

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:

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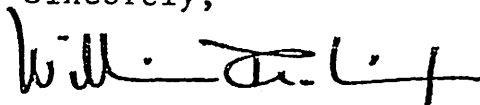
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Sincerely,



William R. Nix
Commissioner

WRN/lsh

cc: 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
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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; $\$225 \times 3,800 \text{ mt} = \$855,000$ 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~~2~~ Groundfish PDT

Encls (4)

cc: Steve Pennoyer, SSC
Jim Branson, NPFMC