

Agenda 11.

NMFS
MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS BRANCH
ALASKA REGION
July 25, 1978

1978 JAPANESE PACIFIC COD

LONGLINERS FISHING WEST OF 157°W

	<u>WEEK ENDING</u>	<u>NO. VESSELS</u>	(Estimated) <u>NO. VESSEL DAYS</u>	<u>CATCH (MT)</u>
SHUMAGIN	4/29	6	17	74.4
	5/06	10	53	240.3
	5/13	8	28	119.5
	5/20	3	3	15.3
	6/03	6	13	65.9
	6/10	8	36	226.8
	6/17	4	6	38.9
	6/24	0	0	0
	7/08	2	3	18.1
	7/15	4	17	102.4
		Total	176	901.6
CHIRIKOF	5/06	1	2	8.0
	5/13	2	6	27.5
	6/03	1	1	5.2
	6/10	4	10	67.3
	6/17	5	17	99.7
	6/24	2	3	18.4
	7/08	3	2	13.3
	7/15	4	11	80.7
		Total	52	320.1
TOTAL	4/29	6	17	74.4
	5/06	11	55	248.3
	5/13	10	34	147.0
	5/20	3	3	15.3
	6/03	7	14	71.1
	6/10	12	46	294.1
	6/17	9	23	138.6
	6/24	2	3	18.4
	7/08	5	5	31.4
	7/15	8	28	183.1
		Total	228	1,221.7

7/26/78
Agenda # 11

Incidence of Halibut on Longline Vessels Targeting on Pacific

Cod West of 157°W.

In our letter to Mr. Branson dated June 20, 1978 we summarized the available data on the incidence of halibut in catches of longline vessels when targeting on Pacific cod. Since that date two observers have returned, but reported no significant additions to the data previously reported. One of the observers reported his vessel fished mostly in the Aleutian area for Pacific cod but that he never saw a halibut. They fished briefly for black cod near the Pribilof Islands but were run off the grounds by the presence of killer whales which wiped out the catch. The second observer fished for Pacific cod for only a few days in June in waters of from 160 - 180 m, and the incidence of halibut was one halibut per mt of catch in three days of fishing and 0.1 halibut per mt in two days of fishing. This latter information was provided the Council in the June 20 letter.

We now have three observers at sea under instructions to send radio messages of the incidence of halibut whenever fishing occurs in waters less than 500 m west of 157°W. Three such reports have recently been received and the data are as follows:

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Incidence of halibut no./mt</u>
Tsune Maru #31	Maisonpierre	June 18-24	Aleutian	2.647
Tsune Maru #31	Maisonpierre	July 2-8	Chirikof	2.42
Fukuyoshi Maru 8	Celmer	July 12-15	Shumagin	0.62

Coverage of Japanese longline vessels will continue at the level of three or possibly four observers with the fleet which varies from 12 to 15 vessels.