

MEMORANDUM

Appendix D

DATE: April 26, 1977

TO: Jim Branson
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

FROM: Jim Richardson
Alaska Sea Grant Program

SUBJECT: Progress report on Tanner Crab Processing Capacity Survey

I returned Sunday from meetings with tanner crab processors in Seattle, which completed my survey. In addition to Seattle, it included trips to Seward and Kodiak Island. In cases where the companies were not able to supply the required data during my interview, I left a self-addressed envelope to mail the questionnaire when completed. To date, I have received back approximately two-thirds of the questionnaires.

The attitudes I encountered during my interviews varied considerably. On one hand, a few of the processing companies (one in particular) were extremely reluctant to release any information to me and would not complete a large part of the questionnaire. Their reasons for this were:

1. Confidential data released in the past to various study groups were later published as public information.
2. The information requested in the questionnaire was too detailed.

On the other hand, I also spoke with others, whose companies were delighted to have government funds directed toward this kind of work. They felt it was a necessary study and gave enthusiastic cooperation. Also a couple of companies suggested that they would change their own record keeping procedures as they felt that the type of information requested in the questionnaire was information they should keep on hand for their own use.

The question of confidentiality is important to the processing companies and our success in future data requirements will depend upon honoring this confidentiality. I have attached a letter from one company which reflects this concern. Interest was also expressed in receiving the results of the study which I feel would help to open up the interchange of data between the fishing industry and government agencies.

I expect to have my results complete and compiled in a couple of weeks and they will be incorporated into the report. Thank you very much for your efforts in making initial introductions for this survey.

Encl.

DHR/hg