

**LDIR#046**  
**BRISTOL BAY**  
**FISHING**  
**PROBLEM 1967-**  
**1968 HEARINGS**

THE BRISTOL BAY FISHERY

RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

Prepared by:

Steven Pennoyer, Regional Research Supervisor  
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Wallace H. Noerenberg, Commissioner

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Anchorage, Alaska

August 17, 1970

*Alaska Science Conference Paper  
Aug. 17, 1970.*

Alaska Materials file

Alaska Dept. of Fisheries

**ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FILE COPY**

# ALASKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Minutes

of

SPECIAL COUNCIL HEARING ON FISHERIES

(December 13, 1967 - Naknek)

On December 13 and December 15 Messrs. Tillion, Kerttula, McGill, and Senator Hammond, held hearings in Naknek, Dillingham, and Clarks Point, with the commercial fishermen and other interested persons. The following is a partial verbatim transcript of the meeting in Naknek.

- TILLION:** My name is Clem Tillion. I will be the acting chairman for today. I'm normally vice-chairman but Brad Phillips had prepared to come yesterday but had business commitments for the following day so there wasn't any way he could come. John Butrovich and Jules Wright were there also but the weather just fouled them up and they left. I think we have enough here to take testimony. Jay Kerttula here is the minority leader for the Democratic party in the House and Jay [Hammond] will represent the Senate. He is Chairman of the Resources Committee, and of course Joe [McGill] is here as your local representative. I think we have enough to take testimony so anybody wishing to give testimony, if they will come up in front here and before you start, state your name so it will be on the transcription, make any statements you wish on any subjects pertaining to the state, and then we can have discussions on any of it you want.
- KERTTULA:** Mr. Chairman, are you going to rule that we can ask questions at the end of the testimony of each individual and then re-hash it at the end? While it's fresh in our minds.
- TILLION:** Yes, I think that we should handle each subject while it is fresh in our minds and I don't think there is any need to rush unless somebody has to leave and there is something they wish to state, they merely have to tell us and we'll take them at that time.
- UNIDENTIFIED**  
**PERSON:** There is one question in my mind -- in some of our testimony we might forget something -- are you allowed to come up the second time?
- TILLION:** Yes, you can come up as often as you wish; it's just that once you come up, then you have to wait until everybody else that intends to talk has had their chance.

*Russ*

# Anchorage Daily Times

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1967

## Salmon Progress

THE THREE-POINT program approved by the State Board of Fish and Game to put gear limitations into effect during Alaska's 1968 salmon season may have been a complex compromise solution to an involved and complicated problem.

But at least it was action, and for attempting to come to grips with a knotty issue the members of the board deserve the state's compliments and thanks.

It remains to be seen whether the board actually came up with a workable plan to control the feast-and-famine cycle of boom-and-bust that inflicts Alaska's fishing industry.

Presumably the three-course program mapped by the Fish and Game Board at its marathon meetings in Sitka and Juneau will be challenged in court.

Leaders of the canning industry in Seattle earlier said they would take to court an administration plan to limit gear licenses in Bristol Bay next season.

THE BOARD, IN its final action, modified the original administration plan — increasing the limit of licenses to be issued next year to a maximum of 2,529, but retaining a point rating system to determine eligibility for licensing.

It also set up, as the second point in the 1968 control program, a sliding gear scale to determine how much gear an individual fisherman can use in Bristol Bay.

As the third point, the board placed a moratorium on the total number of net gear licenses to be issued in 1968 for commercial salmon fishing — applying statewide.

Some of the details regulating these policy programs were left to the State

Department of Fish and Game experts to work out.

Until all of the plan is spelled out, even the fishermen themselves probably cannot fully determine what changes will be made in their operations next year — if the program withstands the expected challenges.

By the same token, the industry probably cannot bring suit to block the action — if that still is the plan — until the regulations are promulgated.

LAYMEN LOOKING at the program worked out by the board can hardly understand the complicated references to the number of men on a boat, the fathoms of gear, sliding index points for drift nets and the like.

The important thing, to those who are concerned about economic facts as they relate to the plight of the fishermen themselves and the great salmon resources of the state, is that the board did take action.

In the past, despite the dreadful forecasts of poor salmon runs and new disasters, the emphasis has been on closed fishing periods and the obvious need for salmon-spawning escapement. The difficulties of limiting licenses and gear was never successfully tied down.

This new action by the board may not be the final answer — almost surely it isn't.

The new regulations, in fact, may turn up whole new sets of problems that will require more 18-day meetings by the board in long wrestling matches seeking solutions.

But at least, and at long last, an effort has been made. For this the board is to be commended.

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the oil versus fish issue.

Truman Emberg, business manager of the Western Alaska Fishermen's Marketing Association, was quoted as saying, the fisherman expected "nothing but grief" from oil operations. He said they foresee oil drilling rigs taking over the "areas from Port Moller into the Kvichak where we drift our nets, including places like Ugashik and Egegik."

The area involved in the sale generally follows the Bristol Bay side of the Alaska Peninsula from Port Moller to Kvichak. The state has jurisdiction from

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Clark's Paint

Dec. 15

1. Evangeline Ann Hiratsuka
2. Jeanne Finley Gardiner
3. Francisco Floresta
4. Elizabeth Gardiner
5. Helen Clark
6. Harry Wassily
7. Steve Wassily
8. Thomas Gardiner
9. Mary Clark
10. Janice Lynn Anderson
11. Eddie Anderson
12. Marris George
13. Ralph Andersen
14. Mary Wassilie
15. Ruby Hiratsuka
16. Aurora Lou George
17. Fannie Helen Wassilie
18. Steve Wassily
19. Nat Brown
20. Victor Jumbok, Sr.
21. Mrs. Earl George
22. Mrs. Thomas Murphy
23. Maxim Dolchok
24. Chas. E. Wolfe
25. " " "

Maxim Dolchok  
Chas. E. Wolfe