

JUNE 1978

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

P. O. BOX 686 — KODIAK 99615

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Division of Commercial Fisheries-OCs

June 16, 1978

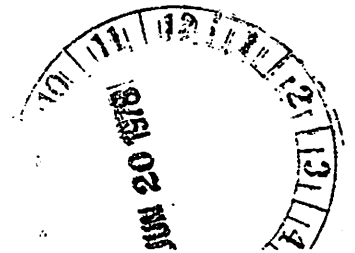
Mark Hutton
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Mark:

I am writing in response to our phone conversation on 6/15/78 when you requested a summarized update on progress of the various facets of our Bering Sea herring stock assessment study.

As of this date all ground sampling crews have been deployed and are functioning according to the operational plan; as herring appeared in Hagemester Strait and not in Herendeen Bay (presented in operational plan as alternate), ground crew effort to date has been utilized in the former area. We plan, however, to place ground crew in the Herendeen Bay-Port Moller area in the latter part of this month as our aerial survey effort there has shown a few isolated schools. The planned sampling intensity (800 herring) has been achieved and in some cases exceeded in all ground stations except Port Clarence, where herring normally don't show up until late June or July. The minimum desired aerial survey effort of four surveys has been achieved and exceeded on all tracklines except Port Clarence where, again, fish normally do not show until later.

Although I have not seen the actual data, I have been assured that the Component II work in Metervik Bay (primarily spawn deposition and aerial survey methodology) is proceeding as planned. While at Metervik Bay in early June I observed the beginning stages of this study; the only apparent problem at that time appeared to be the unexpected early spawning preventing their getting their cages on as many different spawn densities as desired. At that time the crew was anticipating being able to do this during subsequent spawning waves. The week following my visit to the Metervik test site, Warner conducted the aerial survey methodology studies. Again, I have not seen the data, but understand that 14 hours flying time was devoted to this work.



Mark Hutton

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I hope this answers your questions, Mark. If you need further information, please inform me. If necessary, I could come to Anchorage to discuss this with the SSC.

Cordially,



Peter B. Jackson
OCS Coordinator

cc: Jack Lechner/Kodiak
Steve Pennoyer/Juneau