

doc 2

Presentation

by

Mayor Tetsuo Yamaguchi

of

Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan

at

The Northern Pacific Fisheries Council Meeting

on

January 27, 1977, at Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A.

Chairman Rasmuson and honorable members of the Northern Pacific Fisheries Council:

It is a great privilege, and I feel most grateful to you for the understanding you have given to my sudden request to be present at this important meeting and for allowing me to express my views. As a mayor I am responsible for managing Kushiro, a city of fisheries, located on the shortest line between Japan and Alaska. The city faces the Pacific Ocean and is located in Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. I would like to take this occasion to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the people of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, for showing great understanding of the operation of Japanese fishing boats in your area and taking good care of those crew members who have become ill or injured while here.

Now, because time is short, I would like to tell you, as succinctly as possible, why I am here.

First, let me tell you that I am just the head of the local municipality. I am not speaking as a representative of the Government of Japan.

Our country has been experiencing a great degree of apprehension and uneasiness in response to the extension of jurisdiction of the fisheries zone to 200 miles off the coastlines of many countries, including the United States of America. It is because the Japanese people depend

heavily on the Northern Pacific Ocean area as a source of food protein. In particular, fisheries in the Northern Pacific Ocean have played a very large role in the economic development of the Prefecture of Hokkaido and those cities based on fisheries like Kushiro. Accordingly, as one Japanese, I would like to solicit your sympathetic understanding by telling you our real predicament. Before doing so, I would like to touch on the need to preserve fisheries resources, which is most important to the future of both our nations.

Preservation of Fisheries Resources

Since the issue of 200-mile jurisdiction has come to the fore, many American representatives have visited Japan. Some of them came to Kushiro, to meet and exchange opinions with local leaders representing all sectors of the population, and, in addition, to observe fisheries facilities. I had the privilege to meet Ambassador Ridgway in Tokyo and met in Kushiro Dr. Alverson, Director of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Dr. Fukuhara of the same Center, and Mr. Perles, Legal Adviser to Senator Stevens. I availed myself of these opportunities to learn of the concern of the people of the United States for the preservation of fisheries resources. I heartily pay my respect to them, as I fully support their stand.

From my contact with them I learned that the American people have criticized Japanese fishermen for not being active in the preservation of fisheries resources, and for devoting themselves only to an increase in landings. I am not in a position to enforce a regulation to control landings of the Japanese fishing boats in your area. However, I assure you that I very strongly recognize the need to preserve fisheries resources for the future of Japan so that our people can continue to secure permanently food protein by maintaining a definite amount of landings and keep the local economy as long as possible from falling into catastrophe.

Under the circumstances, I have worked very hard to approach the Japanese Government on the matter of pursuing a national policy of expanding efforts to preserve fisheries resources. This has included expanding hatcheries for salmon and trout. Such activity is being carried out at the national and local levels and is also supported by private fisheries organizations. As the extension of 200-mile jurisdictions prevails, I believe, we Japanese, who are in the position of asking the favor of the coastal nations in catching fish, must cooperate actively and co-prosper with such nations. Hence, I expect that our two countries will have their governments and scientists work together harder to further efforts for

From my contact with them I learned that the American

people have criticized Japanese fishermen for not being
active in the preservation of fisheries resources, and for
devoting themselves only to an increase in landings. I am
not in a position to endorse a regulation to control land-
ings of the Japanese fishing boats in your area. However,

I assure you that I very strongly recognize the need to
preserve fisheries resources for the future of Japan so
that our people can continue to secure personally food
protein by maintaining a desirable amount of landings and

the local economy, although as possible from falling
into catastrophe.

