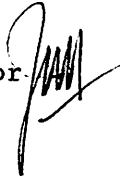


MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 1980  
TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee  
and Advisory Panel  
FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP



ACTION REQUIRED

1. No action required on proposed amendment list.
2. Recommendations will be needed concerning the second scheduled release of reserves.
3. Set a 'scoping' meeting for amendments as required by NEPA.

BACKGROUND

1. The GOA Management Plan Drafting Team met in Seattle on January 29-31 to discuss annual amendments to the FMP. Attachment #1 (list of amendment items discussed) and the following schedule were items discussed:
  - February Meeting . . . . . Present broad amendment categories (Attachment #1)
  - Early March . . . . . Scoping meeting
  - March Meeting . . . . . Present actual amendments
  - April 1 - 20 . . . . . Possible public hearings on amendments
  - April Meeting . . . . . Council action on amendments; effective 1981 plan year
2. The second release of reserves for the Gulf of Alaska is scheduled for March 2. The reserves released by NMFS on January 2, 1980 are shown on Attachment #2. Up to 25% of each reserve amount can be released on a bi-monthly basis (January 2, March 2, May 2 and July 2) to either DAH or TALFF. Data was not available on either

the domestic or foreign catch for this item. ADF&G could not get their figures to us in time for a domestic appraisal and the "best blend" estimates developed by NMFS for the foreign fishery are also not available.

3. A 'scoping' meeting is required by Sec. 1501.7 of CEQ's NEPA regulations and a workplan by NOAA Directives Manual, Chapter 21, Sec. 24 (part of EO12044 process). We file a 'Notice of Intent' to prepare an EIS, then decide if we should at scoping meeting. Estimates of costs and benefits of regulation, etc., are supposed to be decided and decision made as to whether fishery is in need of regulation.

All the above is a fairly new development in the paper blizzard so dearly loved by government. We haven't been caught up in it until now, but it seems inevitable from now on for new FMP's and major revisions. I doubt if we can relax and enjoy it.

HMH

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

*for 1980 plan*

*designed to  
solve  
problem.*

1. Discussed a multi-year, multi-species approach in which MSY, OY and Reserve apply to the groundfish complex as a whole with TAC ranges established for individual species groups. Between-year adjustments within each TAC range would be accomplished by the regulatory rather than the amendment process.
2. Discussed a "package" of amendments dealing with Prohibited Species which would allow doing away with most time/area closures. The elements of the package are:
  - a. To establish limits on the tonnage of each Prohibited Species that will be allowed (but must still be discarded), which will be allocated to DAH and TALFF and if exceeded cause closure of entire national fishery.
  - b. Economic disincentive (per July 1979 letter to Branson) with options as to whether it should apply to domestic fishermen.
  - c. Funding for sufficient observer coverage to assure that Prohibited Species catches do not exceed the allowed tonnage.
3. Consider the following OY changes:
  - a. Cod, sablefish.
  - b. Re-consider OY for possible establishment of Gulf-wide OY for squid, other rockfish, other species and Atka mackerel.
  - c. Re-evaluate rockfish OY, especially those rockfish considered in the Pacific ocean perch category.
4. Re-examine the six Kodiak gear sanctuaries and consider Kodiak king crab area closure and the need for Tanner crab sanctuaries.
  - a. Modify the Regional Director's in-season authority to implement time/area closures based on gear conflict and ground pre-emption considerations.
5. Examine processor preference amendments, especially:
  - a. Closure to all foreign fishing around Kodiak;
  - b. Other time/area closures as appropriate.
6. Amend the plan to put all current year data in Appendices.
7. Consider sablefish as a directed longline fishery.

8. Examine and evaluate a prohibition on foreign trawling in SE and Yakutat districts.
9. Amend the plan year.
10. Change all notations of idiot rockfish to thornyhead.
11. Establish all reserves Gulf-wide.
12. Re-evaluate the need for foreign trawl restrictions in the western Aleutians.

