

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN FISHING OFF ALASKA
May 1 - May 20, 1977

A total of 217 individual foreign fishing and associated support ships (23 Soviet, 191 Japanese, 2 South Korean, and 1 Taiwanese) engaged in fisheries off Alaska during May. That was an increase of 110 from the previous month and a decrease of 513 from May 1976.

SOVIET ACTIVITIES

The 23 individual Soviet vessels included 18 stern trawlers, 3 refrigerated transports, 1 research vessel, and 1 rescue vessel. This is a decrease of 5 from the previous month and a decrease of 86 from May 1976.

Groundfish Trawl Fishery

The Soviet groundfish trawl fishery consisted of from 9 to 12 stern trawlers fishing in the western Aleutians. Three of these vessels spent mid-month in the Bering Sea fishing for pollock. The fishery was supported by two refrigerated transports and one tug.

Pollock and Herring Fishery

The Soviet effort for pollock consisted of 2 to 4 stern trawlers in the northern Bering Sea along the Continental Shelf edge, with an incidental catch of herring. One refrigerated transport supported the fishery during the month.

JAPANESE ACTIVITIES

The 191 individual Japanese vessels that engaged in fisheries off Alaska included 2 crab factory vessels with 12 catcher vessels, 3 fish factory vessels with 60 catcher vessels, 78 stern trawlers, 19 longliners, 9 refrigerated transports, 6 cargo vessels, and 2 tankers. This represents an increase of 113 from the previous month and a decrease of 390 from May 1976. The majority of this decrease was due to the non-arrival of the high seas salmon fleets in the Alaskan area.

Crab Fishery

Two crab factory ships and 12 catcher vessels continued to fish in Area B, just south of the Pribilof Islands. Four refrigerated transport vessels supported the fishery during the month.

Groundfish Trawl Fishery

The Japanese trawl fisheries along the Continental Shelf continued from April with independent stern trawlers operating in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Aleutians.

The five individual stern trawlers in the Gulf operated off southeast Alaska and were supported by one cargo vessel during the month.

Nineteen stern trawlers fished for groundfish in the central Bering Sea. The major groundfish effort occurred in the Aleutians. During the third week in May, 44 independent stern trawlers checked in to the Aleutian area. They joined 9 other stern trawlers already fishing there. During the month the fishery was supported by 2 refrigerated transports, 1 cargo vessel and 1 tanker.

Pollock Fishery

Three factory ship fleets fished for pollock along the Continental Shelf in the central Bering Sea. One fleet arrived in late April, one in early May, and the other in mid-May. The fleets involved 3 factory vessels, 60 trawlers, 4 refrigerated transports, 4 cargo vessels and 1 tanker.

Sablefish Fishery

Thirteen longline vessels fished for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska, the Aleutians Islands, and the Bering Sea. Five vessels fished in the Aleutians, and two vessels fished in the central Bering Sea near the Pribilof Islands. Six individual longline vessels operated in the Gulf of Alaska in three areas: southeast Alaska, Yakutat grounds, and Albatross Bank of Kodiak Island.

Herring Fishery

The Japanese herring gillnet fishery off the western Alaskan coastline began in the first week of May. By mid-month six vessels were fishing on Bristol Bay flats south of the area closed to herring fishing.

SOUTH KOREAN ACTIVITIES

Two longline vessels continued to fish for sablefish along the Continental Shelf edge from Kodiak Island to the eastern Aleutians.

TAIWANESE ACTIVITIES

One stern trawler began fishing for groundfish in the central Bering Sea in mid-May.

BOARDINGS - 1977
(Jan. 1 - May 20)

	<u>Bering Sea</u>	<u>Aleutians</u>	<u>Gulf of Alaska</u>	<u>Total</u>
Japanese	57	17	66	140
USSR	19	26	9	54
ROK	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	76	43	80	199

(Mar. 1 - May 20)

Japanese	53	15	44	112
USSR	13	24	8	45
ROK	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	66	39	57	162

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

	<u>Violations</u>	<u>Citations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Japanese	3	5	8
USSR	3	3	6
ROK	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	6	9	15 (GT)

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN FISHING PERMITS--1977
PERMITTED AL

