MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Jim H. Branson

Executive Director

DATE: May 15, 1985

SUBJECT: Trawl closures to protect king crab aggregations.

ACTION REQUIRED

Information Only

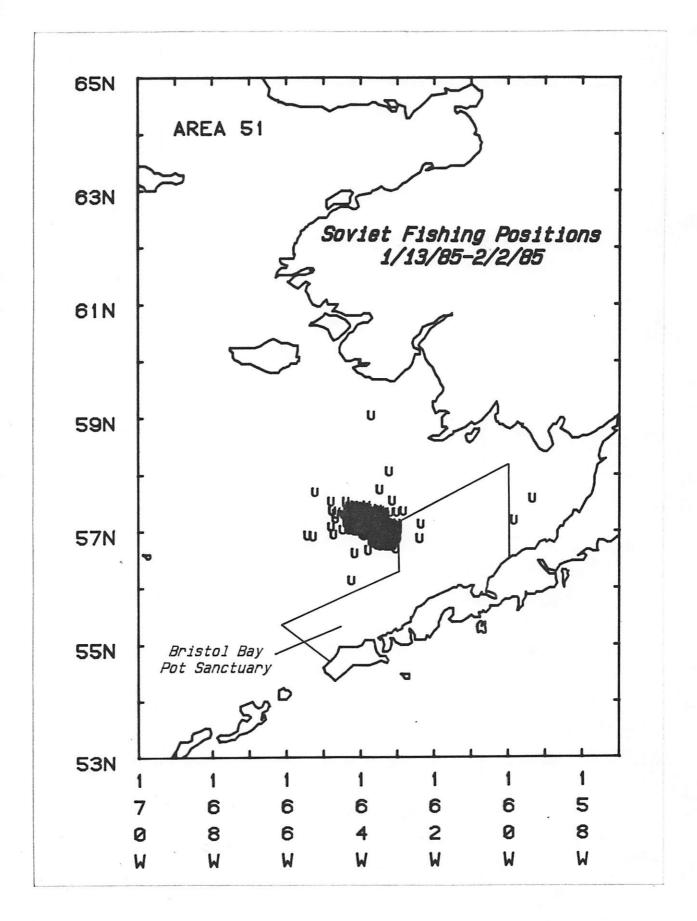
BACKGROUND

The Bering Sea and Aleutians Groundfish FMP limits the foreign bycatch of king crab, Tanner crab, halibut and salmon. Each nation receives a prohibited species catch limit (PSC) in proportion to its directed fishing allocation (Table 1). The plan provides that the Regional director shall close the entire management area to a nation's trawlers when its PSC is reached. Some selected fleet elements may be exempted.

Early this year the Soviet yellowfin sole operation far exceeded its PSC before NMFS could curtail the fishery. The Soviets caught 51,185 crabs, well above their PSC of 13,650.

In March the Council expressed great concern over the high Soviet bycatch and asked the Plan Team to examine available data on king crab distribution over time to determine if areas of aggregation could be identified for possible spot closures at certain times of the year. The Team has reviewed a report by Dave Somerton and Jeff June addressing this issue, and has gathered additional information as well. Unfortunately the Team has been unable to get all the data necessary to recommend specific time/area closures in time for this meeting. A comprehensive report will be available prior to the September meeting.

MAY 9 85	1985 CUM. CATCH	BERING SI			
	GROUNDFISH MT.		KING CRAB	TANNER CRAB	SALMON NO.
JAPAN				.,0.	110.
CATCH	55,1 <i>77</i>	86.4	4.986	84.288	652
QUOTA	501,578	737	282,714	4,934,875	11,709
KOREA					
CATCH	17,240	7.9	1.177	14,351	11
QUOTA	128,041	188	72,170	1,259,757	2,989
PORTUGAL					
CATCH	0	0-0		0	0
QUOTA	600	1	338	5,903	0 14
POLAND					
CATCH	7,229	0.0	0	12	328
QUOTA	20,600	30	11,611	202,677	481
USSR					
CATCH	10.782	2.0	51 195	17 000	18
QUOTA	24,217	36	13,650	238,264	565
TOTAL					
CATCH	90,428	96	57.348	111,560	1,009
QUOTA	675,036	992	380,484	6.641.477	15,759
	JAPAN CATCH QUOTA KOREA CATCH QUOTA PORTUGAL CATCH QUOTA POLAND CATCH QUOTA USSR CATCH QUOTA TOTAL CATCH	CUM. CATCH GROUNDFISH MT. JAPAN CATCH 55,177 QUOTA 501,578 KOREA CATCH 17,240 QUOTA 128,041 PORTUGAL CATCH 0 QUOTA 600 POLAND CATCH 7,229 QUOTA 20,600 USSR CATCH 10,782 QUOTA 24,217 TOTAL CATCH 90,428	GROUNDFISH HALIBUT MT. MT. JAPAN CATCH 55,177 86.4 QUOTA 501,578 737 KOREA CATCH 17,240 7.9 QUOTA 128,041 188 PORTUGAL CATCH 0 0.0 QUOTA 600 1 POLAND CATCH 7,229 0.0 QUOTA 20,600 30 USSR CATCH 10,782 2.0 QUOTA 24,217 36 TOTAL CATCH 90,428 96	CUM. CATCH REPORT WEEK ENDING GROUNDFISH HALIBUT MT. MT. MT. NO. JAPAN CATCH 55,177 86.4 4,986 QUOTA 501,578 737 282,714 KOREA CATCH 17,240 7.9 1,177 QUOTA 128,041 188 72,170 PORTUGAL CATCH 0 0.0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	CUM. CATCH REPORT WEEK ENDING APR 27 85 GROUNDFISH HALIBUT MT. KING CRAB NO. JAPAN CATCH 55,177 86.4 4,986 84,288 GUOTA 501,578 737 282,714 4,934,875 KOREA CATCH QUOTA 128,041 188 72,170 1,259,757 PORTUGAL CATCH QUOTA 600 1 338 5,903 POLAND CATCH 7,229 0.0 0 0 12 GUOTA 7,229 0.0 30 11,611 202,677 USSR CATCH 10,782 2.0 51,185 12,909 GUOTA 24,217 36 13,650 238,264 TOTAL CATCH 90,428 96 57,348 111,560



TAB B-