

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, AP and SSC Members

FROM: Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director



DATE: June 18, 1991

SUBJECT: International Fisheries

ACTION REQUIRED

Review high seas driftnet agreements and results of international fisheries meetings.

BACKGROUND

Driftnet agreements have been signed with Japan, Taiwan, and Korea. They are summarized in C-4(a) and I have available the full details for each country. Taiwan has limited its squid and tuna fleet to 240 vessels, but overall the provisions are similar to the 1990 agreements. The article at C-4(b) indicates that Japan did not follow through on its 1990 agreement.

The U.S.-USSR Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries met in Moscow on May 21-24, 1991. A joint press statement is at C-4(c). Several Council members attended the meeting and can fill us in on the details at the Executive Session at Wednesday lunch. Additional international meetings will be held this August.

NORTH PACIFIC HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET AGREEMENTS FOR 1991

COUNTRIES	JAPAN	TAIWAN	KOREA
Most recent agreement	12 April 1991	21 March 1991	8 May 1991
Parties to agreement	U.S.-Canada-Japan	American Inst. of Taiwan (U.S.)- Taiwan Coord. Council	U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK)(South Korea)
Fisheries Included for 1991	Squid & Tuna	Squid & Tuna	Squid
VESSELS AND NETS			
Vessels must be licensed, clearly marked, and a list must be provided to U.S.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limit on Number of Vessels	460 Squid 200 Tuna	240 Squid & Tuna	160 Squid
Vessel must report location	Yes	Yes	Yes
VESSELS FROM ALL COUNTRIES MUST REPORT MONTHLY CATCH & EFFORT			
Nets must be marked-- May not be discarded	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mesh size of nets	Prohibition on carrying both large and small mesh nets	Prohibition on carrying both large and small mesh nets	Will regulate
At-sea transfer to transport vessels	Prohibited	Only to Taiwan vessels with transmitters	Only under ROK managers on vessels with transmitters
Off-loading at home ports	Under surveillance	For all permitted resources except tuna	For all permitted resources
MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT			
Enforcement at Sea-1991	5 patrol vessels for total of 600 vessel/days. Will provide report after season	3 patrol vessels for total of 310 vessel/days for continuous presence. Will provide report after season	1 vessel year-round; 2 in peak months
Enforcement Observer Exchange	1 U.S. on 1 Japan patrol 1 Japan on 1 U.S. flight	Yes, but no details	Yes, but no details
U.S. Boarding and Inspection	Under terms of INPFC	Taiwan will permit for vessels outside approved areas and under certain circumstances for vessels in approved areas	ROK will permit for all driftnet and transport vessels
Cooperative Enforcement	Will monitor ROK and Taiwan fleets	No Provision	No Provision
Transmitters on vessels with satellite surveillance--1991	All squid and tuna vessels	All vessels	All vessels
Retention of Salmon	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

MARINE MAMMAL NEWS

-6-

May 1991

to be "blanketed" with seals and penquins and their young during the breeding season.

Recent advances in technology have now made it economical to harvest krill for human and livestock consumption, prompting the need to determine the effects of krill harvesting on the ecosystem. The NOAA research is designed to anticipate any problem which might develop in the future, as the current take is about 400,000 tons per year, only a small fraction of the total Antarctic krill population.

"The big concern is that some krill harvesting areas may be more ecologically sensitive than others," stressed the cruise leader, Roger Hewitt. Seals, penquins and seabirds appear to be restricted during their breeding season to krill feeding areas immediately surrounding their rookeries. Depletion of krill in these areas could have serious consequences for these predator populations, even though fishing puts only a small dent in the overall krill population.

* "OUR GOVERNMENT IS BEING USED, ABUSED AND CONFUSED BY DRIFTNET PIRATES who rape and pillage our high seas on one hand and deliberately deceive us on the other." That's Rep. Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA) talking about the need for tougher enforcement efforts, and even a U.S. military effort, against nations "that have no intention of meeting a deadline for submitting data on their 1990 driftnet catch."

Under bilateral agreements in the Driftnet Control Act, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea are supposed to provide the U.S. with data on the driftnet catch from the previous year's fishing season. For Japan and Taiwan, this year's deadline for release of the data was 1Jun91, six months after the end of the 1990 season.

"But," reported Unsoeld, "Japan and Taiwan are ignoring" the deadline, with Japan apparently submitting its data in the wrong format and Taiwan saying it will submit its data at the end of the month. "This nonsense has got to stop," according to the congresswoman. The 1989 observer data shows the Japanese squid fishery "indiscriminately" caught 1,900 northern fur seals, 11,000 northern right whale dolphins, 6,000 Pacific white-sided dolphins, and enough Columbian River steelhead to exceed the U.S. recreational quota, Unsoeld said, citing figures from the Natl. Marine Fisheries Service.

In addition, Unsoeld said the observer data already is skewed because U.S. negotiators agreed to a relatively low number of observers and it has been difficult to know the extent of the salmon bycatch. "What really galls me," Unsoeld said, "is that Japan has reached new heights of hypocrisy by saying there is not enough driftnet data one day, then delaying and disputing available data the next.

