

FISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATES

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May 15, 1981

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North Pacific Management Council
P.O. Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find my report on the Korean-American joint venture fishery.

Please be advised that a representative from FPA will be attending the meeting in May to read this report.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Jacobsen
Vice President

CAJ:c
Enclosure

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council

May 15, 1981

From: Fish Producers Associates, Inc.

The Joint Venture commenced on approximately February 12, 1981 and has had its share of problems, however as each day goes by the problems are being corrected and eliminated. We expect in the months ahead that an efficient program will be in effect. The performance shown by the American catcher vessels has been rated as excellent in that they delivered to date approximately 18,000 metric tons of fish.

For example, they have experienced the following records:

1. Greatest metric tons delivered in one week: 1009 tons by a single catcher vessel.
2. Highest accumulative performance for an American catcher vessel for the period February 14 to May 1 is in excess of 4,000 metric tons.
3. Maximum fish delivered by an individual American catcher vessel to a processor was approximately 245 metric tons a day.
4. Largest volume of catch for one week by the American catcher vessels, seven participating, 3,177 metric ton.
5. American catcher vessels have been reporting as the rule, as opposed to the exception, that they have been delivering and filling the Korean processor vessels to their combined capacity of 600 metric tons on a daily basis and that they have accomplished this within an average of fourteen hour fishing days. They complain that they fish for twenty-four hours and are losing productivity. They are asking when the Koreans will add additional processors.

Fishing from February 15 until April 18 took place in the Shelikof Straits (area 62) where approximately 16,000 metric tons of pollock were harvested.

However, as the pollock run dispersed from Shelikof Straits, into more weather prone areas, fishing was found to be inconsistent and the decision was made to move to the Bering Sea, Unimak area, where fishing has been traditionally good through May. As of

this time, an additional 2,000 metric tons of pollock and yellowfin sole have been harvested for a grand total of 18,000 metric tons harvested to date.

We are proud to report that the American fishermen, in their commitment to joint venture fishing are continuing to support the program and are seeking ways to improve it. It is unfortunate that Korea, while committing herself to this project has not been well prepared in taking the steps to see that it is run in the most efficient manner possible.

The Korean's inefficient has led to a slowdown of productivity. As an example:

1. The Korean's were late in providing adequate codends, codend materials and maintenance.
2. Funds were late.
3. The crew complements were less than desired.
4. The main winch failed on one of the processors.

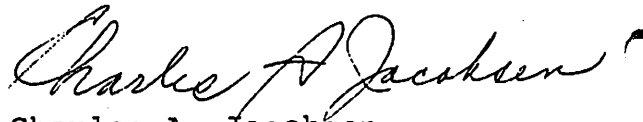
A strong concern to us as intermediaries and to the fishermen are the usage of food grade fish (13½" length) being processed as fish meal when full receiving capacity has been reached in an effort to rid the processors of fish overage. The unfairness is the fact that the fishermen receive fish meal prices for their efforts as opposed to a full value for food grade fish.

However, as we stated above, the problems are being solved one by one.

The tonnage target for 1981 was set at 81,000 metric ton of which approximately 22% has been realized to date. In order to reach a larger portion of this goal and yet expand this fishery to include more American vessels, giving them a viable year round source of income and employment, we need the council to recommend a further emphasis be placed on joint venture fisheries.

We thank the council for past support and we further appeal to you for continued backing in making this joint venture a year ending fulfillment of the American fishermen's goals.

Thank you for your audience and considerations.


Charles A. Jacobsen
Vice President
Fish Producers Association, Inc.