

PROPOSED UNITED STATES POSITION

1. Because of time requirements, agreement on halibut should be sought immediately even if agreement on other fisheries issues cannot be secured at the same time.
2. Such agreement should take the form of a new halibut treaty with the same basic provisions as the present treaty with the following additions to the treaty itself or in a protocol to the treaty:
 - A. The new treaty shall continue in effect until April 1, 1981.
 - B. There shall be no increase in effort during the life of the treaty by either country in the offshore waters of the other.
 - (1) This shall be accomplished by restricting Canadian halibut fishing off U.S. waters to those vessels which reported fishing halibut during the years of 1976 and 1977. Similar restrictions shall apply to U.S. vessels fishing halibut off B.C.
 - (2) Any vessel owner having fished during the 1976 and 1977 halibut seasons may replace his vessel with another one of similar size during the period ending April 1, 1981.
3. Prior to July 1, 1980, the Halibut Commission shall conduct research to determine as far as possible:
 - A. The extent and nature of migration of halibut between the whole of Areas 2, 3, and 4.
 - B. The extent and nature of migration of halibut between British Columbia and Southeastern Alaska.
 - C. The proper dividing line between the area where halibut are truly transboundary in their migrations and the area where they are not if it is determined that some halibut are transboundary in nature while others are not.
4. Interested government bodies in both countries shall participate in monitoring the research program.
5. After the research period ends, negotiations shall begin between the two countries on future management of all or part of the halibut resources of the Eastern North Pacific. Any disagreements between the two countries shall be submitted to non-binding arbitration.
6. If an agreement on halibut can be reached before other non-halibut issues have been settled, the halibut settlement shall not stand by itself but shall be given consideration during the negotiations between the two countries on the remaining fisheries issues.

H.E.Lokken
Seattle, Washington
July 14, 1978