

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP
FROM: Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
DATE: September 23, 1983
SUBJECT: Current Foreign Allocations

ACTION REQUIRED

Discussion of problems in allocation releases in a timely manner. Council letter, if desired.

BACKGROUND

Allocations to Japan have been slowed or withheld because of their official objection to the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) moratorium on whaling, scheduled to take effect the season of 1985-86. In addition, no releases from reserves have been made though they were scheduled to be completed by August.

Caught in the same situation is Korea, though they have no part of the whaling problem. An emergency release of 7,000 mt was made to them on September 2; they apparently would have idled their fleet in another three days if they had not gotten it.

Japan's objection to the ban on whaling was dictated by IWC rules - if a country does not object to a ruling within a specified time (30 days?) they automatically approve. Objection is not a positive indication they will not abide by a ruling - in this case a decision that need not be finally made until just prior to the winter of 1985-86.

The Japanese fishing industry's cooperation in joint ventures with fishermen off Alaska this year has been exemplary; withholding the allocation is greatly impeding their fishery. Allocations should certainly not be disrupted to other countries fishing off Alaska in any case.

There will be a delegation from Japan to testify on this issue before the Council.