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Joint Press Statement

The U.S.-USSR Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Fisheries, which was established pursuant to the May 31, 1988, U.S.-USSR Agreement on Mutual Fisheries Relations, held its fourth meeting in Moscow, from May 21-24, 1991. The Committee considered a wide range of issues, including the status of the draft Convention on Conservation of Anadromous Resources of the North Pacific Ocean, additional interim measures for conservation of Alaska pollock in the central Bering Sea area, expansion and deepening of American-Soviet cooperation in the field of fisheries, including training of specialists able to work under market economy conditions.

The two delegations were headed by their respective representatives on the Committee: Dr. V. K. Zilanov, Deputy Minister of the USSR, Ministry of Fisheries, and David A. Colson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fisheries and Oceans Affairs, Department of State.

The two sides stated that the harvest of Pacific salmonids on the high seas is being continued as before and correspondingly inflicting damage to their respective salmon stocks. The two sides confirmed the coincidence of their positions that salmon fishing beyond 200-nautical mile zones is biologically unjustified and should be terminated as soon as possible.

The two sides expressed their serious concern about further declines of Alaska pollock resources in the Bering Sea due to the continuation of unregulated fishing by vessels from third countries in the central Bering Sea. Taking into account the resolution on conservation and management of marine living resources in the central Bering sea, adopted in Washington, DC, on February 21, 1991, by the delegations of the governments of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Poland, the USSR, and the USA, the two sides confirmed their intention to limit the Alaska pollock fishery in that area as well as to exchange data with the other countries that participated at the Conference on catches and fishing effort for the first quarter of 1991 by June 1, 1991.

Based on the most recent scientific information available, the two sides reviewed in detail the possible additional interim measures for conservation of Alaska pollock resources in the central Bering Sea.

- 2 -

The two sides confirmed the strong intention of the USA and the USSR as Bering Sea coastal states to cease as soon as possible unregulated Alaska pollock fishing in the central Bering Sea.

The two sides again discussed the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. In light of the UN General Assembly Resolution on such driftnet fishing, the two sides confirmed their intention to cooperate further on this issue, especially with respect to analysis of data gathered on these fisheries.

The two sides agreed on the feasibility for the further expansion and deepening of cooperation between U.S. and USSR enterprises in the field of fisheries.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the USA, the location and venue to be announced at a later date.

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BSA - Doughnut
C-4
Aug 1991

JUN 26 1990

June 20, 1990

Richard B. Lauber
Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Rick:

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is well aware of the difficulties the United States has encountered in our efforts to end high seas fishing practices that adversely impact our fishery resources. The unregulated fishing and pirate raids in our waters by vessels operating in the international waters of the Bering Sea -- the Doughnut -- have long been of particular concern to the Council. In fact, you and others on the Council are advisors to the U.S. government in our negotiations with other nations to halt these practices.

Over three years ago I introduced S.Res. 396, a resolution unanimously approved by the Senate, which called on the State Department to negotiate an immediate moratorium on fishing in the Doughnut. I am sad to say that such a moratorium is not yet in place. Instead, the U.S. will be meeting with five other nations in Tokyo next month to discuss limiting fishing in the Doughnut to the 1988 level. To me, and I know that you and others share this sentiment, a limit to the 1988 levels does not go far enough. Stronger action is needed.

The Council could take such action by prohibiting any vessel or processing facility from participating in any fishery under the Council's jurisdiction if such vessel or processing facility is owned or chartered, in whole or in part, by any corporation, partnership, or person that also owns or charters, in whole or in part, a vessel that fishes in the Doughnut at any time during the year. There is simply no reason for the Council to grant the privilege of participating in a U.S. fishery to persons, partnerships, or corporations that also participate in actions which undermine the conservation and management of our fisheries.

Richard B. Lauber
June 20, 1991
Page Two

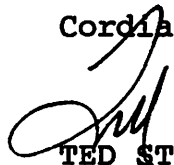
This same prohibition could also be applied to vessels or processing facilities operated by corporations, partnerships, or persons that also own or charter vessels that engage in large-scale driftnet fishing beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation. The United Nations General Assembly has passed resolutions calling for a moratorium on such large-scale driftnet fishing after June 30, 1992, and it is U.S. policy that there should be a permanent ban. Expansion of the cross-ownership prohibition on Doughnut fishing to include large-scale driftnet fishing would further strengthen the U.S. efforts to bring an end to these curtains of death.

In 1976 Senator Magnuson and I convinced Congress to pass the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to protect our fisheries from being devastated by foreign fishermen. That Act created the Council system and gave them the authority to propose further measures to protect the fisheries. The Act also made clear that fishing in U.S. waters is a privilege, not a right. Some people are abusing that privilege by fishing in our zone at the same time that their foreign-controlled parent corporations operate vessels fishing outside the zone, either in the Doughnut or using large-scale driftnets. I believe that the prohibition I have suggested could be adopted by the Council as a means of ending this abuse and reducing these threats to our fisheries.

I hope that the Council can address this issue at their meeting next week.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS