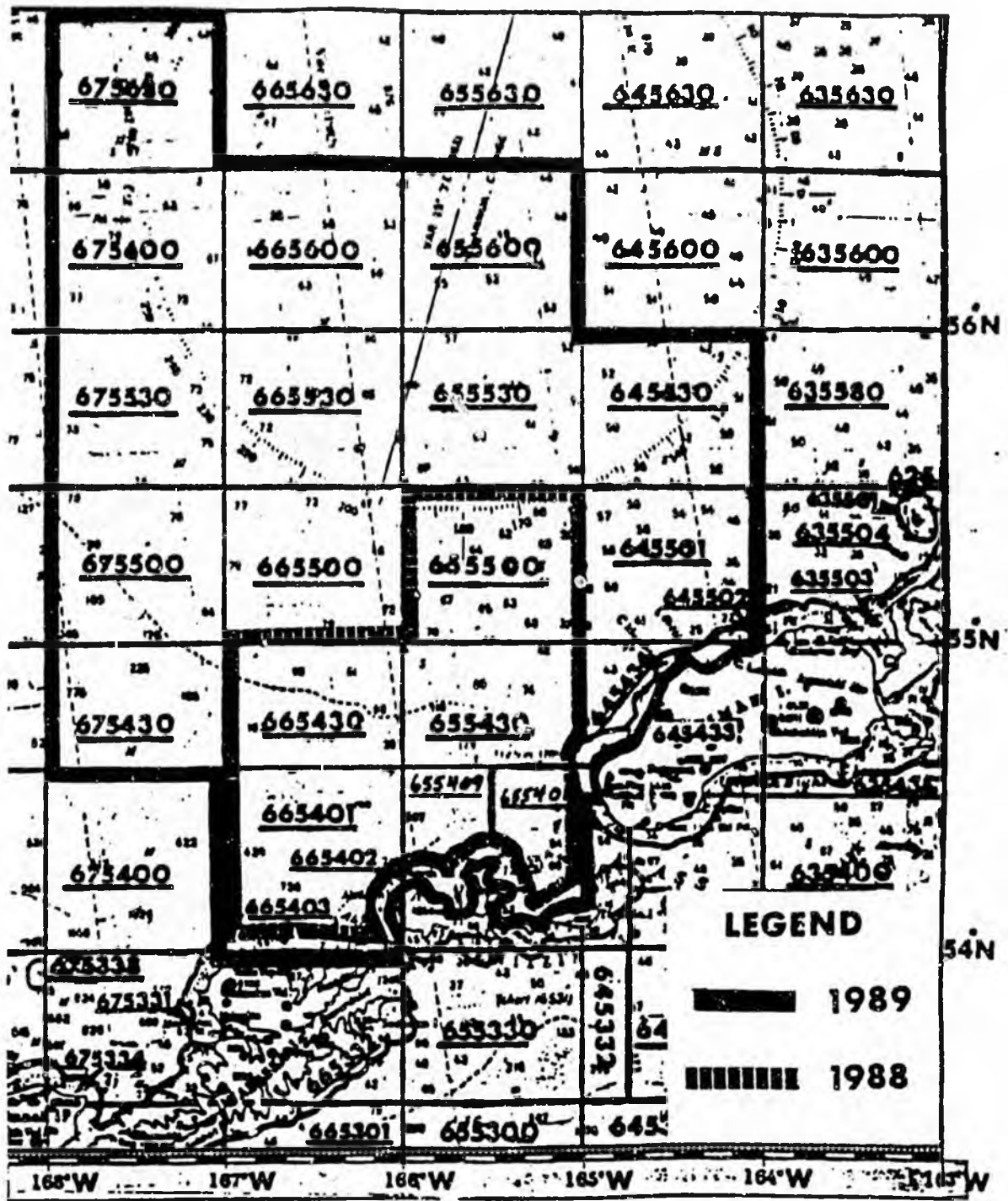


Figure 12. ADF&G statistical areas of the Unimak Pass DAP pollock fishery in 1988 and 1989.

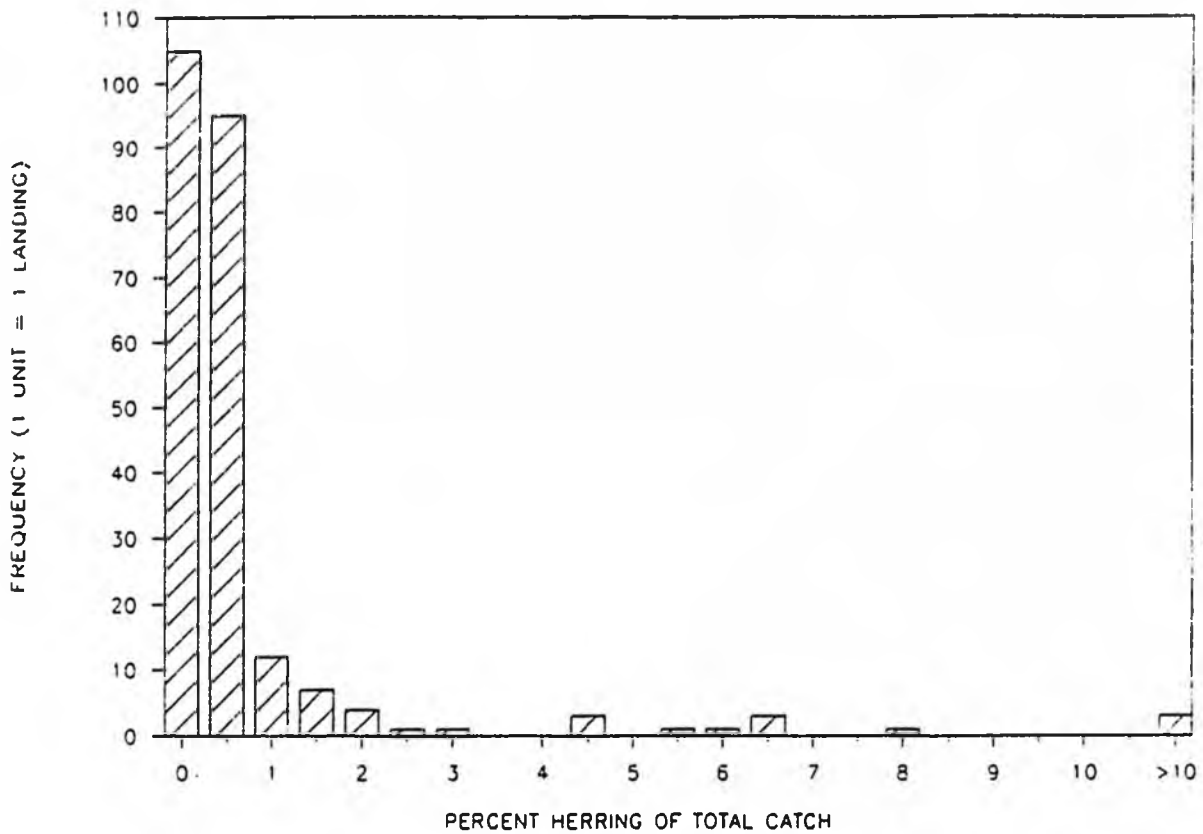


Figure 13. Frequency distribution of herring bycatch rates for all landings in the Unimak Pass fish ticket sample.

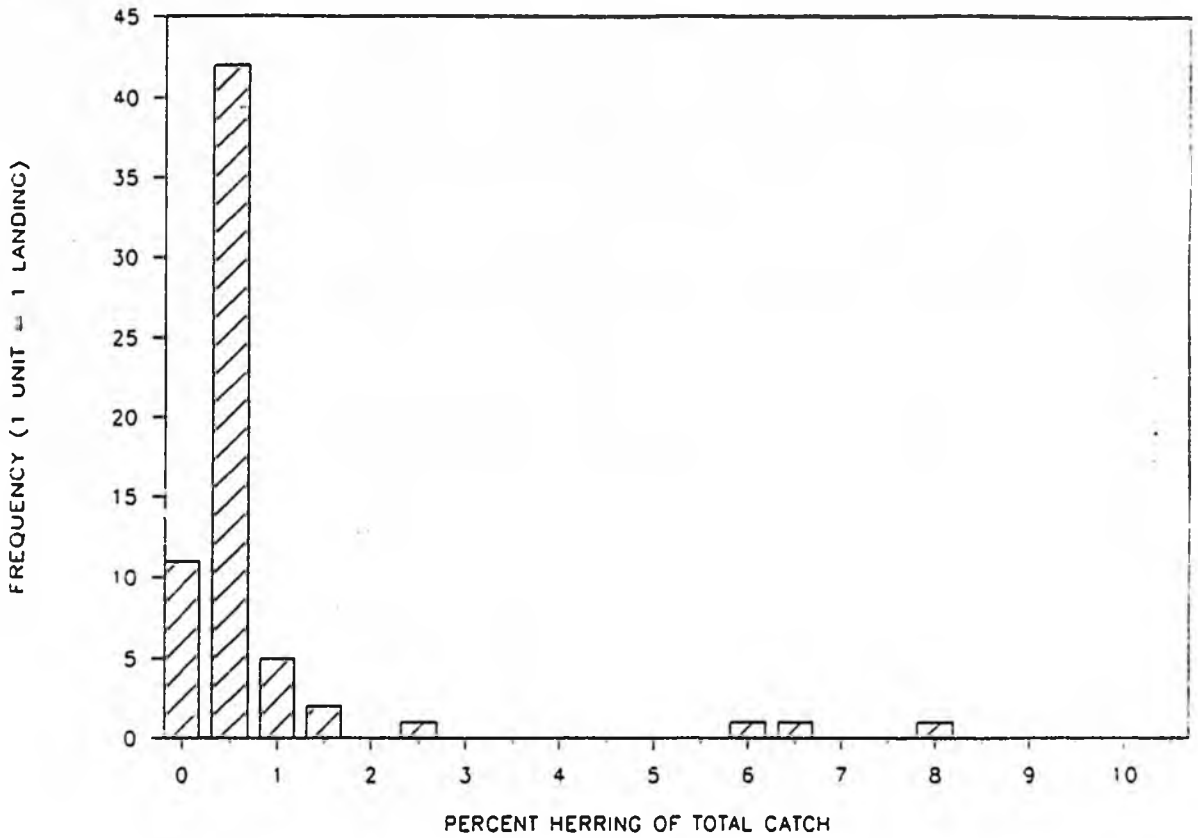


Figure 14. Frequency distribution of herring bycatch rates for deliveries to the processor judged most reliable in reporting herring landed discard.

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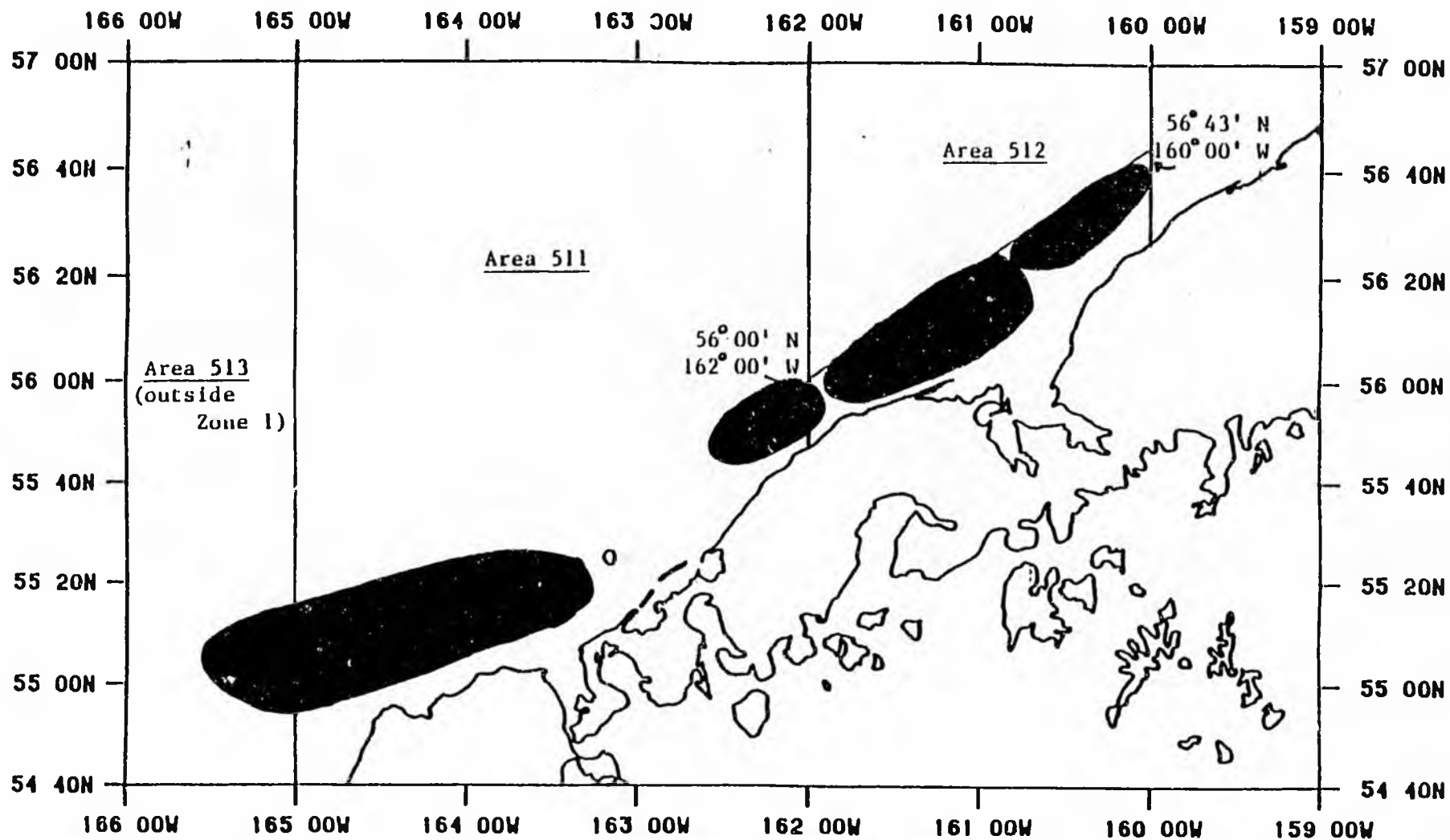


Figure 15. Retrieval positions for the Port Moller cod fishery (from Hare 1988).

