

Commercial Fisheries and Interests Relating to Construction of a  
Boat Harbor at Saint Paul Island in the Pribilof Group

National Marine Fisheries Service

Juneau, Alaska

June, 1977

The Pribilof Islands are in the approximate center of some of the richest fishing grounds in the world. The eastern Bering Sea has supported the removal of five billion pounds annually of fish and shellfish by the U.S., Canada, U.S.S.R., Japan, and Republic of Korea (ROK). Management of the fisheries under U.S. jurisdiction in the 200 mile zone will reduce this catch somewhat during the next few years to let certain depleted stocks rebuild, but even so, the total allowable catch (TAC) for all fisheries in the eastern Bering Sea in 1977 is set at 3.1 billion pounds with an ex-vessel value of \$290 million.

The opportunities for U.S. fisheries to develop further on Tanner crab, clams, and groundfishes have never been better. Wholesale market prices for groundfish products in the U.S. have been rising steadily over the past 16 years. This is generally true also for king and Tanner crab over the past five years. Export market opportunities in Europe, Japan, Republic of Korea, and other countries are also increasing.

U.S. Domestic Fisheries in the Eastern Bering Sea

At present, the principal U.S. fisheries in the eastern Bering Sea are those for Tanner, red, and blue king crabs; and to a lesser extent for halibut participated in by U.S. and Canadian fishermen. In 1975, the aggregate catch of these species amounted to 59.8 million pounds with an estimated ex-vessel value of 22.3 million dollars. Effort and catch for red king crab have increased steadily from 1971 (Tables 1 and 2). Fishing occurs in the period from August to December. A directed fishery