Foreign Winter Pollock Fishery in the Aleutian Islands

For the last two years, a large winter foreign fishery on pollock has occurred in the Aleutian Islands area. Prior to that, interest in a winter fishery in that area had been low: a summary of annual catches in months 1-3 follows. In 1980, Japanese small trawlers took slightly over 2,000 mt. In 1981, the same fleet took about 6,000 mt, joined by Japanese large trawlers which took 2,000 mt, and Korean large trawlers with 1,800 mt. In 1982, the combined Japanese fleet took 7,000 mt, the Korean 3,600 mt and FRG joined to take another 400 mt. In 1983, the Japanese catch of pollock in Area 54 during the first two months of the year reached 15,000 mt; Korea's catch exceeded 4,000 mt and FRG's came close to 3,000 mt, for a total exceeding 22,000 mt. The total foreign catch through February 25 of this year is estimated to be 43,500 mt. A table showing the weekly catches is attached. Also attached is a map from the Enforcement Branch showing sightings of vessels during weeks 5-8.

It appears that large concentrations, presumably spawning masses, of pollock are being targeted. The availability of such a concentration of pollock obviously represents an opportunity for any U.S. vessels which have not been able to arrange operations in the simultaneously operating Shelikof fishery.

1984 Foreign Directed Fisheries in the Aleutian Islands Area

	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Japan	Effort 1/	2	14	31	71	222	418	473	233
	Catch,	0	320	396	251	3828	10453	10768	4750
	CPUE ²	0	22.9	12.8	3.5	17.2	25.0	22.8	20.4
ROK	Effort	0	0	0	0	0	46	101	14
	Catch	0	0	0	0	0	2115	7726	240
	CPUE	0	0	0	0	0	46.0	76.5	17.1
FRG 3/	Effort	5	2	7	7	7	3	1	0
	Catch	443	231	777	466	501	9 5	C	0
	CPUE	88.6	115.5	111.0	66.6	72.0	31.7	-	-
TOTAL	Effort	7	16	38	78	229	467	5 75	247
	Catch	443	551	1173	718	4329	12664	18494	
	CPUE	63.3	34.4	30.9	9.2	18.9	27.1	32.2	

Effort is counted as days checked into an area, which is not necessarily equivalent to days fished, so CPUE may be underestimated.



^{2/} CPUE in metric tons per vessel day.

 $[\]underline{3}/$ FRG's larger CPUE is due to the larger size of its vessel. (Japanese fleet is mostly composed of small trawlers). FRG ceased in week six due to reaching its quota.

SIGHTING POSITIONS FOR 840122 TO 840229 NATIONALITY: ALL VESSEL TYPE: ALL AREA 52 AREA 51 60N AREA 53 55N AREA 65 AREA 62 AREA 63 AREA 54 AREA 61 50N , AREA 64

55 W

7 5 E

8

0

5

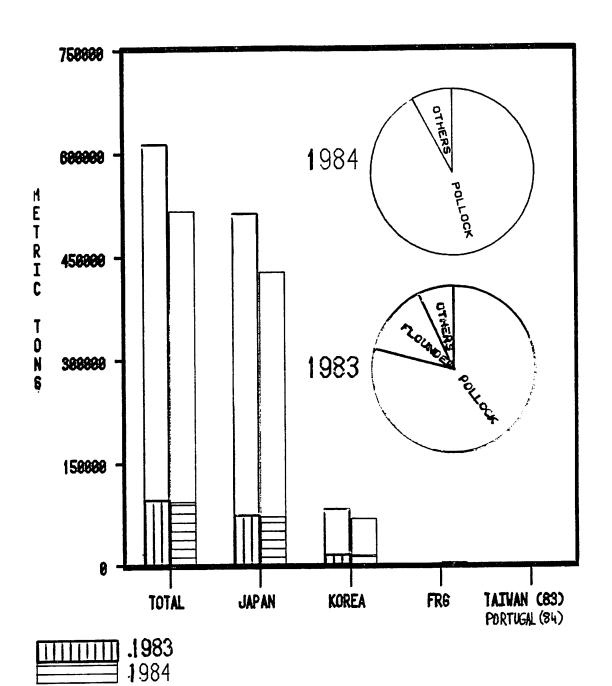
7 0 E

3 5 W

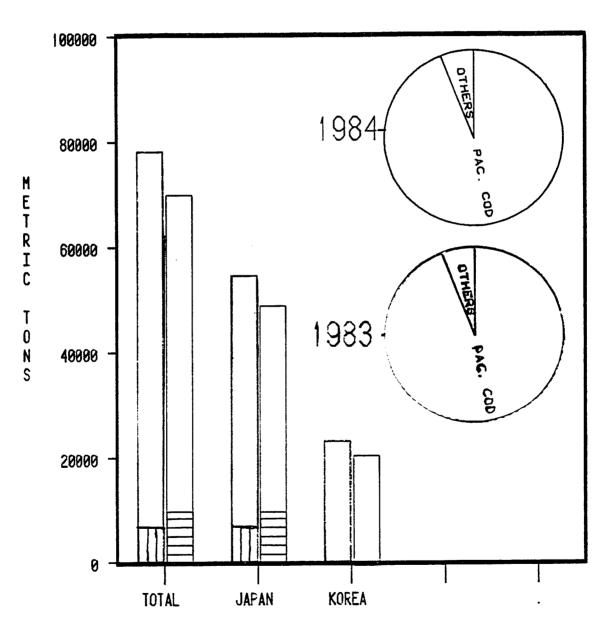
5 W

FOREIGN FISHING: BERING SEA/ALEUTIANS

CATCH AND ALLOCATIONS (through mid-March)

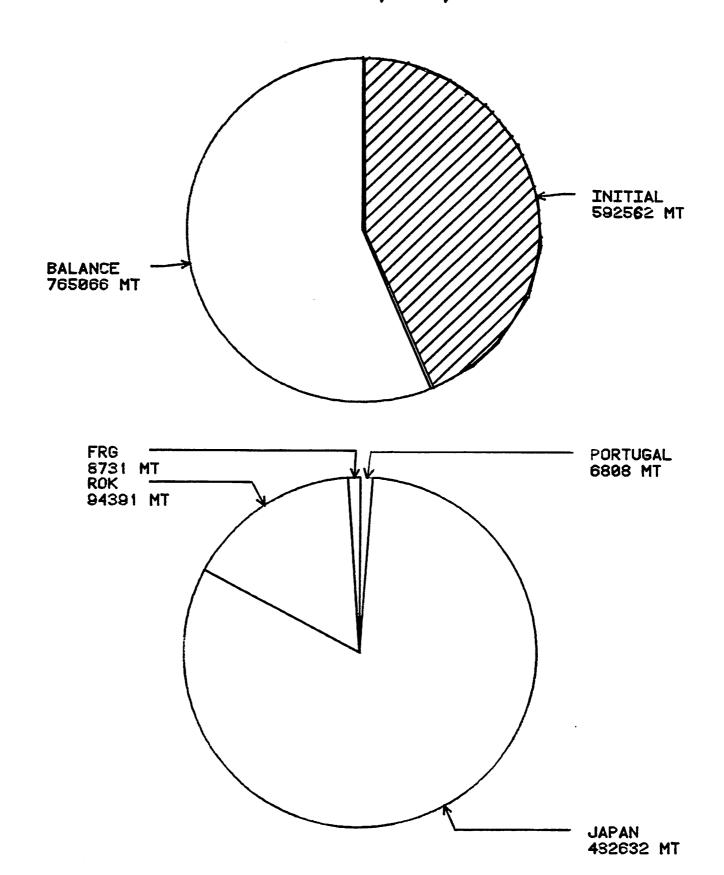


FOREIGN FISHING: GULF OF ALASKA CATCH AND ALLOCATIONS (through mid-March)



1983 1984

ALLOCATIONS OF TALFF OFF ALASKA INITIAL 1984 TALFF = 1,357,628 MT



1984 JOINT VENTURES OFF ALASKA

GULF OF ALASKA

	VENTURE	NUMBER OF FOREIGN	
*	TAIWAN/ALASKA CONTACT NIPPON SUISAN/UNIVERSAL SEAFOODS OHTORI AND KYOKUYO/ WHITNEY FIDALGO NICHIRO/PETER PAN	1 4 2 1	1 7 5 2
*	HOKO/ALYESKA FISHERIES TAIYO/WESTWARD FISHERIES SAMHO/ALASKAN J-V FISHERY DONGWON AND SILLA/PROFISH	1 3 2 3	4 8 4 6
*	OYANG AND NAMBUG/J.V. FISHERIES HANSUNG/ALASKA CONTACT KOREA WONGANG/FISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIA MARINE ENTERPRISE/CALALASKA NORDSTERN/ALYESKA FISHERIES U.S.S.R./MARINE RESOURCES CO.	2 1 TES 4 1 1 	3 2 7 1 5
	TOTAL	31	53 ² /

CATCH THROUGH MARCH 17:

POLLOCK	143,634		
ALL OTHERS	2,758		
TOTAL	146,392		

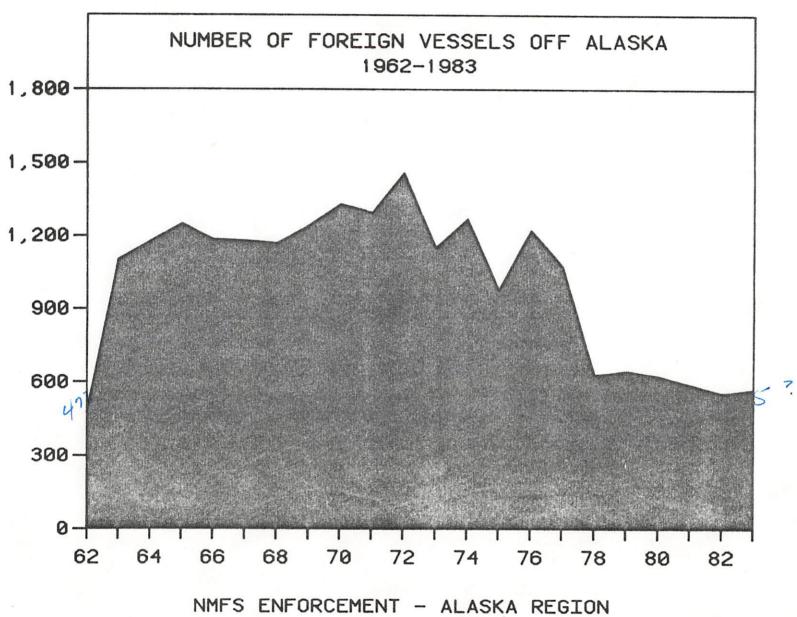
BERING SEA/ALEUTIANS

VENTURE		NUMBER OF FOREIGN	VESSELS U.S.
* U.S.S.R./MARINE RESOURCES * HOKO/ALYESKA FISHERIES * TAIYO/WESTWARD FISHERIES OHTORI/WHITNEY-FIDALGO	CO.	5 1 3 1	15 4 7 3
	TOTAL	10	29