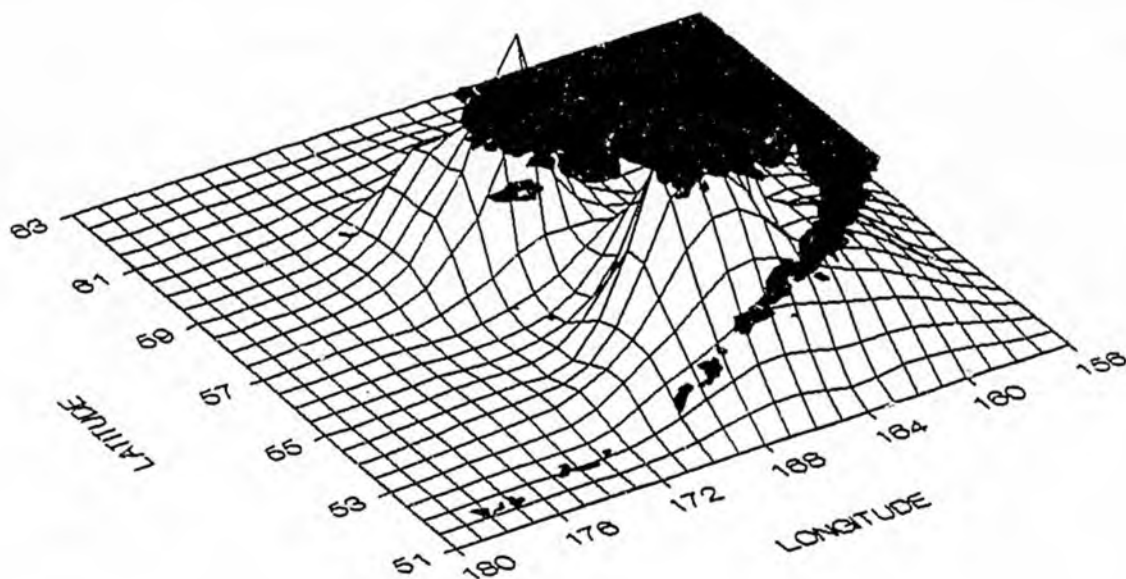


Figure 16. Spatial distribution of the 1983-1988 average herring bycatch rate in foreign and JV pollock fisheries during July, by  $1/2^\circ$  by  $1^\circ$  statistical area, smoothed by distance weighted least squares.

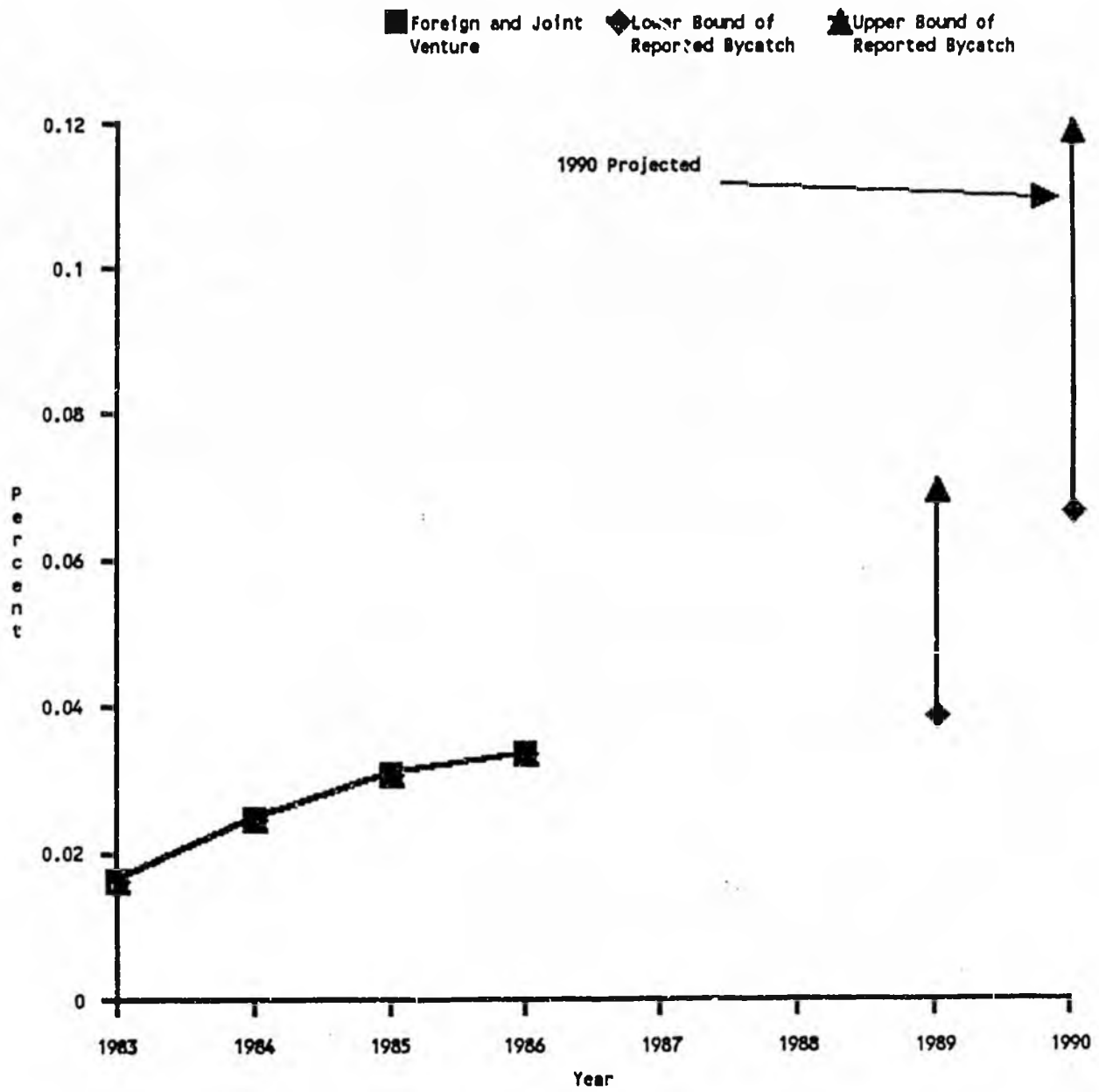


Figure 17 (revised). Estimated herring bycatch exploitation rate in the Bering Sea/Aleutians area from 1983 through 1989.

Table 1. Summary of the 1989 Alaska herring season and the preliminary forecast for the 1990 season. Harvests and spawning biomasses are listed in short tons (2,000 lbs).

Stock/Fishery	1989		1990				Stock Status	
	Opening or First Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Exploitation Rate	Mean Wt. (g)	Spawning Biomass	Level	Trend
<b>Southeastern</b>								
Kah Shakes	-3/20	592	0			3,300	Depressed	Declining
Sitka	3/31	11,700	4,150	15.0%	118	27,000	Moderate	Declining
Seymour Canal	4/28	547	312	10.2%		3,150	Depressed	Declining
Lynn Canal	Closed due to low stock abundance						Depressed	Stable
Hoonah Snd. Pound Food and Bait	1/01	3,400	3,400			4,000	High	Moderate
<b>Prince Wm. Sound</b>								
Seine	Closed due to oil		6,268					
Gill Net	Closed due to oil		367					
Pound Kelp	Closed due to oil		123 <sup>a</sup>					
Wild Kelp	Closed due to oil		108 <sup>a</sup>					
Food and Bait	11/01	190	1,759 <sup>b</sup>					
Total			10,789 <sup>c</sup>	20.0%	127	53,943	High	Stable
<b>Lower Cook Inlet</b>								
<b>Eastern and Outer Districts</b>								
Closed due to oil			700					
Southern District	4/20	171	175					
Kamishak District	4/20	4,800	2,292	10.0% <sup>d</sup>	201	28,653	High	Stable
<b>Upper Cook Inlet</b>								
Sac Roe	4/22	172	80			Unknown	Depressed	Increasing
Food and Bait	4/30	45	50			Unknown	Depressed	Increasing
<b>Kodiak</b>								
Sac Roe	4/15	2,249	2,100		200		Moderate	Stable
<b>Food and Bait</b>								
Eastern Shelikof	8/01	327	573					
Other Kodiak	8/01	13	278		200	Unknown	Moderate	Stable
Chignik Sac Roe	4/15	66	65			Unknown		
<b>Alaska Peninsula</b>								
Port Moller	5/26	745	375		220	2,500	Moderate	stable
South Peninsula	5/13	310	400		250	Unknown	Moderate	stable
Dutch Harbor								
Food and Bait	7/16	3,101	679					
<b>Bristol Bay (Togiak)</b>								
Seine	5/12	9,413	6,769					
Gill Net	5/09	2,843	2,256					
Spawn on Kelp	5/14	280 <sup>a</sup>	175 <sup>a</sup>					
Total		16,857 <sup>e</sup>	11,204 <sup>e</sup>	20.0%	361	56,020	Moderate	Declining
<b>Kuskokwim Area</b>								
Security Cove	5/17	554	235	15.0%		1,560	Moderate	Declining
Goodnews Bay	5/23	616	350	15.0%		2,330	Moderate	
Cape Avinof	6/04	129	300	15.0%		2,020		
Nunivak Island	5/22	116	<sup>f</sup>	15.0%		320		Declining
Nelson Island	5/28	233	<sup>f</sup>	10.0%		2,050		Declining
Cape Romanzof	5/26	926	360	15.0%		2,410		Declining
<b>Norton Sound</b>								
Gill Net	5/27	4,381						
Beach Seine	5/27	390						
Total		4,771	3,300	20.0%		16,520	Moderate	Stable
Port Clarence	No harvest		165					
<b>Totals</b>								
Sac Roe Harvest Total: <sup>g</sup>		40,952	31,019					
Food and Bait Harvest Total:		7,076	6,739					
Total Herring Harvest:		48,028	37,758					

<sup>a</sup> Harvest of spawn-on-kelp product in short tons.

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary 1989 food/bait guideline. The 1990 guideline will be set after 1990 sac-roe season.

<sup>c</sup> Includes mortality allowances of 1,532 and 863 tons for pound and wild spawn on kelp fisheries.

<sup>d</sup> Kamishak District exploitation rate includes the eastern Shelikof food and bait harvests.

<sup>e</sup> Togiak total harvest includes an allowance for 1,500 tons mortality for the spawn-on-kelp fishery.

<sup>f</sup> Projected biomass below minimum for commercial harvest; fishery will be opened if threshold biomass observe

<sup>g</sup> Sac roe statewide total harvests do not include allowances for spawn-on-kelp fishery mortality.

Table 2. Groundfish harvests in the eastern Bering Sea/Aleutians area reported through December 8, 1989<sup>a</sup>, and the potential for significant herring bycatch.

Species	DAP	JVP	Total	Herring Bycatch Potential
Arrowtooth Flounder	816		816	Low
Greenland Turbot	55	8,737	8,791	Low
Rock Sole	22,350	19,892	42,241	Low
Yellowfin Sole	1,521	148,727	150,248	Potential
Other Flatfish	10,453	11,847	22,300	Low
Rockfish	6,812	54	6,865	Low
Atka Mackerel	17,761	26	17,787	Low
Pacific Cod	115,551	44,091	159,642	High
Sablefish	4,102	3	4,105	Low
Pollock	878,271	276,721	1,154,992	High
Other Groundfish	320	4,613	4,933	Low
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,058,011</b>	<b>514,710</b>	<b>1,572,721</b>	...

<sup>a</sup>Source: Pacific Coast Fishery Information (PacFIN) report for December 8, 1989, Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission, Portland, Oregon.

Table 3. Herring bycatch (tonnes) by joint venture groundfish trawl vessels in the Bering Sea/Aleutians area in 1989 by NMFS reporting area and target fishery (Source: J. Berger, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, personal communication).

NMFS Reporting Area	Yellowfin Sole	Pollock Bottom Trawl	Pollock Midwater Trawl	Other Bottom Trawl	Total
511	0.1	8.6	2.8	0.0	11.5
513	0.0	0.1	0.7	13.5	14.3
514	0.0				0.0
515		17.8	0.0	2.6	20.4
516	0.0				0.0
517	0.0	63.1	55.0	2.3	120.4
521	0.0	1,028.5	543.9	223.0	1,795.4
522	0.0	361.2	202.9	61.9	626.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1,479.3</b>	<b>805.3</b>	<b>303.3</b>	<b>2,588.0</b>

Table 4. Herring bycatch, all species harvest, and herring bycatch rate from 1989 joint venture trawl fisheries targeting on pollock and "other" (primarily Pacific cod) species in the Bering Sea. October data are preliminary. Source: J. Smoker, NMFS Alaska Region.

A. Preliminary estimate of groundfish catch in tonnes:

Month	NMFS Reporting Area								Total
	511	513	514	515	516	517	521	522	
1	15,359	5,950	0	37	0	43,464	0	0	64,811
2	1,030	757	0	111	0	15,314	0	0	17,212
3	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	44
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	3,817	10,006	2,224	834	0	28,932	38,445	7,810	92,068
10	6	456	0	392	0	8,735	49,980	1,390	60,959

B. Preliminary estimate of herring bycatch in tonnes:

Month	NMFS Reporting Area								Total
	511	513	514	515	516	517	521	522	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	12	14	1	20	0	70	886	327	1,329
10	0	1	0	0	0	1	848	167	1,017

C. Preliminary estimate of herring bycatch as percent by weight of total catch:

Month	NMFS Reporting Area								Total
	511	513	514	515	516	517	521	522	
1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9	0.30%	0.14%	0.02%	2.45%	0%	0.24%	2.30%	4.18%	1.44%
10	0%	0.11%	0%	0%	0%	0.01%	1.70%	12.04%	1.67%

Table 5. Estimated catches of groundfish (1,000s t) taken by the foreign and joint venture fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands region, 1977-1986.

Fisheries/ species group	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
-----Foreign directed catches (metric tons)-----										
Pollock	978.4	979.4	944.0	1,008.1	986.9	939.3	891.3	933.0	820.3	352.3
Pacific cod	35.9	47.4	41.4	37.3	39.1	28.2	41.5	58.5	57.2	39.3
Sablefish	4.6	2.0	2.2	2.4	3.0	3.8	3.2	1.9	0.3	0.1
Atka mackerel	NA	24.2	23.3	20.2	18.1	7.4	1.2	0.1	<0.1	<0.1
All rockfish	10.8	7.5	7.2	8.3	7.3	4.9	2.0	0.9	0.1	<0.1
Yellowfin sole	0.3b	110.3	101.1	77.8	81.3	78.0	85.9	126.8	100.7	57.2
Turbots and other flatfish	138.4b	125.5	90.0	86.5	91.9	79.3	80.3	59.3	46.9	20.8
Pacific herring	19.3	8.4	7.5	0.8	0.3	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.5	0.3
Other fish	94.7	71.8	64.7	47.0	39.4	22.3	14.3	7.5	6.3	4.0
Squid	8.4	9.4	7.0	6.4	5.9	5.0	4.0	3.1	1.6	0.8
Snails	0.4	3.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.5
TOTAL	1,289.1	1,385.5	1,288.9	1,295.1	1,273.4	1,188.4	1,125.5	1,192.7	1,035.0	479.9
-----Joint venture catches (metric tons)-----										
Pollock				10.7	42.1	54.8	149.0	237.0	377.5	835.1
Pacific cod				8.5	9.2	13.6	14.4	30.8	41.3	63.9
Sablefish				<0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
Atka mackerel				0.3	1.8	12.5	10.5	35.9	37.9	32.0
All rockfish				0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.5
Yellowfin sole				9.8	16.0	17.4	22.5	32.8	126.4	151.4
Turbots and other flatfish				2.8	6.0	9.2	11.8	17.4	46.3	65.3
Pacific herring				0.0	0.0	<0.1	1.1	1.8	3.1	3.8
Other fish				0.7	3.4	1.1	1.6	2.6	6.3	7.6
Squid				0.0	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Snails				0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL				32.6	78.5	108.8	211.2	359.3	639.4	1,160.2

a Statistics for 1977-85 from Berger et al., 1987.

b Japan reported yellowfin sole combined with other flounders.

Table 6. Harvest of pollock and Pacific cod by domestic trawl vessels in NMFS reporting areas 521 and 522 in September and October, from ADF&G fish tickets, bycatch rates from JV fisheries in the same month and reporting area from Table 4, and the estimated bycatch of herring in the domestic trawl fishery in areas 521 and 522 computed by applying the JV bycatch rates to the domestic harvest.

A. Fish ticket estimates of pollock and cod harvest (tonnes):

Month	NMFS Reporting Area		Total
	521	522	
9	39,203	746	39,949
10	2,924	112	3,036
Total:	42,127	858	42,985

B. Preliminary estimate of herring bycatch rates from JV observer data:

Month	NMFS Reporting Area	
	521	522
9	2.30%	4.18%
10	1.70%	12.04%

C. Estimated of herring bycatch in tonnes:

Month	NMFS Reporting Area		Total
	521	522	
9	902	31	933
10	50	14	64
Total:	952	44	996

Table 7. Estimation of herring bycatch from fish ticket records of landed discard, using all vessels in the sample and only those vessels felt to report reliably.

Month	Source	Number of Landings	Herring Bycatch Rate	Unimak Pass Sample		Reporting Areas 511,513,515,517	
				Pollock Harvest (tonnes)	Estimated Herring Bycatch (tonnes)	Pollock Harvest (tonnes)	Estimated Herring Bycatch (tonnes)
July	All Vessels	64	0.92%	17,865	164	42,135	388
	Reliable Sample	15	1.38%		247		581
August	All Vessels	89	0.18%	23,809	43	51,937	93
	Reliable Sample	25	0.33%		79		171
September	All Vessels	67	0.38%	16,973	64	65,940	251
	Reliable Sample	17	0.11%		19		73
October	All Vessels	17	0.36%	16,973	61	90,632	326
	Reliable Sample	7	0.01%		2		9
Total	All Vessels	237	0.36%	75,620	333		1,058
	Reliable Sample	64	0.01%		345		834

Table 8. Summary of the species composition and incidence of prohibited species in the 1989 Port Moller Pacific cod fishery. (from NMFS domestic fishery report to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, September 1989).

**Summary of 1989 Port Moller Fishery**  
(62.4 days on the ground; target = Pacific cod/pollock)

A. Preliminary estimate of groundfish catch (area 512):

	<u>Metric tons</u>	<u>Percent of catch</u>
Yellowfin sole	728.80	13.0
Rock sole	831.78	14.8
Other flatfish	78.21	1.4
Arrowtooth flounder	16.42	0.3
Walleye pollock	651.38	11.6
Pacific cod	2,854.29	50.9
Sablefish	0.01	<0.1
Other fish	120.87	2.2
<u>Nonallocated species</u>	<u>322.43</u>	<u>5.8</u>
Total	5,604.20	100.0

B. Preliminary estimate of prohibited species catch (area 512):

	<u>Estimated numbers</u>	<u>Number per metric ton</u>
Red king crab	13,940	2.487
Bairdi Tanner crab	5,225	0.932
Other Tanner crab	34	0.006
Chinook salmon	9	0.002
Other salmon	14	0.002
Pacific halibut	44,914	8.014

C.	<u>Estimated weight (kg)</u>	<u>Kg per metric ton</u>	<u>Percent of catch</u>
Pacific halibut	56,016	9.995	1.00
Pacific herring	102,870	18.358	1.84

Table 9. Preliminary summary of the Pacific herring bycatch rate (weight of Pacific herring divided by weight of all species, expressed as percentage) from NMFS observers placed aboard domestic trawl vessels during August and September 1989 (from unpublished NMFS domestic fishery report to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, September, 1989).

Fishery	NMFS Reporting Area				
	<u>511</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>517</u>	<u>521&amp;522</u>
Pollock midwater trawl	<0.01%	<0.01%	0.03%	0.18%	0.02%
	<u>511&amp;517</u>				<u>521</u>
Pollock bottom trawl	<0.01%				0.01%
	<u>511</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>515&amp;517</u>		
"Other" bottom trawl	1.09%	0.02%	0.02%		

Table 10. Comparison of relative strengths of herring and pollock stocks in the eastern Bering Sea, 1983-1988.

Year	Herring Spawning Biomass (tonnes)	Pollock Stock Size (tonnes) <sup>a</sup>	Ratio	Ratio Relative to 1989
1983	167,829	7,390,000	0.023	0.88
1984	139,072	7,280,000	0.019	1.05
1985	165,834	9,030,000	0.018	1.09
1986	136,441	8,410,000	0.016	1.24
1987	131,361	8,260,000	0.016	1.26
1988	178,016	7,990,000	0.022	0.99
1989	129,669	6,457,000	0.020	1.00
1990	75,505			

<sup>a</sup>Source: Wespestad (1989).

Revised 1/12/90

Table 11 (revised). Summary of herring bycatch estimated by applying 1983-88 average foreign and JV bycatch rates by 1/2° by 1° statistical area and month to the domestic fish ticket catch data by 1/2° by 1° statistical area and month for pollock and cod targetted groundfish trawl fisheries.

Target Fishery	Target Catch	Estimated Herring Catch	Estimated Bycatch Rate
<b>Pacific Cod Trawl</b>			
Matched Areas	72,823	1,086	1.49%
Unmatched areas, > 500 tonnes total harvest (using bycatch rate from adjoining areas)	639	1	0.16%
Unmatched areas, < 500 tonnes total harvest (using bycatch rate from matched areas)	<u>5,594</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>1.49%</u>
TOTAL:	79,056	1,170	1.48%
<b>Pollock Bottom Trawl</b>			
Matched Areas	302,401	3,368	1.11%
Unmatched areas, > 2,000 tonnes total harvest (using bycatch rate from adjoining areas)	44,913	295	0.66%
Unmatched areas, < 2,000 tonnes total harvest (using bycatch rate from matched areas)	<u>23,177</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>1.11%</u>
TOTAL:	370,491	3,921	1.06%
<b>Pollock Midwater Trawl</b>			
Matched Areas	499,805	385	0.08%
Unmatched areas, > 3,000 tonnes total harvest (using bycatch rate from adjoining areas)	7,326	0	0.00%
Unmatched areas, < 3,000 tonnes total harvest (using bycatch rate from matched areas)	10,263	8	0.08%
Unknown area (using bycatch rate from matched areas)	<u>728</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0.08%</u>
TOTAL:	518,122	386	0.07%
<b>DOMESTIC FISHERY TOTAL:</b>		<b>5,477</b>	

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

BOX 3-2000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802  
PHONE: (907) 465-4147

December 5, 1990

Mr. Clarence Pautzke  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mr. Pautzke:

Several herring stocks in the eastern Bering Sea have declined to levels below which no commercial fishing will likely be allowed in 1990. If these stock declines continue, subsistence utilization of these herring stocks may also be threatened. Subsistence utilization of herring is particularly important to the local communities of Nelson Island. A report documenting the subsistence utilization of herring in the Nelson and Nunivak Island areas is enclosed for your information.

The bycatch exploitation rate of herring in Bering Sea groundfish trawl fisheries appears to be increasing, even as herring stocks are declining. If Bering Sea herring stocks decline to a level which does not allow enough harvest to provide for subsistence uses, other fisheries which take substantial amounts of herring would have to be closed to provide the subsistence preference required by state and federal law. For this reason it is very important that the issue of herring prohibited species catch measures be dealt with during the 1990 Bering Sea/Aleutians groundfish plan amendment cycle.

Sincerely,



Steve Behnke  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Don Collinworth  
Steve Pennoyer, NMFS/AKR  
Sen. John Binkley  
Ken Parker

**SUBSISTENCE HERRING FISHING IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA REGION:  
NELSON ISLAND, NUNIVAK ISLAND, AND KUSKOKWIM BAY**

by

Mary C. Pete

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Subsistence  
Fairbanks, Alaska

December 1989

## ABSTRACT

This report summarizes information on the subsistence use of herring in the Nelson Island and Etolin Strait region of Alaska. Data were gathered in annual surveys from 1986 through 1988. A complete census of fishing families were surveyed each season to arrive at total harvests. Qualitative information on community experiences with depletions of herring stocks in the late 1960s and early 1970s is included. A brief description of subsistence herring use by five other communities in the Nunivak Island and Kuskokwim Bay areas supplements the more detailed information presented for Nelson Island communities.

Herring is a central component of the subsistence economy of the communities in the Nelson Island area. It comprises the highest proportion of all species harvested of the total subsistence outputs -- 40 percent by weight in Tununak in 1986. Participation, both by individuals and households, in subsistence herring production is high.

Subsistence harvest estimates for Nelson Island communities in recent years (1986 through 1988) have shown substantially higher annual harvests than those recorded in previous years. The recent estimates indicate that herring harvest effort and use was considerable. Over 200 short tons of herring was harvested annually for subsistence use by communities in the Nelson and Nunivak Island districts and the Kuskokwim Bay area combined. This is considerably greater than earlier estimates from the late 1970s which projected that the combined communities in the eastern Bering Sea region took an approximate annual total of 110 short tons of herring for subsistence use. Smaller sample sizes and reduced numbers of fish probably account for much of the difference.

Declines in herring stocks within the past two decades have been attributed to offshore foreign fishing in the 1960s and 1970s. Depletion of herring returning to the Nelson Island area has created hardship for the area residents. They have had to make adjustments. Current projected declines understandably cause concern.

# STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

P.O. BOX 3-2000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000  
PHONE: (907) 465-4210

January 9, 1990

RECEIVED JAN 15 1990

Dr. Loh Lee Low, Chairman  
Bering Sea/Aleutians Groundfish Plan Team  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.  
P.O. Box 15700  
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Dr. Loh:

The bycatch of herring in Bering Sea groundfish trawl fisheries has become a serious problem for eastern Bering Sea herring stocks. Herring bycatch exploitation rates have been increasing in recent years, even though Bering Sea herring stocks are declining. Several Bering Sea herring stocks are below levels where commercial fisheries are allowed and subsistence harvests in these areas may also be threatened. If herring stocks continue to decline and reach levels which do not allow for a harvestable surplus, the state will be forced to raise herring to tier II priority under ANILCA to remain in compliance with federal law. For this reason it is very important that the issue of herring prohibited species catch measures be dealt with during the 1990 Bering Sea/Aleutians groundfish plan amendment cycle.

The enclosed document reviews the herring bycatch information available for recent Bering Sea groundfish fisheries. Although observer coverage of the domestic trawl fleet has been low, there is a great deal of information on herring bycatch rates available from foreign and joint venture observer records and from landed discard on groundfish fish tickets. This information is readily available on the spatial scale of 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude areas, and in time partitions of one month or smaller. This information is more than sufficient to determine an appropriate set of alternative actions for a plan amendment that would establish measures to control herring bycatch. Information of lesser quality has been used to establish prohibited species catch limits and time/area closures for halibut and crab species in other groundfish plans. The greatly expanded domestic observer program being initiated this year will provide adequate means to enforce herring prohibited species catch measures.

Dr. Loh Lee Low

-2-

January 9, 1990

Because this issue is of great importance to the state of Alaska, my staff will be available to take a lead role in performing analyses and preparing documentation supporting the herring bycatch plan amendment package.

Sincerely,

*Ken Parker*  
for Ken Parker  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Hal Weeks, NPFMC  
Clarence Pautzke, NPFMC

REVISED ESTIMATES OF THE BYCATCH OF HERRING IN 1989 BERING SEA TRAWL FISHERIES

by

Fritz Funk

Leslie Watson

and

Richard Berning

Regional Information Report<sup>1</sup> No. 5J90-01

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Juneau, Alaska

January 1990

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<sup>1</sup> The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1988 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate needs for up-to-date information, reports in this series may contain preliminary data.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Foreign fishing records and scale pattern analyses demonstrate that herring stocks that spawn in Bristol Bay migrate clockwise around Bristol Bay, arriving on the wintering grounds north and west of the Pribilofs in September. Herring stocks that spawn north of Bristol Bay appear to move more directly offshore after spawning. It is uncertain whether herring stocks from Kuskokwim Bay to Nelson Island move directly offshore or follow a clockwise migratory pattern like Bristol Bay stocks. Based on prior joint venture (JV) and foreign records, only 1989 Pacific cod and pollock trawl fisheries that occurred along the herring migration route had the potential to take significant amounts of herring. Yellowfin sole fisheries did not occur near herring spawning grounds during the herring spawning period in 1989.

Herring bycatch by JV fisheries in 1989 was estimated to be 2,588 tonnes. Most of the JV bycatch occurred in pollock fisheries in National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reporting areas 521 and 522 (north and west of the Pribilofs) in the fall. The most comprehensive source of herring bycatch for domestic fisheries for 1989 was obtained by applying average 1983-88 foreign and JV observer bycatch rates by 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude area by month to 1989 fish ticket catches by 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude by month. Using this method, herring bycatch was estimated to be 559 tonnes for domestic Pacific cod fisheries, 1,808 tonnes for pollock bottom trawl fisheries and 346 tonnes for pollock midwater trawl fisheries. Although observer bycatch rates were computed based on the total catch, for ease of computation observer bycatch rates were applied only to the retained catch of the single target species in the fish ticket catch. Because of this, herring bycatch was underestimated by this method. The degree of underestimation was greater for bottom trawl data than for midwater trawl data, because there are usually more species in bottom trawl catches.

Landed discard reported on fish tickets and actual domestic observer catch reports for limited areas were also used to estimate herring bycatch in 1989 domestic trawl fisheries. These estimates were roughly comparable to the herring bycatch computed by applying 1983-88 average observer bycatch rates to the 1989 fish ticket catches. However, landed discard herring bycatch rates also underestimate herring bycatch when at-sea sorting occurs or when trawl cod-ends are released because they contain significant numbers of prohibited species. Total herring bycatch estimated for JV and domestic fisheries for 1989 ranged from 4,521-5,301 tonnes. Because several of the methods used underestimate herring bycatch rates, these estimates represent the lower bound of the actual 1989 herring bycatch.

Bering Sea herring stocks are declining and are projected to decline below threshold levels where commercial fisheries are allowed at Nelson Island and Nunivak Island in 1990. If no recruitment is observed in 1990, the Togiak stock will likely be below its threshold in 1991. Because herring stocks have declined while the bycatch of herring has increased, herring bycatch exploitation rates have increased from less than 2% in 1983 to 4%-5% in 1989, and are projected to increase further in 1990. When trawl herring bycatch is considered, the maximum allowable herring exploitation rates under the Alaska Board of Fisheries herring harvest policy are being exceeded.

Subsistence utilization of herring resources is high in some communities of western Alaska, particularly at Nelson Island. Although declines in herring abundance projected for 1990 would not result in subsistence closures for 1990, subsistence availability may be reduced and further declines in the resource could force reductions of subsistence harvests. Western Alaska communities experienced severe difficulties in harvesting herring for subsistence purposes during herring stock declines in the 1970s.

Fish ticket records of catch by 1/2° latitude by 1° longitude by date of landing allow relatively detailed distributions of fishing effort to be examined. Combining these fish ticket records with foreign and JV observer herring bycatch records in the same area and time strata could allow detailed examination of alternative herring bycatch control measures. Herring bycatch control measures were last examined when the draft Bering Sea herring fishery management plan was submitted by the NPFMC to the Secretary of Commerce in November 1983. Since that time, a considerable amount of new data has become available for herring bycatch analysis.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

P.O. BOX 3-2000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000  
PHONE (907) 465-4110

December 18, 1989

DIVISION OF BOARDS

Mr. Don W. Collinsworth  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. Collinsworth:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has identified a serious resource problem with western Alaska herring stocks. The board is very concerned about the impact that the bycatch of herring in Bering Sea groundfish trawl fisheries is having on these herring stocks and requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) place limits on the trawl herring by catch during its 1990 regulatory cycle.

Bering Sea herring stocks are continuing to decline, and two of western Alaska commercial sac-roe fisheries, Nelson Island and Nunivak Island, are projected to be closed in 1990. Because commercial herring fisheries provide one of the few income generating opportunities for residents of these areas, closure of these fisheries will create an economic crisis in the local communities. Subsistence herring harvests are particularly important to the residents of Nelson Island villages. Continued declines of herring stocks will result in restrictions or closures of this important subsistence fishery.

In the Togiak area, the anticipated stock decline of 43 percent will reduce stock abundance to near threshold levels in 1990, below which a commercial fishery would not be allowed. Similar declines are occurring in other western Alaska herring stocks. During the November meeting, the Board of Fisheries removed provisions which would allow increase in the potential harvest in the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery if the Togiak sac-roe fisheries harvest is below the allowable exploitation rate. The Board of Fisheries also delayed the opening of the fishery to further reduce its impact on Northern Bering Sea herring stocks. As required by State law and Federal law (ANILCA), which mandates subsistence as priority use, the board further directed the Department of Fish and Game to close the Dutch Harbor bait fishery if herring subsistence harvests are being impacted anywhere in western Alaska.

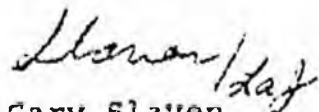
Board of Fisheries harvest policies allow a maximum exploitation rate of 20 percent on herring stocks. We have directed the Department of Fish and Game to take interception fisheries into account when establishing harvests for directed herring fisheries

such that the total exploitation does not exceed 20 percent. This policy is clearly documented in the Board of Fisheries' management plan for Prince William Sound, Kamishak Bay, and Bristol Bay herring stocks.

Preliminary data prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game demonstrate that the bycatch of herring by groundfish trawlers in the Bering Sea amounts to an exploitation rate of at least 5 percent. The board believes the bycatch data on which this figure is based account for only a small proportion of the actual herring bycatch. It is very important that the Council address the herring bycatch issue during the 1990 Council regulatory cycle. The Board of Fisheries has formed a committee to address the herring bycatch problem and would like to present testimony to the Council's PAAG committee in early January. Because plan amendments enacted during the 1990 regulatory cycle would not take effect until January 1991, the board further requests the Council to take emergency action next spring to implement the plan amendment's herring bycatch controls to cover the critical period between July and December 1990 when herring will be migrating through areas fished by the groundfish trawl fleet.

The board will be considering a proposal to close waters of the territorial sea to trawling, in the Bering Sea, during its January meeting as a means of protecting salmon and herring resources. Barring any action by the Council to address the bycatch of herring, the board may consider taking action in the territorial waters to compensate for the bycatch in the Bering Sea.

Sincerely,



Gary Slaven  
Chairman  
Board of Fisheries

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Bering Sea herring stocks are declining and are projected to decline below threshold levels where commercial fisheries are allowed at Nelson Island and Nunivak Island in 1990. If no recruitment is observed in 1990, the Togiak stock will likely be below its threshold in 1991. Because herring stocks have declined while the bycatch of herring has increased, herring bycatch exploitation rates have increased from less than 2% in 1983 to 4%-7% in 1989, and are projected to increase further in 1990. When trawl herring bycatch is considered, the maximum allowable herring exploitation rates under the Alaska Board of Fisheries herring

MAR 6 1990

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Don W. Collinsworth, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 271-2809  
FAX: (907) 271-2817

February 28, 1990

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### AMENDMENT 14/19 TO THE BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### Pollock Utilization in the Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council announces the availability of a revised Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for Amendments 14 and 19 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plans.

The amendment addresses the following alternatives which would apply to the Gulf of Alaska and The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, or portions thereof: (1) status quo; (2) prohibit roe-stripping; (3) require full utilization of pollock (final reduction to meal and oil); (4) establish a seasonal apportionment schedule; (5) prohibit roe-stripping and establish a seasonal apportionment schedule (a combination of Alternatives 2 and 4); (6) prohibit pollock fishing during the roe season; (6A) establish two Total Allowable Catch quotas for pollock - one for fishing during the roe season and another for fishing outside the roe season. An option being considered under Alternatives 4, 5, and 6 is to restrict fishing for pollock in the Gulf of Alaska to midwater trawl.

The document will be available for review after March 9, 1990, by contacting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510; (907) 271-2809. Deadline for comments to be received at the Council office is April 9, 1990 at 5:00 p.m.

# **CORRECTION**

**THIS DOCUMENT  
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED  
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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Revised 1/12/90

harvest policy are being exceeded.

Subsistence utilization of herring resources is high in some communities of western Alaska, particularly at Nelson Island. If Bering Sea herring stocks continue to decline, subsistence availability of herring may be reduced and further declines in the resource could force reductions of subsistence harvests. Western Alaska communities experienced severe difficulties in harvesting herring for subsistence purposes during herring stock declines in the 1970s.

Fish ticket records of catch by  $1/2^\circ$  latitude by  $1^\circ$  longitude by date of landing allow relatively detailed distributions of fishing effort to be examined. Combining these fish ticket records with foreign and JV observer herring bycatch records in the same area and time strata could allow detailed examination of alternative herring bycatch control measures. Herring bycatch control measures were last examined when the draft Bering Sea herring fishery management plan was submitted by the NPFMC to the Secretary of Commerce in November 1983. Since that time, a considerable amount of new data has become available for herring bycatch analysis.

MAR 6 1990

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Don W. Collinsworth, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

605 West 4th Avenue  
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Telephone: (907) 271-2809  
FAX (907) 271-2817

February 28, 1990

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### AMENDMENT 14/19 TO THE BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### Pollock Utilization in the Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council announces the availability of a revised Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for Amendments 14 and 19 to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery Management Plans.

The amendment addresses the following alternatives which would apply to the Gulf of Alaska and The Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, or portions thereof: (1) status quo; (2) prohibit roe-stripping; (3) require full utilization of pollock (final reduction to meal and oil); (4) establish a seasonal apportionment schedule; (5) prohibit roe-stripping and establish a seasonal apportionment schedule (a combination of Alternatives 2 and 4); (6) prohibit pollock fishing during the roe season; (6A) establish two Total Allowable Catch quotas for pollock - one for fishing during the roe season and another for fishing outside the roe season. An option being considered under Alternatives 4, 5, and 6 is to restrict fishing for pollock in the Gulf of Alaska to midwater trawl.

The document will be available for review after March 9, 1990, by contacting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510; (907) 271-2809. Deadline for comments to be received at the Council office is April 9, 1990 at 5:00 p.m.

**NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 103136  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**FAHRENKAMP, BETTYE - SEN  
STATE CAPITOL  
POUCH 4 - MS 3100  
JUNEAU, AK 99811**

# **CORRECTION**

**THIS DOCUMENT  
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED  
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

MAR 6 1990

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Don W. Collinsworth, Chairman  
Clarence G. Pautzke, Executive Director

605 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 271-2809  
FAX (907) 271-2817

February 28, 1990

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

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POUCH V - MS 3100  
JUNEAU, AK 99811

"Revised Estimates of the Bycatch in 1989  
Bering Sea Trawl Fisheries"

by Fritz Funk, Leslie Watson and Richard Berning  
January 1990

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. The total herring bycatch in trawl fisheries was estimated to be at least 4,521-5,301 tonnes in 1989.
2. Bering Sea herring stocks are declining and are projected to decline below threshold levels where commercial fisheries are allowed at Nelson Island and Nunivak Island in 1990.
3. Herring bycatch exploitation rates have increased from less than 2% in 1983 to 4%-5% in 1989, and are projected to increase further in 1990.
4. When trawl herring bycatch is considered, the maximum allowable herring exploitation rates under the Alaska Board of Fisheries herring harvest policy are being exceeded.
5. Western Alaskan communities experienced difficulties in harvesting herring for subsistence purposes during herring stock declines in the 1970s.
6. Foreign fishing records and scale pattern analyses demonstrate that herring stocks that spawn in Bristol Bay migrate clockwise around Bristol Bay, arriving on the wintering grounds north and west of the Pribilofs in September.
7. Herring stocks spawning north of Bristol Bay appear to move more directly offshore after spawning. It is uncertain whether herring stocks from Kuskokwim Bay to Nelson Island move directly offshore or follow a clockwise migratory pattern like Bristol Bay stocks.
8. Fish ticket records of herring landed discard underestimate total herring catch, but range from 834-1,038 tonnes for the Unimak Pass area.
9. Herring bycatch estimated by applying 1983-1988 average foreign and JV observer bycatch rates by  $1/2^\circ$  latitude by  $1^\circ$  longitude area by month to 1989 fish ticket catches by  $1/2^\circ$  latitude by  $1^\circ$  longitude by month was 559 tonnes for Pacific cod fisheries, 1,808 tonnes for pollock bottom trawl fisheries and 346 tonnes for pollock midwater trawl fisheries.
10. Additional analyses of 1983-1988 observer bycatch rates by  $1/2^\circ$  latitude by  $1^\circ$  longitude area by month could be used to determine appropriate areas and time periods for possible herring bycatch control measures.

**S J R**

**64**

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT  
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 1/29/90

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2-22-90  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 2-26-90

Resources Committee considered

SJR 64

Relating to federal funding for local fish and game advisory committees and regional councils under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

and recommended:

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_ CS SJR 64 (Res)  same title
- attached amendment(s)  new title
- \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent adopted

- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department(s)/Date:

Department(s)/Date:

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) ADFG  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

appropriation-no fiscal note

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

Rick Halford  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David [unclear]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John [unclear]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adrian Stanger [unclear]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John [unclear] DePas  
Chair: Signature and Recommendation



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**BILL ANALYSIS**

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Administration	BILL NUMBER SJR No. 64	SPONSOR Coghill, et al
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Relating to federal funding for local fish and game advisory committes.			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support.			
PREPARED BY Beverly Reaume	DATE 02/26/90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/26/90

**SUMMARY**

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL

FISCAL IMPACT:  NONE  FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT  
Section 805(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (P.L. 96-487) authorizes Congress to reimburse states for up to 50 percent of costs for a maximum of \$5,000,000 per year. In recent years our highest reimbursement has been \$974,000 per year.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS  
In FY 87 the state spent \$2,561,951 and was reimbursed \$939,394. Reimbursement at 50 percent would have required an additional \$341,581.  
In FY 88 expenditures were \$2,471,986 with a reimbursement of \$987,000, for a variance of \$248,993.  
In FY 89 expenditures were \$2,553,228 with a reimbursement of \$987,000, for a variance of \$289,614.  
The FY 90 reimbursement will be \$974,000 and the FY 91 reimbursement \$750,000.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: 1/29/90  
 Title: Relating to federal funding for local fish and game advisory. . .  
 Sponsor: Coghill, et al  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Fish and Game  
 BRU: Subsistence and Boards  
 Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	214.6	215.0	215.0	215.0	215.0	215.0
CONTRACTUAL	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>289.6</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>290.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS	289.6	290.0	290.0	290.0	290.0	290.0
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No FY 90 impact.

Increased revenue for Boards and Subsistence based on FY 89 actual expenditures.

Prepared by: Beverly Reaume *Beverly Reaume* Phone: 465-4120  
 Division: Administration Date: 02/26/90

Approved by Commissioner: *William W. H. H. H.* Date: 02/26/90  
 Agency: Fish and Game

**Distribution (by preparer):**

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

**FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: Relating to federal funding for BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fish and Game Advisory Committees & Regional Councils  
 Sponsor: Sen. Coghill Components: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution has no state fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Nancy Petersen, staff *N. Petersen* Phone: 465-3834  
 Division: Senate Resources Committee Date: 2/25/90

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: -0-  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution (by preparer):**

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

16 USC 3115.

SEC. 805. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary in consultation with the State shall establish—

(1) at least six Alaska subsistence resource regions which, taken together, include all public lands. The number and boundaries of the regions shall be sufficient to assure that regional differences in subsistence uses are adequately accommodated;

(2) such local advisory committees within each region as he finds necessary at such time as he may determine, after notice and hearing, that the existing State fish and game advisory committees do not adequately perform the functions of the local committee system set forth in paragraph (3)(D)(iv) of this subsection; and

(3) a regional advisory council in each subsistence resource region.

Regional advisory council, authority.

Each regional advisory council shall be composed of residents of the region and shall have the following authority:

(A) the review and evaluation of proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region;

(B) the provision of a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region;

(C) the encouragement of local and regional participation pursuant to the provisions of this title in the decisionmaking process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses;

Annual report to Secretary.

(D) the preparation of an annual report to the Secretary which shall contain—

(i) an identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region;

(ii) an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the region;

(iii) a recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs; and

(iv) recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy. The State fish and game advisory committees or such local advisory committees as the Secretary may establish pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection may provide advice to, and assist, the regional advisory councils in carrying out the functions set forth in this paragraph.

(b) The Secretary shall assign adequate qualified staff to the regional advisory councils and make timely distribution of all available relevant technical and scientific support data to the regional advisory councils and the State fish and game advisory committees or such local advisory committees as the Secretary may establish pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a).

(c) The Secretary, in performing his monitoring responsibility pursuant to section 806 and in the exercise of his closure and other administrative authority over the public lands, shall consider the report and recommendations of the regional advisory councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within their respective regions for subsistence uses. The Secretary may choose not to follow any recommendation which he determines is not supported

## REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, the date of enactment of this Act, the State shall establish—

(1) a subsistence resource region which includes all public lands. The number and boundaries shall be sufficient to assure that regional subsistence uses are adequately accommodated; and

(2) advisory committees within each region as he may determine, after notice and consultation with existing State fish and game advisory committees, to perform the functions of the local advisory council in paragraph (3)(D)(iv) of this subsection.

(3) an advisory council in each subsistence resource region.

(4) The council shall be composed of residents of the region having authority:

(A) to evaluate proposals for regulations, orders, plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of wildlife within the region;

(B) to provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations of persons interested in any matter related to the taking of fish and wildlife within the region; and

(C) to coordinate the participation of local and regional participants in the decisionmaking process of this title in the decisionmaking process relating to the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands for subsistence uses;

(5) to submit an annual report to the Secretary which

(A) describes the status of current and anticipated subsistence uses of wildlife populations within the region; and

(B) describes the status of current and anticipated subsistence uses of wildlife populations within the region; and

(C) describes the strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate subsistence uses and needs; and

(6) to provide recommendations concerning policies, standards, and regulations to implement the strategy. The Secretary may establish advisory committees or such local advisory councils as the Secretary may establish pursuant to this subsection may provide advice to the regional advisory councils in carrying out the functions of this paragraph.

(7) The Secretary shall assign adequate qualified staff to the region and make timely distribution of all available scientific support data to the regional advisory committees and fish and game advisory committees or such advisory committees as the Secretary may establish pursuant to this subsection (a).

(8) In performing his monitoring responsibility under this subsection, the Secretary, in the exercise of his closure and other authority over the public lands, shall consider the recommendations of the regional advisory councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within their respective subsistence uses. The Secretary may choose not to follow any recommendation which is not supported

by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. If a recommendation is not adopted by the Secretary, he shall set forth the factual basis and the reasons for his decision.

(d) The Secretary shall not implement subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section if within one year from the date of enactment of this Act, the State enacts and implements laws of general applicability which are consistent with, and which provide for the definition, preference, and participation specified in, sections 803, 804, and 805, such laws, unless and until repealed, shall supersede such sections insofar as such sections govern State responsibility pursuant to this title for the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands for subsistence uses. Laws establishing a system of local advisory committees and regional advisory councils consistent with section 805 shall provide that the State rulemaking authority shall consider the advice and recommendations of the regional councils concerning the taking of fish and wildlife populations on public lands within their respective regions for subsistence uses. The regional councils may present recommendations, and the evidence upon which such recommendations are based, to the State rulemaking authority during the course of the administrative proceedings of such authority. The State rulemaking authority may choose not to follow any recommendation which it determines is not supported by substantial evidence presented during the course of its administrative proceedings, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of rural subsistence needs. If a recommendation is not adopted by the State rulemaking authority, such authority shall set forth the factual basis and the reasons for its decision.

(e)(1) The Secretary shall reimburse the State, from funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior for such purposes, for reasonable costs relating to the establishment and operation of the regional advisory councils established by the State in accordance with subsection (d) and the operation of the State fish and game advisory committees so long as such committees are not superseded by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a). Such reimbursement may not exceed 50 per centum of such costs in any fiscal year. Such costs shall be verified in a statement which the Secretary determines to be adequate and accurate. Sums paid under this subsection shall be in addition to any grants, payments, or other sums to which the State is entitled from appropriations to the Department of the Interior.

(2) Total payments to the State under this subsection shall not exceed the sum of \$5,000,000 in any one fiscal year. The Secretary shall advise the Congress at least once in every five years as to whether or not the maximum payments specified in this subsection are adequate to ensure the effectiveness of the program established by the State to provide the preference for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife set forth in section 804.

## FEDERAL MONITORING

SEC. 806. The Secretary shall monitor the provisions by the State of the subsistence preference set forth in section 804 and shall advise the State and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works of the Senate annually and at such other times as

Implementation

Reimbursement to States.

Report to Congress.

Report to congressional committees.  
16 USC 3116.



## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCIL

c/o ADF&G, DIVISION OF BOARDS, P.O. Box 3-2000, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802 PHONE: (907) 465-4110

TO: Alaska State Legislature  
FROM: Southeast Regional Fish & Game Council  
DATE: February 12, 1990

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Angoon  
Craig  
Edna Bay  
Elfin Cove  
Gastineau Channel  
Hydaburg  
Hyder  
Icy Straits  
Kake  
Ketchikan  
Klawock  
Klukwan  
Pelican  
Petersburg  
Port Alexander  
Sitka  
Sumner Straits  
Tenakee  
Upper Lynn Canal  
Wrangell  
Yakutat

RE: Request for adequate funding to the advisory committees and regional council system to ensure ANILCA compliance

There are four major aspects to the problem of funding for advisory committee and regional council activities to maintain compliance with ANILCA:

1. Fish and game regional councils and advisory committees are underfunded. Monies have been cut and/or reallocated to the point where assigned responsibilities and duties can not be accomplished. Requests for supplemental appropriations and budget increases are not receiving due consideration.

2. Regional council and advisory committees should be more involved in the oversight of the expenditure of funds concerning their activities. The Department of Fish and Game has sole oversight and makes the disbursement of funds to the Division of Boards for administrative activities. This leaves some doubt as to the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game's ability to control their budget to enhance the public participation level in the regulatory process for public fish and game resources.

3. When funds are not spent in accordance with the agreement for ANILCA between the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the federal reimbursement of funds is placed in jeopardy. Section 805 of ANILCA requires not only the establishment of, but the operation of regional councils and advisory committees. The agreement does NOT authorize funds for the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game or support of the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game. Agreement attached.

4. Non-compliance with the federal ANILCA law will prompt the federal government to take over the management of fish and game resources within the state of Alaska on federal lands.

It is suggested that the Legislature strongly consider the following actions to maintain compliance with ANILCA:

- Adequately fund regional councils and advisory committees.
- Place funds as Line Items in the budget designated to the regional councils and advisory committees so the councils/committees can monitor their own monies.
- Oversee entire system to see that it is functioning as intended.

OVER

# Senator John B. (Jack) Coghill

Alaska State Legislature

Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4797

Box 55028  
North Pole, Alaska 99705  
(907) 488-0862



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 1990

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp  
Senate Resource Committee Chair

FROM: Senator Jack Coghill

SUBJECT: Sponsor Statement: SJR 64; ANILCA Funding for Local Fish  
and Game Advisory Committees  
and Regional Councils.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Senator Jack Coghill, written over the "TO:" and "FROM:" lines of the memorandum.

### BILL SUMMARY:

The resolution requests the Secretary of Interior to take "immediate steps to obtain additional reimbursement funds to ensure that local fish and game advisory committees and regional councils mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act can function effectively."

### FISCAL IMPACT:

As of this morning, we have not received a fiscal note from the Department of Fish and Game, however we anticipate a zero fiscal note.

### BACKGROUND:

We have received numerous requests for increased state funding of these local fish and game councils, that are federally mandated by ANILCA. The requests are justified in that the advisory system is not working as it should. The present process is almost totally centralized in the Boards of Fish and Game, while the advisory process, as I see, was to work in a decentralized manner. The objective was to manage our fish and wildlife resources in a manner that would fulfill the needs and address the concerns of importance to "local" and "regional" fish and game users, on a sustained yield basis. From the requests for additional funding, it is clear the system is not working as intended, and therefore the federal government should at least be put on notice, if not encouraged to directly participate in resolving these concerns. This resolution does both.



## SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCIL

c/o ADF&G, DIVISION OF BOARDS, 333 RASPBERRY ROAD, ANCHORAGE, AK 99502 • (907) 267-2315

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Anchorage

Central Peninsula

Cooper Landing

Copper Basin

Copper River/Prince William Sound

Denali

English Bay/Port Graham

Homer

Kenai/Soldotna

Matanuska Valley

Mt. Yenlo

Paxson

Seldovia

Seward

Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road

Tyonek

Valdez

September 7, 1989

The Honorable Steve Cowper

Governor

Pouch A

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Cowper:

The Southcentral Regional Council is comprised of 18 chairpersons of the local Southcentral Advisory Committees throughout Southcentral, representing a broad spectrum of resource users in their communities. The Southcentral Regional Council derives its authority concerning subsistence and habitat protection from ANILCA Section 805, Alaska Statute 16.05.260, and 5 AAC 96.200 - 5 AAC 96.280.

The Southcentral Regional Council has been functioning since 1979. We have attempted to do our job as we understand it from ANILCA and State of Alaska regulations. The Council has continued to try and participate despite hardships created by lack of adequate funding and support staff on the State level, as well as the Federal level.

This past year there was some progress made by the State to advance compliance to the Federal mandate contained in ANILCA concerning subsistence by recognition of the need for coordinators to the Councils. This was done through the hiring of Regional Regulatory Program Assistants also known as Regional Coordinators. Unfortunately, after adding the Coordinator positions last year, adequate funding was not provided, thereby creating an approximate \$280,000 deficit in the Division of Boards. Because the State has failed to supply this needed funding, it has created extreme problems for the proper functioning of the Councils. We have been informed that there is only enough funding for one Southcentral Regional Council meeting this coming year. The way the system is supposed to work is that advisory committees take input from their communities and then bring this input to the Council and even to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game. With one meeting, this will not be possible. The Southcentral Regional Council needs to meet at least twice each year. Each meeting should be 2 or 3 days before each Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting to facilitate efficiency of time and funding. Even this cannot be done until the State's 10 day notification regulation (5 AAC 96.260 (e)) is repealed. This State regulation is part of the problem. Also, by

# **CORRECTION**

**THIS DOCUMENT  
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED  
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**



## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCIL

c/o ADF&G, DIVISION OF BOARDS, P.O. Box 3-2000, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802 PHONE: (907) 465-4110

TO: Alaska State Legislature  
FROM: Southeast Regional Fish & Game Council  
DATE: February 12, 1990

RE: Request for adequate funding to the advisory committees and regional council system to ensure ANILCA compliance

There are four major aspects to the problem of funding for advisory committee and regional council activities to maintain compliance with ANILCA:

1. Fish and game regional councils and advisory committees are underfunded. Monies have been cut and/or reallocated to the point where assigned responsibilities and duties can not be accomplished. Requests for supplemental appropriations and budget increases are not receiving due consideration.

2. Regional council and advisory committees should be more involved in the oversight of the expenditure of funds concerning their activities. The Department of Fish and Game has sole oversight and makes the disbursement of funds to the Division of Boards for administrative activities. This leaves some doubt as to the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game's ability to control their budget to enhance the public participation level in the regulatory process for public fish and game resources.

3. When funds are not spent in accordance with the agreement for ANILCA between the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the federal reimbursement of funds is placed in jeopardy. Section 805 of ANILCA requires not only the establishment of, but the operation of regional councils and advisory committees. The agreement does NOT authorize funds for the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game or support of the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game. Agreement attached.

4. Non-compliance with the federal ANILCA law will prompt the federal government to take over the management of fish and game resources within the state of Alaska on federal lands.

It is suggested that the Legislature strongly consider the following actions to maintain compliance with ANILCA:

- Adequately fund regional councils and advisory committees.
- Place funds as Line Items in the budget designated to the regional councils and advisory committees so the councils/committees can monitor their own monies.
- Oversee entire system to see that it is functioning as intended.

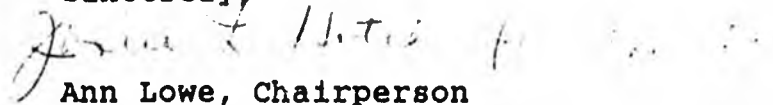
OVER

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Angoon  
Craig  
Edna Bay  
Elfin Cove  
Gastineau Channel  
Hydaburg  
Hyder  
Icy Straits  
Kake  
Ketchikan  
Klawock  
Klukwan  
Pelican  
Petersburg  
Port Alexander  
Sitka  
Sumner Straits  
Tenakee  
Upper Lynn Canal  
Wrangell  
Yakutat

An information packet with supporting documentation is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Ann Lowe, Chairperson  
Southeast Regional Fish & Game  
Council

AL/jlh

# Senator John B. (Jack) Coghill

Alaska State Legislature

Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4797

Box 55028  
North Pole, Alaska 99705  
(907) 488-0862



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 1990

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp  
Senate Resource Committee Chair

FROM: Senator Jack Coghill

SUBJECT: Sponsor Statement: SJR 64; ANILCA Funding for Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and Regional Councils.

### BILL SUMMARY:

The resolution requests the Secretary of Interior to take "immediate steps to obtain additional reimbursement funds to ensure that local fish and game advisory committees and regional councils mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act can function effectively."

### FISCAL IMPACT:

As of this morning, we have not received a fiscal note from the Department of Fish and Game, however we anticipate a zero fiscal note.

### BACKGROUND:

We have received numerous requests for increased state funding of these local fish and game councils, that are federally mandated by ANILCA. The requests are justified in that the advisory system is not working as it should. The present process is almost totally centralized in the Boards of Fish and Game, while the advisory process, as I see, was to work in a decentralized manner. The objective was to manage our fish and wildlife resources in a manner that would fulfill the needs and address the concerns of importance to "local" and "regional" fish and game users, on a sustained yield basis. From the requests for additional funding, it is clear the system is not working as intended, and therefore the federal government should at least be put on notice, if not encouraged to directly participate in resolving these concerns. This resolution does both.



## SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCIL

c/o ADF&G, DIVISION OF BOARDS, 333 RASPBERRY ROAD, ANCHORAGE, AK 99502 • (907) 267-2315

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Anchorage

Central Peninsula

Cooper Landing

Copper Basin

Copper River/Prince William Sound

Denali

English Bay/Port Graham

Homer

Kenai/Soldotna

Matanuska Valley

Mt. Yenlo

Paxson

Seldovia

Seward

Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road

Tyonek

Valdez

September 7, 1989

The Honorable Steve Cowper

Governor

Pouch A

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Cowper:

The Southcentral Regional Council is comprised of 18 chairpersons of the local Southcentral Advisory Committees throughout Southcentral, representing a broad spectrum of resource users in their communities. The Southcentral Regional Council derives its authority concerning subsistence and habitat protection from ANILCA Section 805, Alaska Statute 16.05.260, and 5 AAC 96.200 - 5 AAC 96.280.

The Southcentral Regional Council has been functioning since 1979. We have attempted to do our job as we understand it from ANILCA and State of Alaska regulations. The Council has continued to try and participate despite hardships created by lack of adequate funding and support staff on the State level, as well as the Federal level.

This past year there was some progress made by the State to advance compliance to the Federal mandate contained in ANILCA concerning subsistence by recognition of the need for coordinators to the Councils. This was done through the hiring of Regional Regulatory Program Assistants also known as Regional Coordinators. Unfortunately, after adding the Coordinator positions last year, adequate funding was not provided, thereby creating an approximate \$280,000 deficit in the Division of Boards. Because the State has failed to supply this needed funding, it has created extreme problems for the proper functioning of the Councils. We have been informed that there is only enough funding for one Southcentral Regional Council meeting this coming year. The way the system is supposed to work is that advisory committees take input from their communities and then bring this input to the Council and even to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game. With one meeting, this will not be possible. The Southcentral Regional Council needs to meet at least twice each year. Each meeting should be 2 or 3 days before each Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting to facilitate efficiency of time and funding. Even this cannot be done until the State's 10 day notification regulation (5 AAC 96.260 (e)) is repealed. This State regulation is part of the problem. Also, by

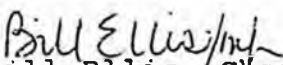
Page Two  
September 7, 1989

Federal mandate, the State was required to establish regional councils; therefore, the Federal government should also be adequately funding the program as originally agreed upon in ANILCA. The State should aggressively seek this funding from the Federal government. The Regional Council cannot function on one meeting per year. As the Boards address these forthcoming subsistence issues, the Council's role is even more important as an advisor to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.

We have also been told only one representative from each region will be allowed to attend each of the scheduled board meetings because of inadequate funding. One representative cannot adequately represent 18 advisory committees concerns. More weight should be given to the recommendations made by the Council to state planners regarding present and future subsistence needs in their areas. This cannot be done without meetings and opportunities for community representatives to discuss their problems and to suggest ways to solve those problems. Therefore, funding is paramount to the proper functioning of the planning and implementation of the requirements spelled out in Section 805 of ANILCA. The protection and encouragement of the Regional Coordinator positions through funding, training, staff support, and travel, is also of primary importance.

The legislative intent was that the "establishment of regional advisory council support positions be given priority in the reorganization of the Boards." This intent is fine so long as adequate funding is provided. We strongly urge you to support this program through strong financial support, which is lacking at this present time. Strong financial support is the key to making this whole process work.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Ellis, Chairman

cc: Board of Fisheries Members  
Board of Game Members  
Don Collinsworth, ADF&G Commissioner  
Norm Cohen, ADF&G Deputy Commissioner  
Warren Wiley, ADF&G Assistant Commissioner  
Division Directors, ADF&G  
Walter Stieglitz, USFWS  
Boyd Evison, NPS  
John Katz, Governor's Office  
Arctic Regional Council Chairman  
Interior Regional Council Chairman  
Southeast Regional Council Chairman  
Southwest Regional Council Chairman  
Southcentral Regional Council Chairmen  
Regional Coordinators, Statewide

Page Three  
September 7, 1989

Identical letters to the following:

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
The Honorable Frank Murkowski  
The Honorable Don Young  
The Honorable Tim Kelly  
The Honorable Sam Cotten  
The Honorable Ramona Barnes  
The Honorable John Binkley  
The Honorable H.A. Boucher  
The Honorable Kay Brown  
The Honorable Bette Cato  
The Honorable Jack Coghill  
The Honorable Virginia Collins  
The Honorable Cliff Davidson  
The Honorable Dave Donley  
The Honorable Johnny Ellis  
The Honorable Jan Faiks  
The Honorable David Finkelstein  
The Honorable Paul Fischer  
The Honorable Walt Furnace  
The Honorable Max Gruenberg  
The Honorable Rick Halford  
The Honorable Alyce Hanley  
The Honorable Lyman Hoffman  
The Honorable George Jacko  
The Honorable Jay Kerttula  
The Honorable Ron Larson  
The Honorable Loren Leman  
The Honorable Curt Menard  
The Honorable Mike Navarre  
The Honorable Drue Pearce  
The Honorable Fritz Pettyjohn  
The Honorable Randy Phillips  
The Honorable Pat Pourchot  
The Honorable Steve Rieger  
The Honorable Pat Rodey  
The Honorable Richard Shultz  
The Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski  
The Honorable C.E. Swackhammer  
The Honorable Mike Szymanski  
The Honorable Rick Uehling  
The Honorable Jim Zawacki  
The Honorable Fred Zharoff

ADF&G: Boards

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

TO: Advisory Committee Members and  
Regional Council Members

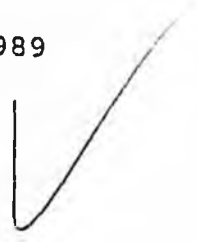
DATE: October 12, 1989

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 465-4110

THRU:

SUBJECT: Newsletter



*Refer*  
FROM: Janice L. Hotch  
Southeast Regional Coordinator  
Division of Boards, ADF&G

On September 20, 1989, Donald See and Ann Lowe came to Juneau and composed the letter to the Governor. All committee members and regional council members should have received a copy of the letter. On September 29th, the Governor responded to the regional council letter (which I received on October 2, 1989) saying:

"I'm very supportive of this public process.....The Division of Boards has recently undergone a reorganization in order to increase the function and role of the regional regulatory program assistants located throughout the state. That reorganization will result in review of the budget for the Division of Boards to ascertain the funding level which will adequately allow for the services of the Division of Boards to be rendered. I'm aware that the level of funding for travel and meetings of the advisory committee and the regional councils is of concern, and this will be closely reviewed. Ultimately, of course, it will be the responsibility of the Legislature to approve the funding level for the Division of Boards."

The letter added: "Although the federal government is supposed to reimburse the State for half our expenditures for this program [advisory committee/regional council], it has been increasingly difficult to get this money into the federal budget. This year, that amount is for only \$750,000.00 [a decrease of \$220,000.00] despite the fact that our actual expenditure was more than \$3 million.

On September 25, the Governor sent a memo to Gary Slaven saying the Governor's office favors a supplemental for the Division of Boards for FY90. (The Division of Boards has a projected deficit of \$380,000.00.) The level of the supplemental is yet to be determined.

On September 21, 1989, Ann Lowe and Donald See sent a letter to the Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. All of the advisory committee members should have received a copy of the letter with a little green card requesting your support for the advisory committee/regional council system. I hope all of you have mailed the little green card with your signatures on it. If not, I would encourage you to do so. The green cards I also sent to the Southwest and Western regions. The Arctic Regional Coordinator sent out the green card to the Arctic region and the Southcentral Regional Coordinator did the same. The Interior Regional Coordinator is presenting the idea to the Interior Regional Council for their approval.

The responses we have so far received have been from Representative Goll, Representative Taylor, and Representative Hudson. Representative Goll said: "Please feel free to call upon me whenever I can take specific action in behalf of funding for the regional council and local boards."

On November 2, 1989, Don and Ann will travel to Juneau to attend the Southeast Subsistence Summit Conference at the request of Sealaska Corporation. The conference is being sponsored by Sealaska Corporation, Alaska Native Brotherhood, Alaska Native Sisterhood and Tlingit and Haida Central Council.

The following day on November 3, 1989, Don and Ann will be in the Juneau office to write the ANILCA report which is to be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior by November 15 of each year. If you would like to make comments for the report, please call this office at 465-4110 and make your comments directly to Don or Ann.

A summary of the regulations on what is included in the regional council annual report is:

IDENTIFY current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations;  
EVALUATE current and anticipated subsistence needs for use of fish and wildlife populations;  
RECOMMEND strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations to accommodate the identified fish and wildlife uses and needs; and  
RECOMMENDATIONS concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

I encourage the advisory committees in Craig, Kake, Ketchikan, Klawock, Sitka, Wrangell and Yakutat to submit a report as these committees have never submitted a report to date.

The Department of Natural Resources, Resource Allocations Section sent to this office on October 12, 1989, a "Prince of Wales Island Area Plan" dated June 1989 that is about 2 inches thick. If you would like a copy, please let me know and I will contact Dee Koester, the project manager and request additional copies. Since they are \$5.00 a piece, I will have to limit the requests to one book per advisory committee. Let me know.

I have, at long last, finished the Board of Fisheries summary from the Juneau meeting. The summary is 28 pages. If you would like a copy, please call this office and one will be sent as soon as possible.

When I receive correspondence, I do try to get it in the mail to the affected committees as soon as possible. I don't necessarily include buck slips or cover letters but rather put "bcc" at the bottom of the correspondence. I hope this is acceptable, but if not, please let me know.

Regarding the Kenaitze v. State of Alaska, the August 30, 1989 date to respond with a plan has been extended to October 31, 1989. I will continue to keep everyone informed.

I will be out of the office October 16-27 to attend AFN and RuralCAP's subsistence conference and to attend the Joint Board meetings in Anchorage. I will also be out of the office November 1-8, to attend the Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. Please direct any questions you may have to Renee Fvette-Dull and she will make very sure that I receive the message so that I may respond directly.

Distribution list:

Regional Council Chairmen  
Regional Regulatory Program Assistants  
Southeast Alaska State Legislators  
Commissioner, ADF&G  
Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G  
Assistant Commissioner, ADF&G  
ADF&G, Division Directors: Wildlife Conservation  
Subsistence  
Sport Fish  
Commercial Fisheries  
Habitat  
FRED  
Public Communications  
Administration

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
Board of Fisheries  
Board of Game  
Saxman



# SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCIL

c/o ADF&G, DIVISION OF BOARDS, P.O. Box 3-2000, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802 PHONE: (907) 465-4110

September 21, 1989

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Angoon
- Craig
- Edna Bay
- Elfin Cove
- Gastineau Channel
- Hydaburg
- Hyder
- Icy Straits
- Kake
- Ketchikan
- Klawock
- Klukwan
- Pelican
- Petersburg
- Port Alexander
- Sitka
- Sumner Straits
- Tenakee
- Upper Lynn Canal
- Wrangell
- Yakutat

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
 Senator  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510-6025

Dear Senator Stevens:

The members of the Southeast Regional Fish and Game Council are chairmen from their respective southeast communities representing the 21 local fish and game advisory committees. We are petitioning you to seek reimbursement due to the State of Alaska under Section 805 (e) of ANILCA for the implementation of our duties and responsibilities as Regional Council members. We are also petitioning you to seek adequate funding for future appropriations to ensure our effectiveness.

The State of Alaska has never been reimbursed for 50% of its expenditures under Section 805 (e) of ANILCA. This lack of adequate funding has compromised and is compromising the effectiveness of the regional advisory councils established by the State of Alaska in accordance with Section 805 (d) of ANILCA and the operation of the State fish and game advisory committees.

Ever since the State has been seeking reimbursement of expenditures under Sec. 805 (e), the Department of Interior, through the Secretary, has paid to the State all of the funds that Congress has appropriated to the Department of Interior for that purpose. Unfortunately, those amounts have been much less than 50% of the state expenditures and much less than the \$5,000,000 maximum allowed by ANILCA Sec. 805 (e) (2). The State has expended sums well in excess of those amounts for which it has obtained reimbursement on the good faith belief that Congress would reimburse the State 50% of those amounts. We feel that Congress has an obligation to appropriate funds at an adequate level to ensure that Sec. 805 (e) is carried out effectively.

The decline in oil prices over the past three years has had a severe impact on State revenues. Consequently, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has faced severe budgetary cutbacks which have had an adverse impact on subsistence research efforts and position vacancies for the advisory councils and committees remaining unfilled. In the 1987 ANILCA Title VIII report, as with the 1986 and 1985 reports which preceded it, cite the ineffectiveness of the public advisory system owing to a lack of staff support to the regional advisory councils and local advisory committees. The Title VIII reports also summarize the federal reimbursement which has been paid to the State for its subsistence program costs. The costs include the operation of the public advisory system and research which is shared freely with federal land managing agencies which have consistently stressed the need for more research. Reports prepared by federal agencies for land management plans always include a list of "research needs." We support subsistence research objectives of federal and state agencies. But what we want most is for the Department of Interior to acknowledge that its responsibilities do not end with providing "leadership and guidance" to the State of Alaska in the management of its resources.

Remembering the drastic measures which the Department of Interior anticipated that it would be forced to take several years ago when the State subsistence law was found to be out of compliance with ANILCA, the Southeast Regional Council believes the responsibilities of the Department of the Interior also include reimbursement to the State for its legitimate subsistence program costs. Such reimbursement costs to the federal treasury are quite modest in comparison with what the federal agencies would have spent in taking over full responsibility for managing fish and game resources on federal lands in Alaska.

The facts are that funding and staff support has been critically lacking for the Regional Councils. Funding is of the utmost importance to the effectiveness of the public advisory system in the state of Alaska. We have a serious problem Senator Stevens, and we are in desperate need of all the influence you can muster to get us that adequate funding from the federal and state level. It's needed now as we struggle with the implementation of subsistence regulations in our state. The Southeast Regional Council is charged with the responsibility of taking the lead role on subsistence regulations and implementation by protecting or watchdogging subsistence users. The Southeast Regional

Council was informed we only have the funding for one meeting this year. There is no way we can do a good job let alone an adequate job on one meeting a year. We need your help now and know you can help us.

Keep up the good work you are doing for our great state.

Sincerely yours,

*Donald See*

*Ann Lowe*

Donald See, Chairman  
Ann Lowe, Secretary

*by Jennie Hote*

DS/AL/jh

cc: Manual Lujan, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
Governor Steve Cowper, State of Alaska  
Commissioner Don W. Collinsworth, ADF&G  
Assistant Commissioner Wiley, ADF&G  
Deputy Commissioner Cohen, ADF&G  
Ron Thuma, USF&WS  
Arctic Regional Regulatory Program Assistant  
Arctic Regional Council Members  
Interior Regional Regulatory Program Assistant  
Interior Regional Council Members  
Southcentral Regional Regulatory Program Assistant  
Southcentral Regional Council Members  
Southwest Regional Regulatory Program Assistant  
Southwest Regional Council Members  
Western Regional Regulatory Program Assistant  
Western Regional Council Members  
Alaska State Legislature  
Robert Loescher, Ex Vice-President, SEALASKA CORP.  
Ed Thomas, President, Tlingit and Haida Central Council

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Frank Murkowski, Senator  
The Honorable Don Young, Congressman

STEVE COWPER  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

RECEIVED  
OCT 02 1989  
BOARDS

September 29, 1989

Mr. Donald See  
Chairman  
Southeast Regional Fish  
and Game Council  
Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Boards  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. See:

Thanks for your letter of August 21 in which you express concerns regarding adequate funding for the Division of Boards within the Department of Fish and Game. You were especially concerned about the restriction of meetings of the regional council to one per year, and with the level of federal funding provided for regional council activities.

The regulatory process for fish and wildlife management issues does involve an extraordinary level of public participation, involving input from the advisory committees, regional councils, and general public. I'm very supportive of this public process, and feel that the quality of the resulting regulations as promulgated by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game are greatly enhanced.

The Division of Boards has recently undergone a reorganization in order to increase the function and role of the regional regulatory program assistants located throughout the state. That reorganization will result in review of the budget for the Division of Boards to ascertain the funding level which will adequately allow for the services of the Division of Boards to be rendered. I'm aware that the level of funding for travel and meetings of the advisory committees and the regional councils is of concern, and this will be closely reviewed. Ultimately, of course, it will be the responsibility of the Legislature to approve the funding level for the Division of Boards.

As you know, ANILCA Title VIII specifies that the State and the federal government will share the cost of the subsistence resource councils. Although the federal

Mr. Donald See

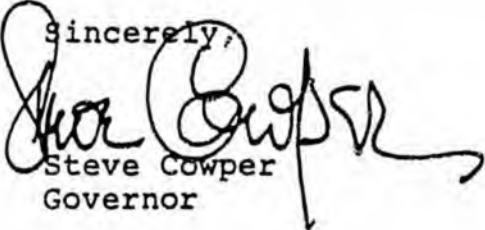
- 2 -

September 29, 1989

government is supposed to reimburse the State for half our expenditures for this program, it has been increasingly difficult to get this money into the federal budget. My Washington, D.C., office has been working with the Appropriations Committee to make sure amounts for the reimbursement are included in the Interior Department's appropriation. This year, that amount is for only \$750,000, despite the fact that our actual expenditure was more than \$3 million. At present we are working with the House and Senate conferees to emphasize to them the importance of this program and the fact that it is in fulfillment of a federal mandate.

I want to commend the Southeast Regional Fish and Game Council for the work that it has done in the past in ensuring that the fish and wildlife regulation process has benefited the residents of Southeast Alaska and the fish and wildlife resources. This level of citizen participation can be found in few other states, and I feel that it is particularly pertinent in Alaska.

Again, thanks for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,  
  
Steve Cowper  
Governor

ROBERT C BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, CHAIRMAN

WEL K. WOOLY, HAWAII  
IST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA  
KENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA  
JENNIFER M. BUNDSIE, NORTH DAKOTA  
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT  
JIM SASSER, TENNESSEE  
DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZONA  
DALE BUMPER, ARKANSAS  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY  
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WYCHE FOWLER, JR., GEORGIA  
J. ROBERT KEMREY, NEBRASKA

MARK O. MATTHEW, OREGON  
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JAKE GARN, UTAH  
THAS COO'KAR, MISSISSIPPI  
ROBERT W. KASTEN, JR., WISCONSIN  
ALFONSO M. D'AMATO, NEW YORK  
WARREN RUDDMAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO  
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA  
DON NICOLLE, OREGON  
PHIL GRAMM, TEXAS

JAMES M. ENGLISH, STAFF DIRECTOR  
J. KEITH KENNEDY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8025

RECEIVED  
OCT 23 1989  
BOARDS

October 13, 1989

Donald See, Chairman  
Ann Lowe, Secretary  
Southeast Regional Fish & Game Council  
c/o Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Donald and Ann:

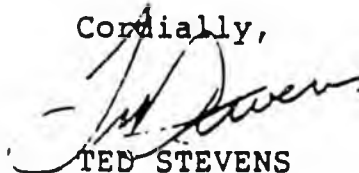
Thanks for contacting me to express your concern about funding for Alaska's Regional Fish and Game Councils, which were formed under ANILCA.

At my request, \$750,000 was added to the FY90 Interior budget to reimburse the cost of running these state councils. I had originally requested \$1.55 million, but the money was not included in the Interior Appropriations bill. I had to offer an amendment in Committee to include this funding, and then had to take money out of another Alaska program for this purpose. It was just not possible to provide the full authorized funding level of \$1.55 million, given the severe budget constraints under which we are operating.

Thanks again for writing.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

  
TED STEVENS

## Senator Johne Binkley

Senate Finance Committee

P.O. Box V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4985

November 6, 1989

Finance Committee  
Co-Chairman

Donald See, Chairman  
Southeast Regional Fish & Game Council  
c/o Division of Boards  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

RECEIVED  
NOV 08 1989  
BOARDS

Dear Mr. See:

Thank you for writing me about the funding problems of the Division of Boards within the Department of Fish and Game. I had my staff check into the matter for me. It was certainly not the Legislature's intent to underfund the regional councils and advisory committees. I believe strongly in this system, and urged the department to beef up this system so that rural Alaskans would be full participants in the management of our fish and game resources. In fact, we increased the Division of Board's budget from \$1,118,900 in Fiscal Year 1989 to \$1,330,600 in Fiscal Year 1990.

I am told that the funding problem was the result of three actions: the filling of all the regional coordinator positions, many of which had been vacant for a long time; the re-activation of a number of advisory committees, which required extra travel monies; and a decrease in the amount of money we get reimbursed from the federal government (the ANILCA funding).

I believe that if the advisory committees and councils do fully participate in the decision-making process, the work-load of the Boards of Fisheries and Game should be reduced. Many of the issues brought before the boards can, and should, be solved at a more local or regional level.

I'm not sure what, if anything, can be done about this problem this year. However, we'll be working with the department to do what we can.

Sincerely,



Senator Johne Binkley  
Yukon-Kuskokwim and  
Interior Rivers

mem

cc: Commissioner Collinworth

REPRESENTATIVE  
PETER GOLL



P O BOX 4  
JUNEAU ALASKA 99801  
(907) 485 4925

STATE OF ALASKA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 8, 1989

RECEIVED  
DEC 11 1989  
BOARDS

Mr. Donald See, Chairman  
Southeast Regional Fish and Game  
Council  
c/o ADF&G  
Division of Boards  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. See:

Thank you very much for sending us a copy of your November 3rd letter, with attachments, to Secretary of the Interior Lujan.

Representative Goll is out of the state right now; however, I will make sure he receives this information immediately upon his return.

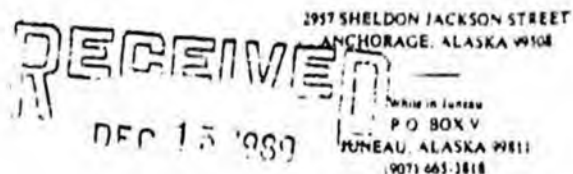
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hayden Kaden".

Hayden Kaden  
Legislative assistant

# Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR  
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Chairman, Senate Rules Committee



December 13, 1989

Senate

Gary Slaven  
Chairman  
Board of Fisheries  
Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

Henry Springer  
Chairman  
Board of Game  
Box 3-2000  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Gary and Henry:

Thank you for bringing forth this important issue of adequate funding for regional fish and game councils and advisory committees throughout the state. There must be more attention focused on the lack of funding and I appreciate your efforts at generating an increased awareness. The serious aspect of this lack of funding, as you point out, is the concern that it might lead to violations of specific ANILCA provisions.

I would certainly advise contacting Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman of the Senate Resources Committee, with this information and suggest making a presentation to the committee early in the upcoming session. That might also provide an opportunity to make the information available to the House Resources Committee as well as both finance subcommittees on the Department of Fish and Game budget.

I have taken the liberty of sending copies of this material to the Senate and House Resources and Finance committees.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arliss".

Arliss Sturgulewski  
Alaska State Senator

cc: Board of Fish members  
Board of Game members  
Regional Councils  
Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp  
Senator John Binkley  
Senator Rick Uehling  
Representative Curt Menard  
Representative Cliff Davidson  
Representative Lyman Hoffman  
Representative Ron Larson



# Alaska State Legislature

cc: JB  
CJ  
NG  
SL  
RRPAB

REPRESENTATIVE DICK SHULTZ

PO Box 1  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4941  
Home PO Box 487  
Tok, Alaska 99781

Member  
Finance Committee  
December 20, 1989

RECEIVED  
12/20/89  
BOARDS

Mr. Gary Slaven  
Joint Boards  
P.O. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Mr. Slaven;

I have communicated with the Commissioners office about a letter from the Joint Boards to Advisory Committee Chairman. The letter gives the impression that individuals selected by Committees to represent them at Board meetings will not be recognized if the state does not provide funding for their travel.

Traditionally, our committees have selected an individual and usually that individual has paid his or her own way to the board meetings and has presented testimony on behalf of their committee members. By doing this the state has saved money for other members to travel from more remote distances. Now it seems these citizens are to be penalized if they pay their own way. Of course the other possibility is the boards are attempting to limit testimony, or even more disturbing, deliberately using our constituents as a blackmail tool in securing legislative funds for advisory committee travel money.

I, for one, do not respond well to negative incentives, and I do not believe our advisory committee system should be used in any type of political charade. Committee members are discouraged enough as it is with the National Park Service and the anti-hunting groups past influence on the boards.

If need be, I can get a legal opinion as to why the Board can not refuse to acknowledge the testimony of an individual elected and sent to represent a committee. I would rather not waste state time and money doing so. What I would rather see is a letter to all committee chairman from the Boards clarifying that elected committee representatives would be recognized as such when they present testimony to the boards. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Dick Shultz*  
Dick Shultz

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF BOARDS

August 8, 1989

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 3-2000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000  
PHONE: (907) 465-4110

Dear Local Advisory Committee Members and Alternates:

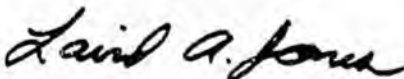
I am writing to personally inform you all of the financial dilemma the Division of Boards of Fisheries and Game is in for State Fiscal Year 1990 (June 30, 1989 through July 1, 1990). My intent is to advise you of the situation so you can plan your advisory committee and regional council activities for this coming board cycle

To be uniform and fair to all the advisory committees and regional councils statewide the following number of meetings and attendance at board meeting will be funded at this time. You should plan for two advisory committee meetings and one regional council meeting. Each region will be allowed to send one representative to each scheduled board meeting (both the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game) and two representatives to the joint board meetings.

I appreciate that this places extreme hardship on the committees and councils and is quite different from past participation and arrangements. However, in projecting the board meeting costs, working with the Regional Coordinators to project the costs of the committee and council travel, per diem and meeting rooms costs, we found the above minimum needs could not even be fully met with the funding provided.

This division will be working with the commissioner and the board members, then the governor, and finally the state legislature to request additional funding to meet the above meeting schedule and provide for board attendance to the committees and councils. It is unclear if we will receive this additional funding, thus we cannot allocate funding for any additional meetings at this time. Any ideas you have to help reduce the costs of the meetings, other cost saving ideas, or concerns regarding the above plan would be appreciated. I will keep you informed on the progress of the additional funding request. If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas, please feel free to contact myself or your Regional Coordinator.

Sincerely,



Laird A. Jones  
Director

cc: Commissioner Don Collinsworth  
Board of Fisheries Members  
Board of Game Members

Regional Coordinators  
Division Directors



# REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCILS

c/o ADF&G, DIVISION OF BOARDS, P.O. BOX 3-2000, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802 PHONE: (907) 586-4110

October 27, 1989

The Honorable Morris K. Udall  
Chairman  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
United States Congress  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Udall:

The Regional Council representatives met in Anchorage at the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game meeting October 22-26, 1989. The six Regional Fish and Game Councils (see appendix I) are made up of 79 local Fish and Game Advisory Committees throughout the state. The Division of Boards which provides administrative support to the Boards of Fisheries and Game and to the regional councils/advisory committees, presented a disturbing budget which would make the public advisory system completely ineffectual. The proposed budget would allow for only one regional council meeting per region this year and the attendance of the one regional council member to represent their region at upcoming board meetings (see appendix II).

The key to our ability to function properly is funding! At this meeting, the six Regional Councils recommended an acceptable minimum standard for meetings and funding of the public advisory system established by the State statutes and ANILCA. The six regional council representatives agreed that the minimum we should meet for conducting business and still have some degree of efficiency would be twice a year for each regional council. We agreed that each local fish and game advisory committee must meet at least 3 times a year. One representative from each fish and game advisory committee should attend the Board meetings for at least five days.

3 advisory committee meetings/year	Minimum Standards (Cost: \$1.2 mil)
2 regional council meetings/year	
1 advisory committee representative to attend 5-days at Board meetings	

Without this minimum amount of participation, the regional council/advisory committee structure will not be able to function. Furthermore, without adequate funding it will violate ANILCA Sec. 805 (d).

The Honorable Morris K. Udall

The State of Alaska has been charged with implementing the subsistence resources management as mandated by ANILCA. The public advisory system has the responsibility to protect subsistence uses in Alaska through recommendations to the regulatory body of the Boards of Fisheries and Game. This cannot be done without appropriating full funding needed for travel and per diem for the members of the public advisory system to attend the Board meetings, attend advisory committee meetings, and regional council meetings.

If this regulatory process is improperly funded or does not receive sufficient funds, it delays the implementation of the subsistence law, and reduces the public advisory system to the Board's deliberations. The domino effect will be the Board's decisions would be made without proper public information propelling the state into the courts repeatedly. Thus, it causes the whole process to be taken out of the public domain and into the courts where there is no public input or public control. These court cases will be and are becoming more and more costly to the State of Alaska and eventually to the federal government. If the State of Alaska and the federal government give full funding now, it will allow the public advisory system to work effectively in a shorter span of time which will save a lot of money over the long term for both bureaucracies.

The advisory committee/regional council system needs a supplement of \$1.2 million now to meet our responsibilities for this year which includes the present supplemental request from the Division of Boards. When you meet this fiscal responsibility, you should also plan to appropriate full funding until the subsistence regulatory process has been established. Give us (the regional councils, advisory committees, the Board of Fisheries and Game, and the Alaska Department's Subsistence Division) the full funding now to do at least an adequate job.

The advisory committee/regional council participation has not been given the priority status it needs for funding by the State of Alaska, or by the federal government in the budgetary process. All agencies involved in appropriating fiscal notes need to re-evaluate their priorities and decide if this is a valuable process or not. If it is, fund it.

We appreciate the support that has been given to our request for full staffing to provide administrative support to the public advisory process. This, however, is only half of the solution to our problem. The other is the ability to come together for the common purpose of helping implement subsistence uses and priorities.

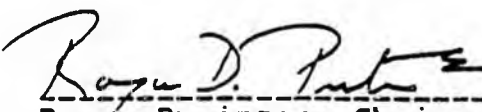
The Honorable Morris K. Udall

We thank you in advance for your assistance as we are sure you will understand the priority needs of this process.

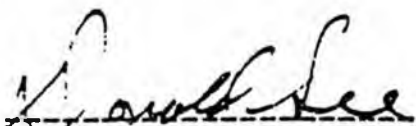
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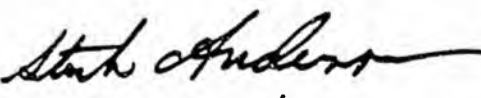
Regional Councils of Alaska

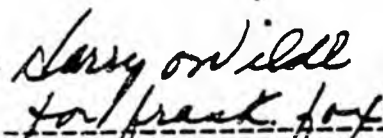
  
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Pete Schaeffer, Chairman  
Arctic Regional Council

  
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Royce Purinton, Chairman  
Interior Regional Council

  
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Bill Ellis, Chairman  
Southcentral Regional Council

  
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Donald See, Chairman  
Southeast Regional Council

  
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Robert Heyano, Chairman  
Southwest Regional Council

  
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Frank Fox, Chairman  
Western Regional Council