GULF OF ALASKA RESERVE AMOUNTS (mt)

	<u>Base Amount</u>		<u>1st release</u>
Pollock	33.76	- 25% =	8.44
Pacific cod	12.0		3.0
Flounders	6.7		1.675
Pacific ocean perch	5.0		1.25
Other rockfish	1.52		0.325
Sablefish	2.6		0.295 (no apportionment in Eastern area)
Atka mackerel	5.74		1.435
Squid	1.0		0.25
Rattail	2.64		0.66
Idiot rockfish	0.75		0.123
Other species	<u>3.34</u>		0.81
	74.83		<u>18.263</u>

First Reserve Release deducted

Pollock	25.32	
Pacific cod	9.0	
Flounders	5.025	
Pacific ocean perch	3.75	
Other rockfish	1.195	
Sablefish	2.305	
Atka mackerel	4.305	
Squid	0.75	
Rattail	1.98	
Idiot rockfish	0.562	
Other species	<u>2.43</u>	
	56.622	Total reserves remaining after 1st release

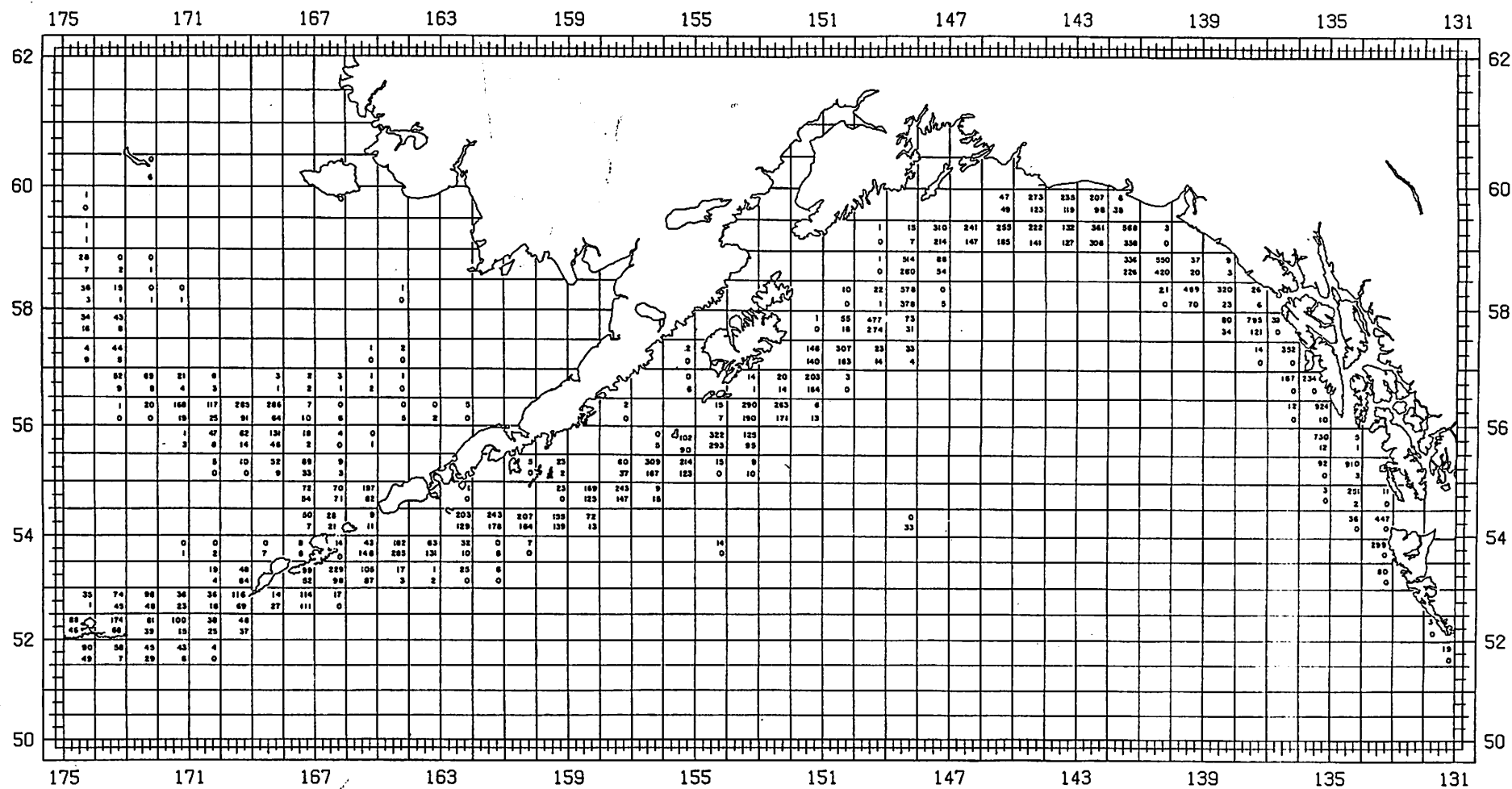
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Amounts of reserves (metric tons) that are being apportioned to TALFF or retained as reserves are summarized in the following table:

January 2, 1980, Reserve Apportionment (1,000's mt) by Regulatory Area

Species	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Pollock				
Apportioned	2.85	4.76	0.83	8.44
Retained	8.55	14.28	2.49	25.32
Pacific Cod				
Apportioned	0.828	1.677	0.495	3.0
Retained	2.484	5.031	1.485	9.0
Flounders				
Apportioned	0.52	0.735	0.42	1.675
Retained	1.56	2.205	1.26	5.025
Pacific Ocean Perch				
Apportioned	0.135	0.395	0.72	1.25
Retained	0.405	1.185	2.16	3.75
Other Rockfish				
Apportioned	0	0	0.325	0.325
Retained	0.06	0.16	0.975	1.195
Sablefish				
Apportioned	0.105	0.19	0	0.295
Retained	0.315	0.57	1.42	2.305
Atka Mackerel				
Apportioned	0.234	1.042	0.159	1.435
Retained	0.702	3.125	0.478	4.305
Squid				
Apportioned	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.25
Retained	0.15	0.3	0.3	0.75
Rattails				
Apportioned	0.165	0.355	0.14	0.66
Retained	0.495	1.065	0.42	1.98
Idiot Rockfish				
Apportioned				0.183
Retained				0.562
Other Species				
Apportioned	0.22	0.43	0.16	0.81
Retained	0.66	1.29	0.48	2.43

Figure 1. Combined Japanese, Soviet, and Republic of Korea commercial catches (metric tons) of sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) for 1977 and 1978\*.