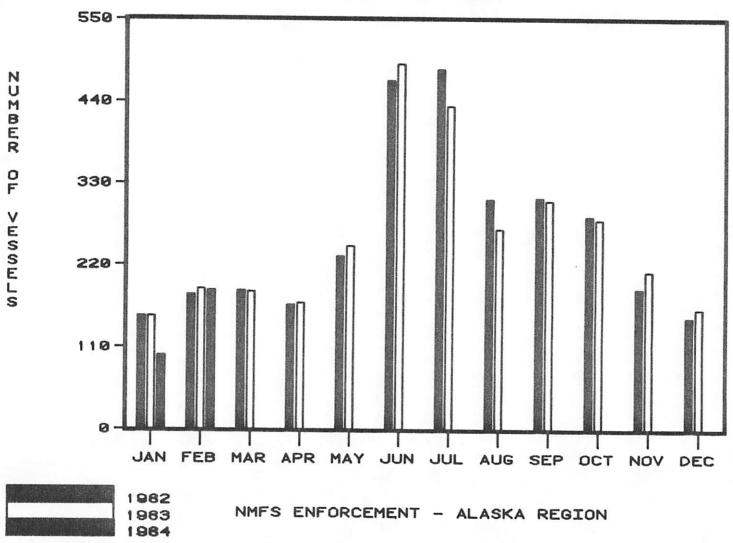
CATCH THROUGH MARCH 17:

POLLOCK	2,414
PACIFIC COD	6,989
OTHERS	905
TOTAL	10,308

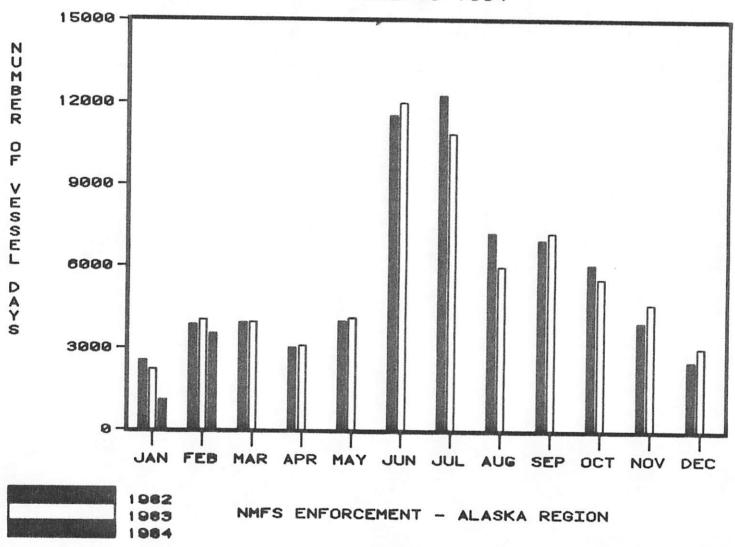
- Maximum number; not necessarily present concurrently. Some U.S. vessels have fished for more than one joint venture.
- Operating as of March 28, 1984.

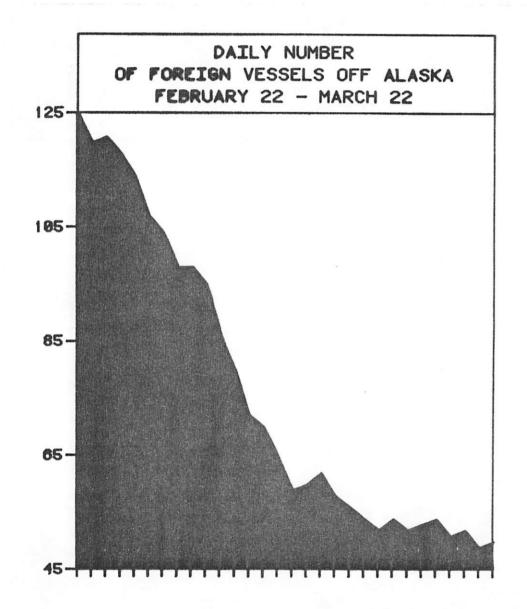


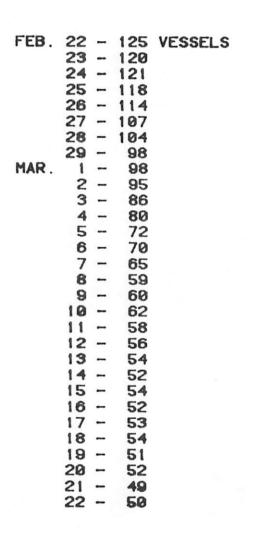
NUMBER OF FOREIGN VESSELS OFF ALASKA 1962 TO 1984



NUMBER OF FOREIGN VESSEL DAYS OFF ALASKA 1982 TO 1884

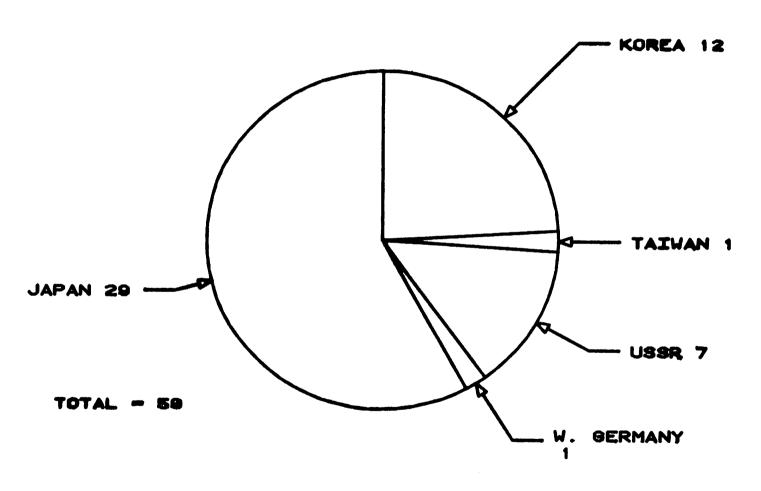




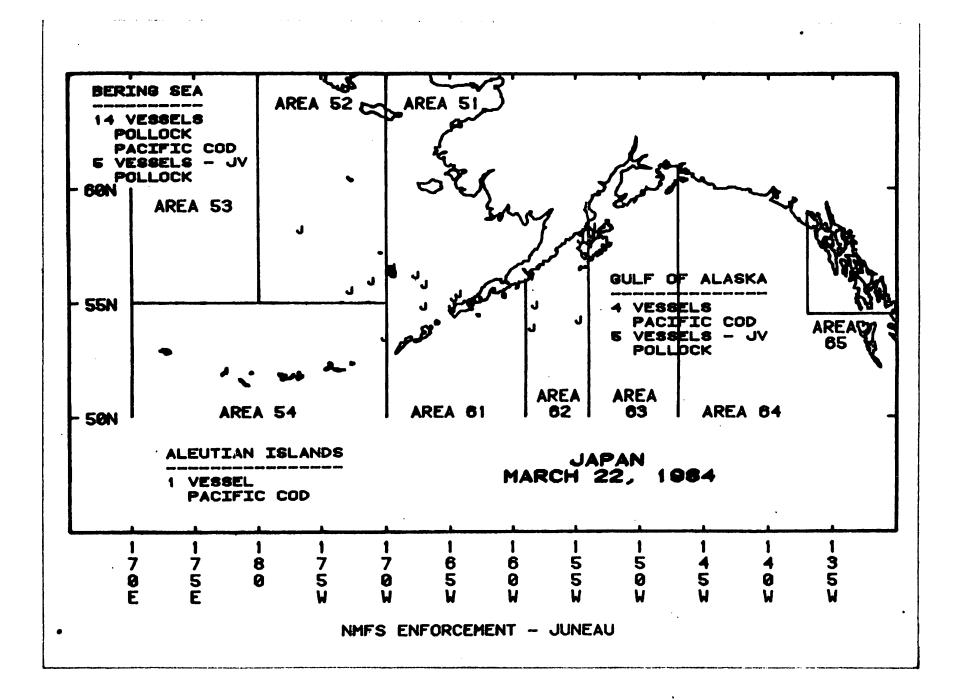


NMFS ENFORCEMENT - ALASKA REGION

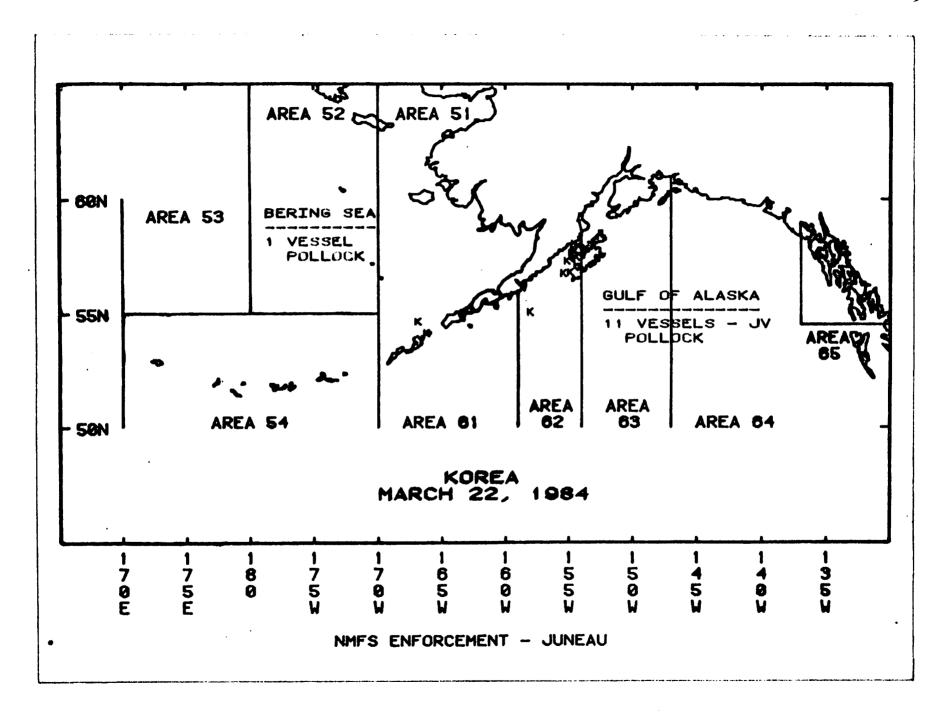
MARCH 22, 1984

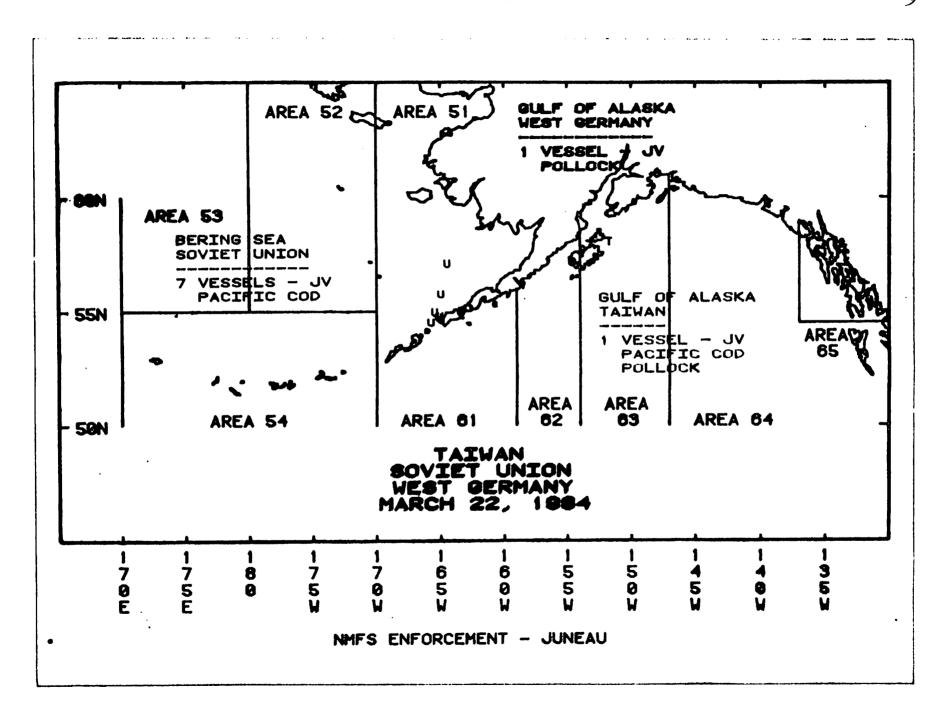


NMFS ENFORCEMENT - JUNEAU



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RECEIVED MAR 2 6 1984

Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management

TO: F/NWC2 - Rich Marasco

FROM: F/NWC2 - Russ Nelson

SUBJECT: Report of observer activities through February, 1984

The attached tables summarize observer coverage (Tables 1-4) and estimated catches of prohibited species (Tables 5-10) in the foreign and joint-venture fisheries in the Alaska and Northwest regions through February, 1984. Also included in the tables are the estimated catches of prohibited species from 1983 for comparison with the 1984 fishery.

All 1983 and 1984 data are provisional at this time.

In 1984, we are attempting to provide 100% coverage of all foreign and joint-venture fisheries. Overall observer coverage in the Alaska region through February, 1984 was 76.0% (Table 1). Coverage during this same period in 1983 was 20.2%. By region in Alaska, the 1984 coverage was 74.5% in the Bering Sea/Aleutian region and 79.5% in the Gulf of Alaska. There was no fishing through February in the Washington-Oregon-California (WOC) region. Tables 2-4 provide more detailed information on foreign effort and observer coverage by vessel class for each region.

Alaska Region Groundfish and Incidental Catches

Bering Sea (Tables 5-6)

During February, 1984, the foreign groundfish fishery landed approximately 78,600 t of fish. This brings the total catch for the year to 93,000 t of fish. This represents a 23.5% increase over that landed for the same time period in 1983. The total incidental catches (in numbers) of halibut, salmon, king crab, and Tanner crab were all lower than those taken in 1983 by 65.1%, 30.0%, 98.9%, and 84.8%, respectively. This is due to the increased use of pelagic gear directed toward pollock in 1984. In 1983, pollock made up 82.0% of the catch; in 1984, it was 92.5%.

Through February, 1984, joint-venture fisheries landed approximately 5,100 t of groundfish, compared to 500 t for the same time period in 1983. The catch of halibut increased three-fold and that of Tanner crab increased 150%. Small numbers of king crab and salmon were caught in 1984, which is comparable to the low levels caught in 1983.

Gulf of Alaska (Tables 7-8)

The foreign groundfish fishery landed approximately 7,300 t of groundfish in February, 1984. This brings the total catch for the year to 9,400 t. This is an increase of 70.9% over the same time period in 1983. There were no salmon and few king crab taken in 1984, which is comparable to the low levels caught in 1983. The catch of Tanner crab decreased 67.6%. The incidental catch of halibut increased 96.1% in numbers and 108.3% in weight. Almost all of the foreign fishing was performed by the foreign longline fishery.

The joint-venture fishery landed about 81,700 t of groundfish in February, 1984, for a year-to-date total of approximately 87,600 t. This is almost twice the 45,100 t of fish caught in the same time period in 1983. There were substantial increases in the incidental catches of halibut, Tanner crab, and salmon in 1984. The estimated incidental catch of halibut was about 38,300 fish as compared to 100 fish in 1983. It was also estimated that 10,800 Tanner crab have been caught in 1984 as compared to no incidental catch a year ago. The incidental catch of salmon increased 260% in 1984. The primary reason for the increase in halibut and Tanner crab catch was the addition of bottom trawl joint-ventures in the Gulf for flounders, cod and pollock in 1984. In January and February of 1983, the only joint-venture was a pelagic fishery for pollock in the Shelikof Straits. The Shelikof fishery began late in January this year and was responsible for the 260% increase in the incidental catch of salmon over 1983.

WOC Groundfish and Incidental Catches (Tables 9-10)

There was no activity in this fishery through February of 1983 or 1984.

cc:

F/AKR - J. Brooks

F/NWR3 - H. Hutchings

NPFMC - J. Branson

PFMC - J. Greenley