Under the circumstances, I have worked very hard to
appeal the Japanese Government on the matter of pursuing

a national policy of expanding efforts to preserve
fisheries resources. This has included expanding

facilities for salmon and trout. Such activity is being
carried out at the national and local levels and is also

supported by private fisheries organizations. As the
extension of 200-mile jurisdictional waters, I believe,

we Japanese, who remain in the position of being the favor
of the coastal nations in extending fish, must cooperate

I ~~hope that our two countries will have their governments~~
and continue work together harder to further efforts for

research and investigation. As the administrator of a city of fisheries, I promise to positively contribute to these efforts.

That Japanese Are Fish-eating Nation

Now, as you may be aware, Japan is an insular nation with very limited area. Its total land area of 370,000 sq. km. (143,000 sq. miles) is merely a quarter of the State of Alaska but it has about 110 million people, or about 350 times the population of Alaska. To secure food for the nation we farm even hills and mountains in an effort to expand our agricultural output. Since farm produce was not sufficient, our ancestors sought marine food. We have thus balanced our nutrition by depending on fish as the source of animal protein, identifying ourselves as a fish-eating nation. Although meat, eggs, and dairy products have come to the table, the situation remains much the same. Any foreigner who has been to Japan knows that our people eat fish raw, broil them, boil them, dry them, salt them, and, in so many ways, eat them for breakfast, lunch and dinner. According to our statistical data, daily calories of a Japanese amount to 2,500; a daily animal protein consumed is 34.6 grams (1.2 ounces), of which fish protein is 17.5 grams (0.6 ounces), constituting more than 50% of the protein. Fish is such an important source of protein.

With increased consumption due to an increase of population, the Japanese fisheries have been modernized. They have been active in developing new places for fishing. Since the 19th century distant-sea fishing has continued. In the Northern Pacific Ocean, our forefathers made painful sacrifices in locating fishing grounds where no one had ever fished before. We owe something to their toil for the present level of fishing.

In recent years our total annual landings have been about 10 million tons. Since the world total is estimated to be about 70 million tons, the Japanese catch is about one seventh of the world total. From this you could understand how much the Japanese people rely on fish.

Kushiro is a Major Supplier of Marine Food to the Japanese

Kushiro is the largest port city facing the Pacific Ocean in the eastern part of Hokkaido. A river runs through the downtown area. Large and small fishing boats are crowded in moorings on both sides of the river. Near this area, the warm current called "Black Tide" flows northward, and it meets the cold current called "Parents Tide," which flows southward. They cause a heavy fog in the summer season, giving the city a sentimental look. In this area where both warm and cold currents meet, migratory fishes such as sardine, mackerel, mackerel pike, squid, salmon

and trout gather after feed to create a good fishing ground, attracting a large number of fishing boats from all over Japan.

Kushiro, favored by such a good fishing ground and excellent topographic conditions, has progressed economically with fisheries as its base. Particularly, since 1950, with the development of the Northern Pacific fishing grounds near the Kurile islands, the area extending east to west off the Kamchatka Peninsula, and the Bering Sea, landings at Kushiro have increased rapidly. Our annual landings are presently at the level of 800 thousand tons. At the same time, improvements have been made on the fishing port and land facilities such as processing plants and markets. Thanks to all of this, Kushiro's role as a fishing port center has become strengthened, and its economy has expanded in recent years.

Moreover, almost all fish landed at Kushiro are transported to processing plants in the city for canning, freezing, salting, and making surimi (minced meat) and fishmeal. As a result, Kushiro is a center of supply of marine food products as well as a fishing port center. We supply not only Hokkaido but urban areas all over Japan. Accordingly, it is no exaggeration to say that Kushiro's economy depends on the ups and downs of the fisheries industry.

Impact of 200 Mile Extension of Jurisdiction on Economy
of Kushiro

Now, on the assumption that fisheries can no longer be maintained within the 200-mile zone off the seacoast of foreign countries, we have done research on the hypothetical impact on the economy of Kushiro by input-output analysis. Let me explain the results of the analysis by reference to the literature I have distributed to you.