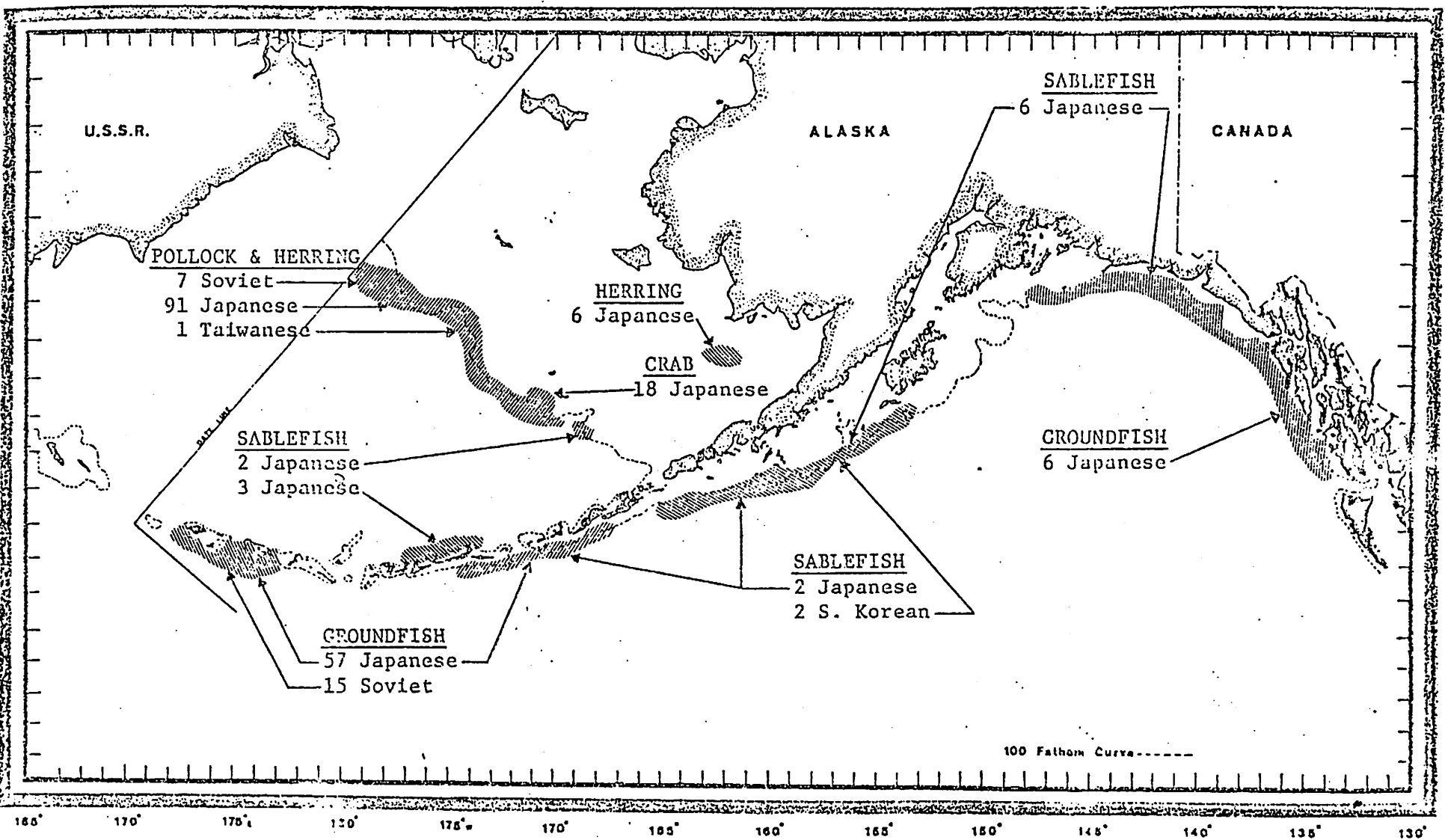
VESSEL TYPE	BERING - ALEUT.					GULF					BERING - ALEUT. & GULF					TOTAL				
	JA	KS	UR	PL	TW	JA	KS	UR	PL	TW	JA	KS	UR	PL	TW	JA	KS	UR	PL	TW
Large Stern Trawl	--	11	36	--	4	--	8	20	6	--	25	1	18	--	--	25	20	74	6	4
Med. Stern Trawl	176	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	--	--	--	--	191	--	--	--	--
Danish/Pair Trawl	80	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	80	--	--	--	--
Factory	8	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	--	2	--	--
Cargo/Transport	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	58	--	41	--	--	60	--	41	2	--
Tanker	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	12	--	--	5	--	12	--	--
Passenger	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tug	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Rescue	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	--
Longliner	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	7	--	--	--	22	7	--	--	--
Crab/Snail Pot	52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	52	--	--	--	--
TOTALS	318	11	42	--	4	--	8	20	8	--	125	8	71	--	--	443	27	133	8	4

Country	No. of Vessel Permits		No. of Vessels Off Alaska		
	Requested	Approved	1976	1975	1974
	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Japan	458	443	533	380	435
USSR	301	133	471	459	448
Korea	77	27	53	21	43
Poland	14	8	0	3	1
Taiwan	29	4	24	2	1
Total	872	615	1081	865	928

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Law Enforcement Branch

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1/ Does not include salmon fleets



Foreign fishing off Alaska, May 1-20, 1977 by country, number of vessels, principle fishing grounds and species fished.

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From: F42/MSKackenzie:5/23/77

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APPENDUM

In late May 1977, informed sources indicated that Japan and the Soviet Union had reached agreement on salmon arrangements for 1977. Under the new arrangements, there will be no Japanese salmon fishing within the Soviet 200 mile zone. Japan's salmon quota outside the Soviet zone will be 62,000 metric tons, broken down

as follows:

Area A

mother ship fishery	23,957 MT
landbased driftnet fishery	5,543 MT

Area B

landbased driftnet fishery	28,900 MT
Japan Sea fishery	3,600 MT

Since most of the landbased fishery has traditionally operated in waters which are beyond the Soviet 200 mile zone, the landbased operations are not substantially affected by the new Soviet restrictions, except in the form of a slightly reduced quota and, in 1977, a later starting fishery than usual due to the delay in reaching agreement. However, because of the reduced quota and later starting fishery one might anticipate a reduced number of North American salmon interceptions by this fishery.

With regard to the mother ship fishery, in 1975 this fishery harvested 25,000 MT of salmon outside the present Soviet 200 mile

zone and about 10,000 MT of salmon within the waters now encompassed by this zone. Since the mothership quota in 1977 is 23,957 MT outside the 200 mile zone, past mothership fishing patterns can be expected to be repeated in 1977. The need for restrictive measures designed to reduce interceptions of North American salmon still exists in 1977 and, if the Japanese high seas salmon fishery continues, the need for restrictive measures will persist because 95% of the North American salmon interceptions have taken place outside the Soviet 200 mile zone.

One question now is how the closure on Japanese salmon fishing within the Soviet 200 mile zone impacts upon the options already put forward in the main body of the options paper. The answer to this depends to some degree on whether the U.S. responds by calling for a total ban on Japanese salmon fishing within the U.S. 200 mile zone as well, limiting high seas salmon fishing operations to waters outside the Soviet and U.S. zones, *or permits access to the U.S. zone in return for certain restrictions to reduce interceptions beyond that zone.*

Approximately 67% of the North American salmon interceptions by Japan's mothership fishery have taken place within the U.S. 200 mile zone. The 1977 Soviet-imposed salmon quota obviously presumes that the Japanese mothership salmon fishery will continue in the U.S. zone. If the fishery in that zone was closed, areas where approximately 50% of the mothership fishery's Asian salmon

catch have been taken would be closed off to Japan.

If a total closure of the U.S. 200 mile zone for Japanese salmon fishing was imposed, there would be no need to consult with Japan in the development of U.S. management plans applicable to that zone. The issue would then be solely restrictions which might be applicable to Japan's salmon fishery beyond the U.S. zone. The question would then arise as to whether the abstention line would need to be maintained, or some similar line which would prohibit Japan from conducting salmon fishing operations in waters where Japan's mothership fishery has not traditionally operated. If the U.S. chose to unilaterally implement measures designed to reduce interceptions beyond the U.S. zone, and Japan accepted those restrictions, one of the unilateral measures could, of course, be a prohibition on Japanese salmon fishing in areas where Japan has not traditionally fished for salmon. Provision could also be made for receiving information from Japan which would be useful to the U.S. in the development of its comprehensive management plan. On the other hand, if Japan was unwilling to accept continued closure of non-traditional salmon fishing areas or restrictions beyond the U.S. zone and outside non-traditional areas without some quid-pro-quo, Japan would be likely to insist that there be some trade-off for continued abstention in certain areas, e.g., continued access to the U.S. 200 mile zone in order to harvest Asian salmon. If the situation

develops in this manner, Options I, II and IV would still
deserve consideration. Furthermore, the Options for Scientific
Forums would still be viable, regardless of the Japan - U.S.S.R.
salmon arrangements.