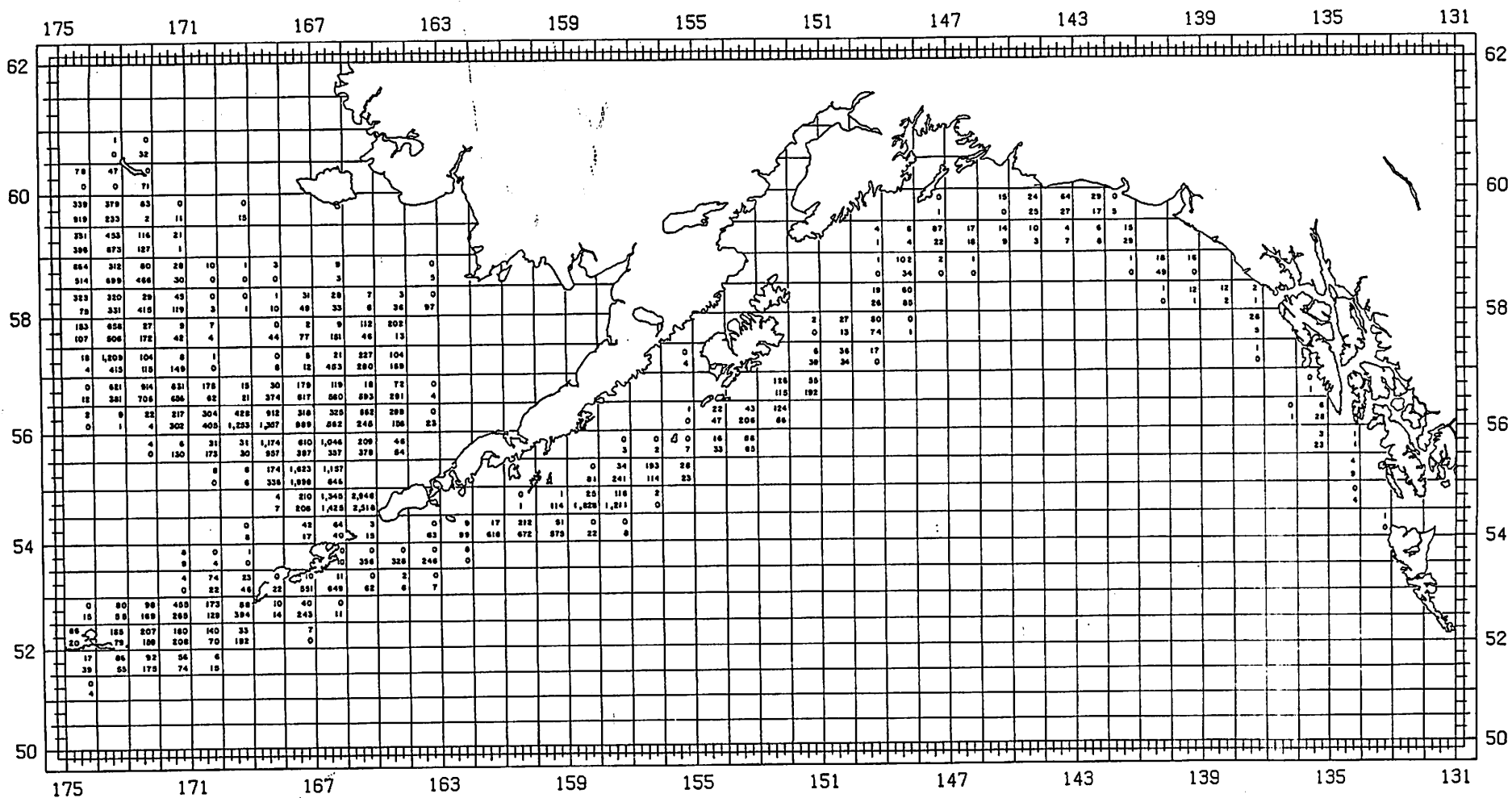


\* Legend: Top number 1977 catch  
Bottom number 1978 catch

Received 2/6/80  
from Dr. J. Balsiger  
NW&AFC of NMFS

Agenda G-2  
Feb. 1980

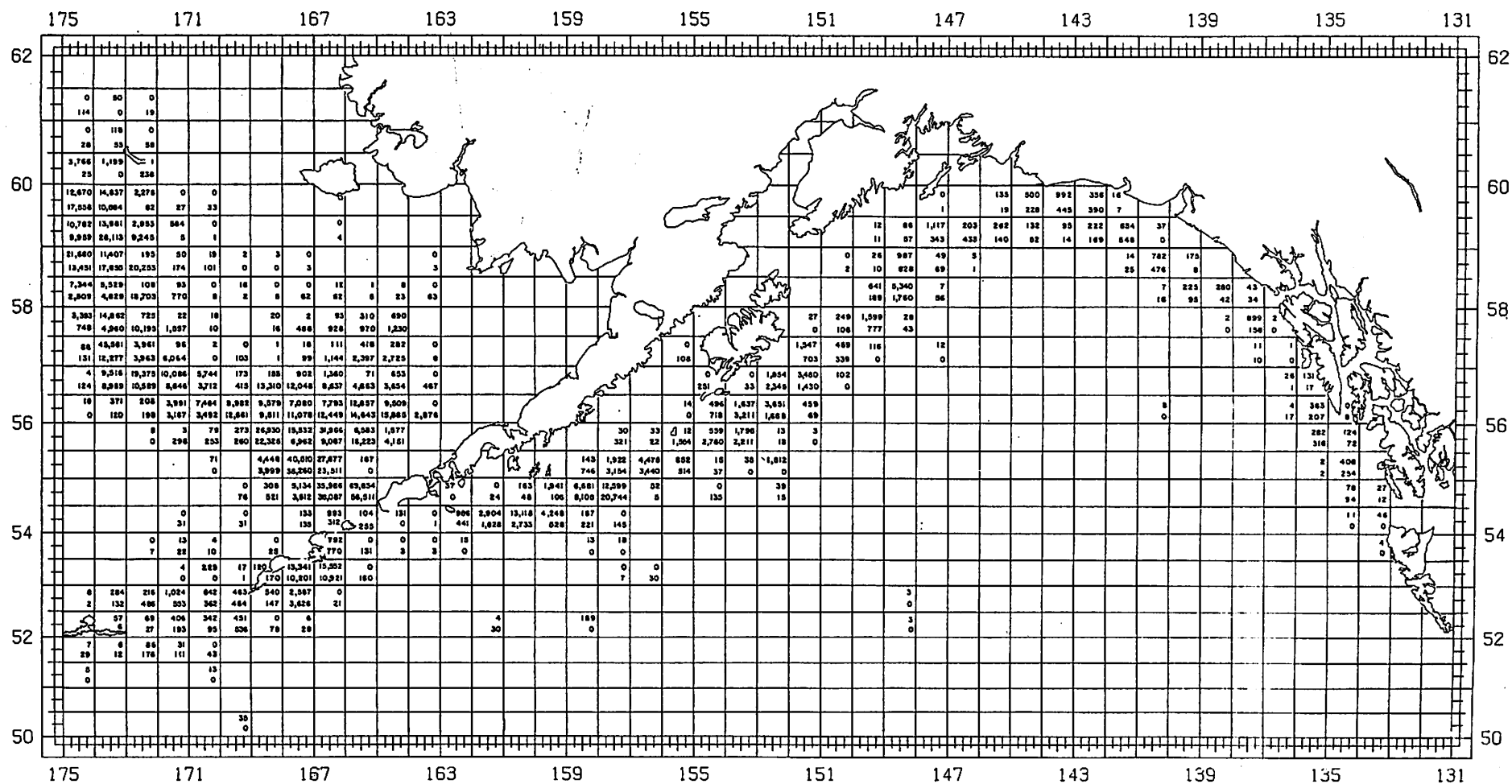
Figure 2. Combined Japanese, Soviet, and Republic of Korea commercial catches (metric tons) of Pacific cod (Gadus macrocephalus) for 1977 and 1978\*.