Total landings at Kushiro in 1975 were about 810,000 tons. About 510,000 tons came from catches in the Northern Pacific Ocean, of which about 10,000 ^{1% of} tons came from waters related to the United States of America. Hence, if there was no catch in the Northern Pacific Ocean, our landings would drop by 64%. In monetary terms, there would be a decrease of 35.7 billion yen (\$122 million on the basis of the exchange rate of 292 yen for one dollar) out of 53.5 billion yen (\$183 million) in the value of the catch handled. As I mentioned earlier, while fish are landed, processed, and shipped to other areas, they benefit many related industries economically. Such a large reduction would produce an impact on the output of each section of the primary, secondary and tertiary industries as tabulated in Table 1. A decrease of the output amounting to 1,267 billion yen (\$343 million) will be induced against the total output of 565.3 billion yen (\$1,936 million), where-

upon the impact will be felt widely as indicated by Table 2.

A decrease in industrial output will bring about a decrease in the operating capacity of each plant and a decrease of jobs available. Those who are laid off will have to leave the city together with their families.

Table 3 shows its impact on jobs and population. Against the total jobs of 91,383 and the total population of 206,843, the figures affected will total 13,636 jobs and 36,979 persons. The foregoing just refers to the results of the primary impact. The sum effect due to the primary and the secondary impact is tabulated in Table 6. According to it, the final effect is that there will be a decrease of 155.0 billion yen (\$531 million) in output, 20,000 jobs in employment, and about 51,000 persons in population. The analysis suggests that as much as a quarter of the present population will have to leave the city.

The foregoing analysis is based on the worst premises. However, if the reality comes close to this, it would overthrow the city's economy. This thought has caused us to seriously look into the vital nature of the problem and re-examine how important it is to comprehend the issue of the extension of jurisdiction of the 200-mile zone. The Kushiro Municipal Government has established a city-wide organization called the Kushiro Fisheries Task Force, which has been examining ways to accommodate Kushiro to the new

state of affairs. In order to maintain the stability of the economy of Kushiro and prevent a confusion in people's life from taking place, it is necessary by all means to make an effort to secure a catch equal to those in the past, but of course not at the expenses of appropriate conservation of the resources.

Securing of Present Level of Landings

I am profoundly indebted to you for giving me this opportunity to present my view to you. I hope my humble effort may help you to understand the serious impact of the extension of the fisheries zone on our people in many fields.

The single negotiated draft of the third United Nations LOS Conference meeting states that, in the utilization of resources of living animals, efforts will be made so that economic confusion can be reduced to a minimum for those countries which have had the record of fishing. As I mentioned before, the total landings brought to our port from your waters amount to about 10,000 tons, which is a marginal proportion against the total landings. However, whatever your country does will be reflected in the policies of the Soviet Union and other nations. Accordingly, I should like to solicit the deep understanding of you, Mr. Chairman and the honorable members of this council so that we can be given time to accommodate ourselves to the new situation and do our best to cooperate in the enforcement of regulations under the Fisheries Management and Conservation Act. Accordingly, I should like to ask your consideration in allowing the total allowable catch to Japan to remain at the present level or the maximum level allowable taking into account of legitimate conservation needs and the preventional interest of U. S. Fishermen.

Also from the viewpoint of deepening friendly relationships between the United States of America and Japan, I should like to count on you for generous action by this council.

On the occasion of my visit to your country, I would like to assimilate many of ideas useful in preparing our city for the future, I hope to learn not only about fisheries matters but also about city planning, education, welfare and so forth. The

people of Alaska, Washington and Oregon are surely very far ahead of us, who share the same climate as yours.

We extend our wholehearted welcome to you to Kushiro. We have something to make your visit worthwhile - - beautiful nature and the city landscape well balanced with active fisheries industries, as seen in the pamphlet. I will be privileged to reciprocate your kindness, should you visit us.

In conclusion, I wish the continuing prosperity of the United States of America, the State of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, and every good health and happiness of you Mr. Chairman and all Members of the Council.

Thank you very much.