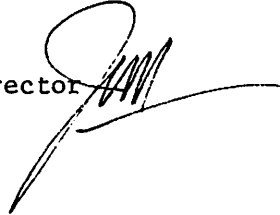


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council SSC and AP Members
FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
DATE: July 14, 1980
SUBJECT: Tanner Crab FMP



ACTION REQUIRED

None. Review of 1980 fishery and amendment schedule for 1981.

BACKGROUND

U. S. catch in 1980 has fallen well short of the estimated DAH in the Tanner crab FMP. It appears that the entire Bering Sea Tanner crab catch, bairdi and opilio combined, will be higher than it was last year. The opilio catch is significantly higher than last year, but the bairdi catch was down.

OY for C. opilio for 1980 was set at 113,470,000 pounds. It looks like the U. S. catch will not exceed 40 million pounds. OY in amendment #5 was based on crabs slightly under 4 inches carapace width. U. S. industry has refused to buy anything smaller than 4-1/2 inches. If OY had been based on crabs of that size, it would have been approximately 90 million pounds. Using that figure, the U. S. catch is approximately 50% of the originally estimated DAH.

There is a great deal of anxiety among U. S. industry about the implications of an increased or even maintained TALFF for 1981. We have already received a number of letters from members of the U. S. crab industry, asking that TALFF be eliminated or certainly not increased for 1981.

The 1980 resource survey figures should be available in early September. We intend to have an amendment ready for Council consideration at the September meeting that will allow you to make a decision on OY, DAH, and TALFF at that time.

28

COMMENT ON THE CURRENT STATUS
OF THE
JAPANESE TANNER CRAB FISHERY

submitted by the
Japanese Tanner Crab Industry

Anchorage, Alaska
July 24, 1980

This year one Japanese mothership fleet (including four catcher vessels) and fourteen land-based vessels participated in the eastern Bering Sea Tanner crab fishery.

On July 9th, the mothership fleet left the fishing grounds. Five of the land-based vessels left the grounds between June 20th and July 14th. It is scheduled that two more land-based vessels will leave the area by the end of July.

Current data on our operation is shown in the following tables and figures.

TABLE 1

Mothership Fleet				
Year	Fishing Period	Pots Lifted	Catch (Crabs)	C.P.U.E. (Crab/Pot)
1980	2/25 - 7/9	356,030	5,497,747	15.4
1979	2/25 - 7/10	970,176	14,603,693	15.1

TABLE 2

Land-based Vessels				
Year	Fishing Period	Pots Lifted	Catch (Crabs)	C.P.U.E. (Crab/Pot)
1980	3/9 - 7/12	997,874	4,320,284	4.3
1979	4/30 - 7/14	559,342	3,056,019	5.5

Mothership Fleet
 C.P.U.E. by 10-day Periods (Crab/Pot)

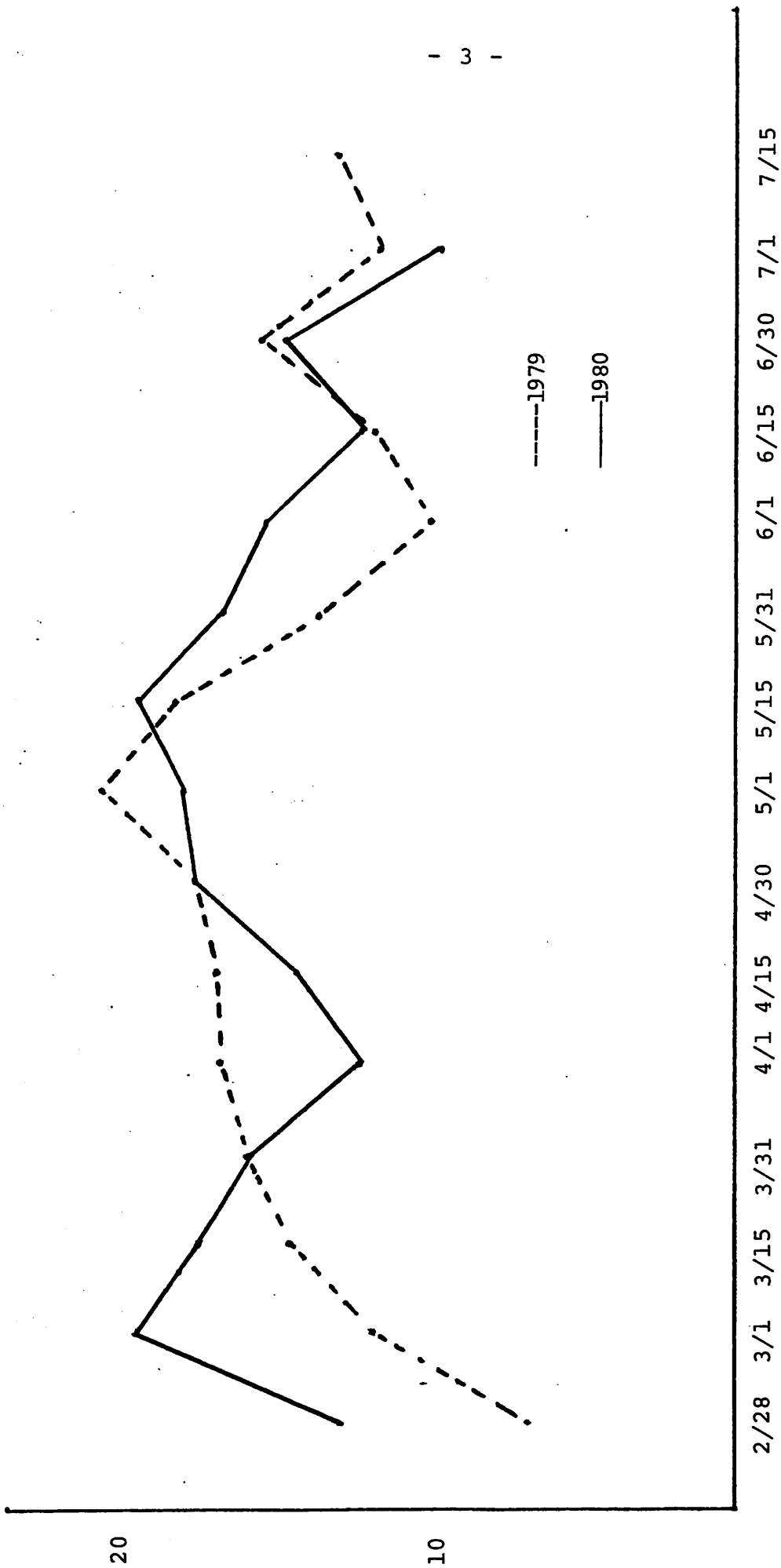


Figure 1

Land-based Vessels
C.P.U.E. by 10-day Periods (Crab/Pot)

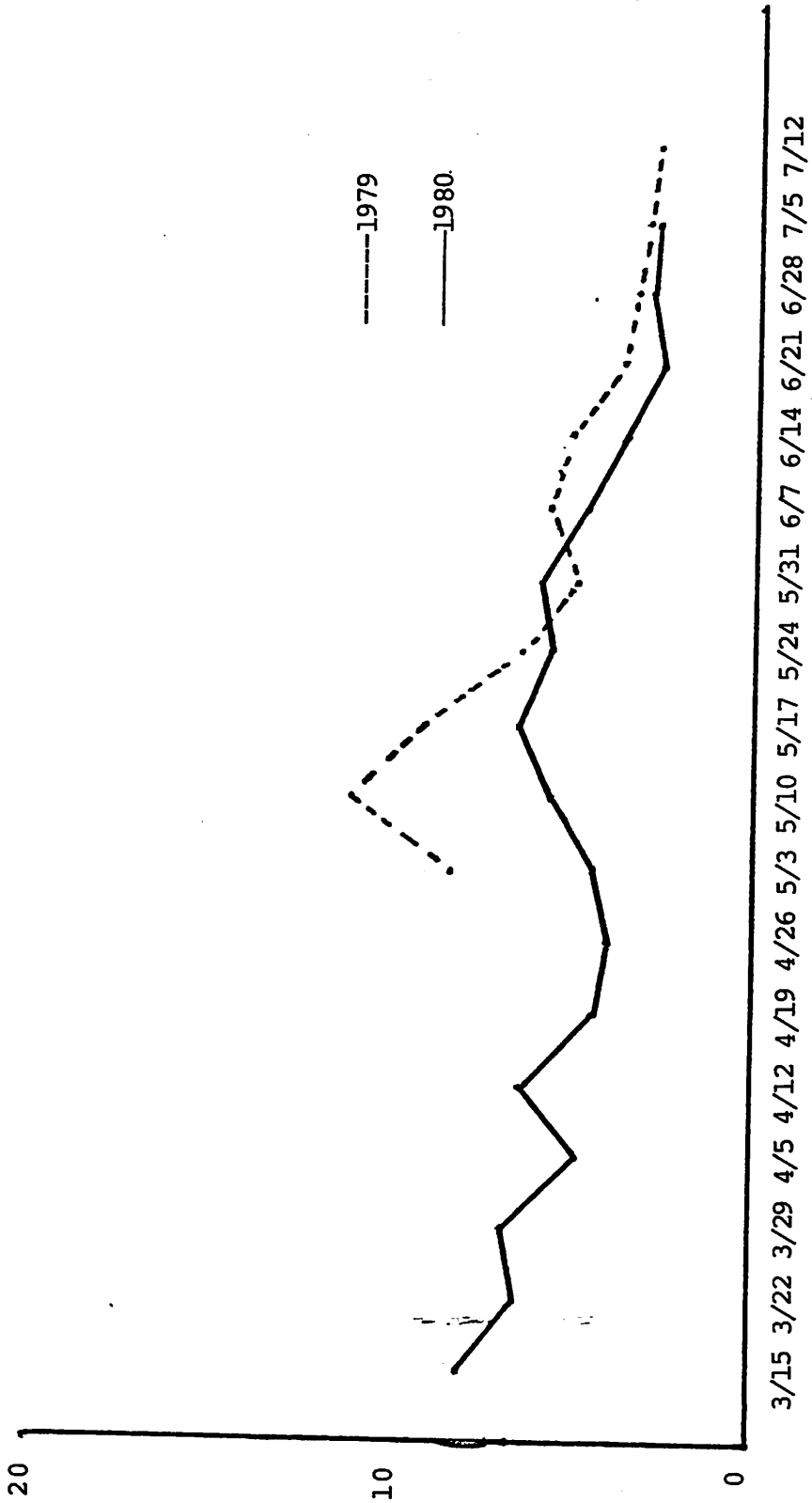


Figure 2