

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

FOREIGN JOINT VENTURES

Several Joint Venture foreign fishing applications will be considered by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council at their December 12, 13 and 14 meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Part of the Joint Venture applications are from four Korean ships, the BOOK NEUNG HO, the SOO GONG 51, the TAE YANG 12 (cargo ship) and the IL WOE 58 (cargo ship) all fishing for the Korean Marine Industrial Development Corporation (KMIDC). They have requested 84,000 metric tons in the Gulf of Alaska and 65,000 metric tons in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands. In considering these Joint Venture applications, the Council will also consider open areas to foreign fishing and processing of U.S. caught fish.

Joint Venture applications from the USSR (Marine Resources, Inc.) will also be considered for the Bering Sea for 32,000 metric tons (including 5,000 metric tons of herring) and 14,750 metric tons in the Gulf of Alaska.

Other foreign applications will also be considered by the Council for fishing vessels that have committed serious violations of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act during 1979.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Council has conducted six public hearings on the Draft Fishery Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Herring in the Bering-Chukchi Sea. Hearings were held in Nome, Kotzebue, Unalakleet, Dillingham, Kodiak and Anchorage. The hearings scheduled for Bethel, Tooksook Bay, and Hooper Bay were postponed because several Council members were out of the country, and Togiak because of weather. They will be rescheduled for January. Attendance at the public hearings has been fair with a lot of comments directed at the nearshore issues of interest to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Kodiak public hearing also addressed the "Gear Conflict/Grounds Preemption" problem suffered by the Kodiak king crab fleet from several Polish trawlers this fall. More testimony on this matter will also be taken at the Council meeting in December.

Public hearings on troll salmon were held jointly with the local Advisory Committees in Pelican, Sitka, Petersburg, Ketchikan and Juneau. Nearly 275 fishermen attended to discuss issues such as the proposed 4-line limit, coho possession in closed areas, area closures and filleting of salmon at sea.

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