\* Legend: Top number 1977 catch  
Bottom number 1978 catch

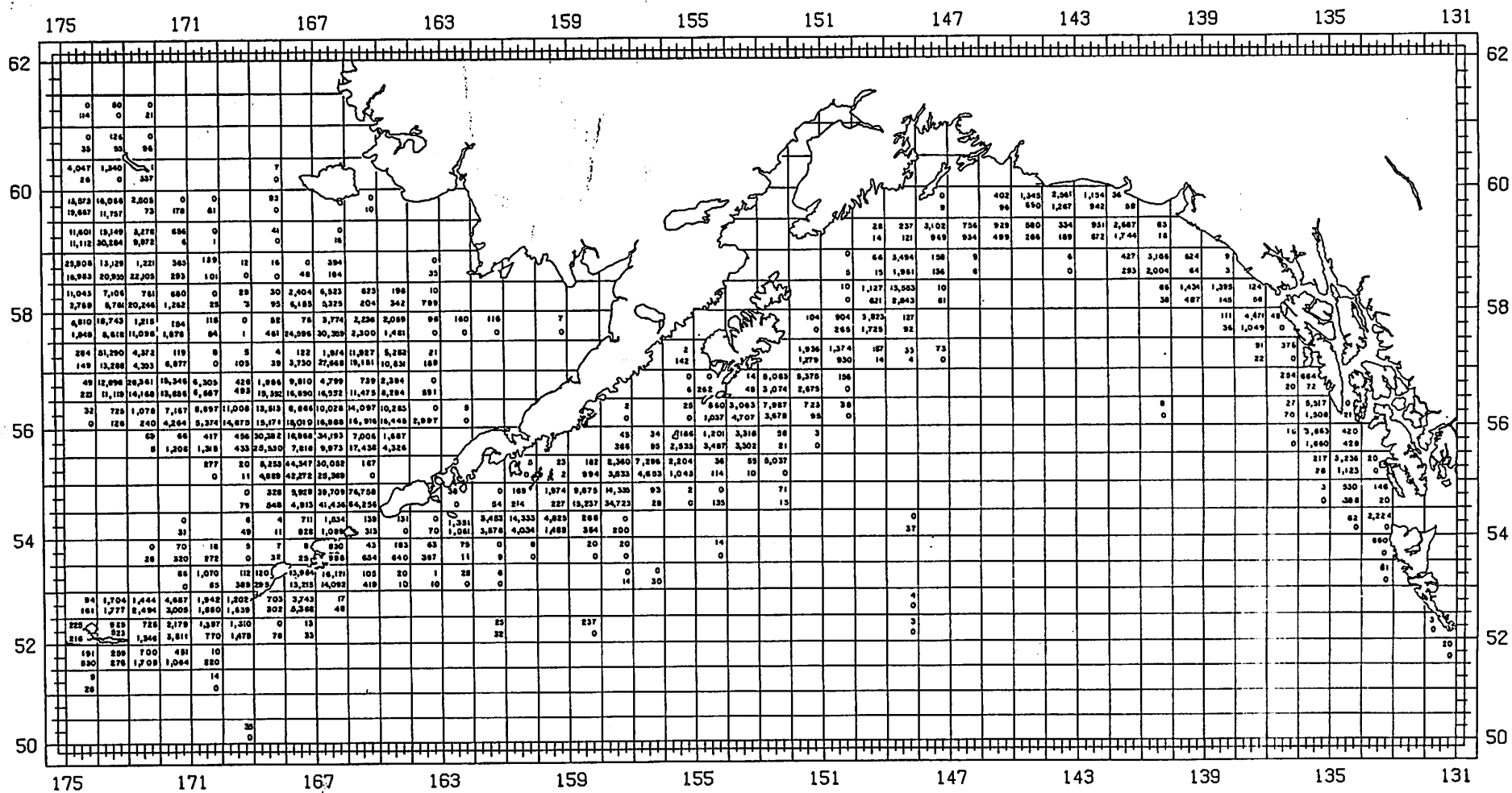


Figure 3. Combined Japanese, Soviet, and Republic of Korea commercial catches (metric tons) of pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) for 1977 and 1978\*.



\* Legend: Top number 1977 catch  
Bottom number 1978 catch

Figure 4. Combined Japanese, Soviet, and Republic of Korea commercial catches (metric tons) of all species combined for 1977 and 1978\*.



\* Legend: Top number 1977 catch  
Bottom number 1978 catch

from Ted Evans, Marine Resources Inc. -

Total observed data through 1/26/80  
for Joint Venture Catches in Bering Sea:

Turbot 5.81

Other  
Flatfish ~~1.3~~ 1.3

Pollock 411.08

P. Cod 104.17

Herring 16.34

A+ka Mar 16.51

QOP 5.25

Rockfish 0.43

Other ~~11.11~~ ~~19.66~~ 14.61