AGENDA #12 MAY 1979

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April 27, 1979

Dear

My office has received several inquiries regarding application of regulations in the groundfishery. The law is very clear on this point.

Federal fishing regulations that implement the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska require that each U.S. vessel obtain a permit prior to fishing for groundfish in Federal waters. It is my understanding that you possess such a permit.

This permit authorizes fishing in the Fishery Conversation Zone (FCZ, 3 - 200 miles offshore) seaward of the State of Alaska. Neither the FMP or its implementing regulations contemplate preempting the regulations of the Alaska Board of Fisheries within areas of State jurisdiction. State regulations governing the taking of groundfish, therefore, will continue to be effective in all waters of Alaska.

Significant differences exist between State and Federal regulations in terms of seasons, species, and types of gear permitted. All of the State regulations are effective in "waters of Alaska", a term which is defined by Alaska code 5 AAC 39.975(13) as including those waters "extending three miles seaward:

- A) from the coast;
- B) from lines extending from headland to headland across all bays, inlets, straits, passes, sounds, and entrances;
- C) from an island or group of islands including the islands of the Alexander Archipelago, and the waters between the groups of islands and the mainland".

The Alaska Department of Public Safety will continue to enforce the Alaska Commercial Fishing Regulations as prepared by the Alaska Board of Fisheries for commercial fishing in the "waters of Alaska".

Information and regulations are available from the following people:

Paul Peterson Region Finfish Coordinator ADF&G P. O. Box 686 Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Ralph Pirtle Area Management Biologist **ADF&G** P. O. Box 669 Cordova, Alaska 99574

John Valentine Area Management Biologist ADF&G State Court & Office Building 415 Main Street, Room 208 Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Kenneth Griffin Area Management Biologist ADF&G % Standard Oil Dock Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99685

Protection

Thomas Schroeder Area Management Biologist ADF&G P. O. Box 334 Homer, Alaska 99603

Paul Tate Region Finfish Coordinator ADF&G 210 Ferry Way Juneau, Alaska 99801

Jim Parker Area Management Biologist ADF&G P. O. Box 499 Sitka, Alaska

Tim Koeneman Area Management Biologist ADF&G P. O. Box 667 Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Sincerely,

William R. Nix Commissioner

WRN/1sb

Representative Terry Gardner Ronald O. Skoog, Commissioner, ADF&G Avrum Gross, Attorney General Harry L. Rietze, Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service Ron Naab, National Marine Fisheries Service Charles Meachum, Governor's Office John Gissberg, Assistant Attorney General Kim White, Attorney, NOAA Col. Fred M. Woldstad, Director, Div. of Fish and Wildlife

Agend #13 May 1979

Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management 2725 Montlake Boulevard East

Seattle Washington 98112

FUL AND SOUTH TO FILE HAL

Mr. Phil Rigby Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Subport Building Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Phil:

Further to the longline sanctuary question and the Japanese trawlers' proposal for shrinking it to $172^{\circ}W - 178^{\circ}30'W$:

Our 1978 observer data provides the following estimates of the incidental king crab catch (numbers of crabs).

Area	Red & Blue	Golden
Stat. Area IV	11,987	260,440
172 ⁰ ы-1790 <u>г</u>	9,913	64,850
172 ⁰ W-178 ⁰ 30'W	3,757	47,660
178°30'W-179°E	6,156	17,190

Of the total incidental catch of red and blue king crabs in Stat. Area IV, 51 percent (6,156 ÷ 11,987) were taken in the 2½ degree band that the Japanese trawlers want to remain open to them. Another way of looking at it is of the total incidental catch of red and blue king crabs in Stat. Area IV, 83 percent would be protected by the Team's proposed long-line sanctuary but only 31 percent would be protected by the Japanese trawlers' proposal—a difference of 6,156 crabs.

Balanced against this difference in the incidental king crab catch by foreign trawlers are the following foreign trawl catch statistics (for 1977, the last year of complete record):

Area	Foreign Trawl Catch (mt)
Stat. Area IV	64,238
172 ⁰ W-179 ⁰ E	12,086
172°W-178°30'W	6,424
178°30'W-179°E	5,660

The difference, then, between the Team's proposal and that of the Japanese trawlers amounts to 5,660 mt of groundfish that would no longer be available to trawlers. Some of that "lost" production would, presumably, be taken by longliners—my guess would be about one-third-resulting in a net loss of potential groundfish production of some 3,800 mt $(2/3 \times 5,660)$.

Therefore, the absolute difference between the Team's proposal $(172^{\circ}W-179^{\circ}E)$ and the Japanese trawlers' alternative $(172^{\circ}W-178^{\circ}30'W)$ boils down to saving 6,156 red and blue king crabs (and 17,190 golden king crabs) vs. losing 3,800 mt of groundfish production.

Finally, a very rough consideration of the economics involved. The average weight of the trawl-caught crabs was about one kilogram (2.2 pounds). I understand from our crab biologists that the biomass of a king crab cohort will increase about 65 percent during the time its individuals grow from 2.2 pounds to the average weight at recruitment to the pot fishery. Accordingly, the 6.156 crabs discussed above, while representing a current total weight of 13,500 pounds, if saved would result in an enhanced recruitment of 22,275 pounds to the domestic crab fishery. At \$1.25 per pound (current price), the net value of this savings to the domestic fishery would amount to about \$28,000 per year. On the other hand, a quick scan of the current foreign fee schedule indicates that the average ex-vessel value of the "lost" groundfish production is something in the order of \$225 per mt; \$225 x 3,800 mt = \$855,000 per year lost to the foreign groundfish fishery.

While awaiting your comment on the two alternatives and my analysis of them, by copy of this letter to Steve Pennoyer perhaps he can have the SSC begin to consider them as well.

I am enclosing the crab catch charts you sent to me last month--thanks.

Sincerely yours,

B-

H. A. Larkins, Leader BS/A# Groundfish PDT

Encls (4)

cc: Steve Pennoyer, SSC