

Agenda Item #15
June 28-29, 1979

MEMORANDUM

To: Council, SSC, and AP
From: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
Date: June 20, 1979
Subject: A herring/salmon savings time and area closure to
foreign trawling in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island FMP

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We expect data at this meeting on the incidental catch of salmon and herring by the foreign trawl fishery in the eastern Bering Sea.

Herring: It's probably premature to consider closing the foreign trawl fishery on herring at this time. The data is not very good for defining an area to close, and in any case it looks like the herring OY should be raised, based on current stock assessments. Some surplus will probably be available for TALFF, which could only be taken in an directed winter herring fishery.

Salmon: A winter closure for trawling in a relatively small area northwest of the Pribilofs may be justified to protect king salmon. Preliminary figures indicate the incidental trawl catch of feeder kings may be as high as 40,000 fish a year.

All this will be presented by Dr. Loh Lee Low of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center.

COUNCIL ACTION

If a time and area closure is warranted the Council may want to develop an amendment to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island FMP for final consideration in July.