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BOARD OF FISHERIES***Sitka Halibut Task Force***

Ted Borbridge, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
John Nielson, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Jay Skordahl, Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association
Mike Coleman, skiff longliner
Mary Jo McNally, Sport fisher
Bert Stromquist, Sitka Charter Association
Tim Schwartz, Sitka Charter Association
Kent Hall, Sitka Charter Association
Bill Paden, Chair, Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Eric Jordan, Facilitator

The task force was appointed with 7 voting members by Bill Paden: Two subsistence, one day charter, one trip charter, one skiff longliner, one large vessel longliner, and one sport fisher. The purpose of the task force was to look at the Sitka Tribe's proposal #270 to the Board of Fisheries to close Sitka Sound to the taking of halibut by the guided sport fishery and commercial longliners and see if there was any "common ground" Advisory Committee Chair, Bill Paden, could propose to the Board of Fisheries. The task force met for a total of nearly twelve hours over the course of 3 weeks.

We wish to communicate our thanks to Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association for the generous donation of their facility and equipment.

All findings were reached by consensus and while they may not represent the ideal position for different participants they do communicate what people were willing to support to find "common ground".

Reason for participating: *"We all really care about halibut."*

Problem Statement: *"Decreased availability of halibut in the Sitka area is diminishing the quality of life for local residents."*

Annual Review: *"New regulations will be reevaluated every year to assess their effectiveness at providing halibut for local residents."*

The 1997 Sitka Halibut Task Force Proposes:

1. Reducing by-catch and waste of halibut. The level of trawl by-catch in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska is unacceptable.

2. That the definition of possession limit should be changed to include processed halibut outside of primary residence. That the Board of Fisheries appoint a statewide task force to address this issue.

3. Development of an improved accounting system to have a better understanding and accounting of halibut harvested near Sitka.

4. Better enforcement of bag and possession limits by increased presence of law enforcement.

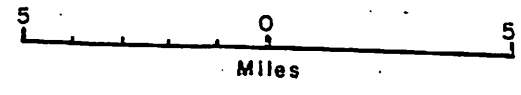
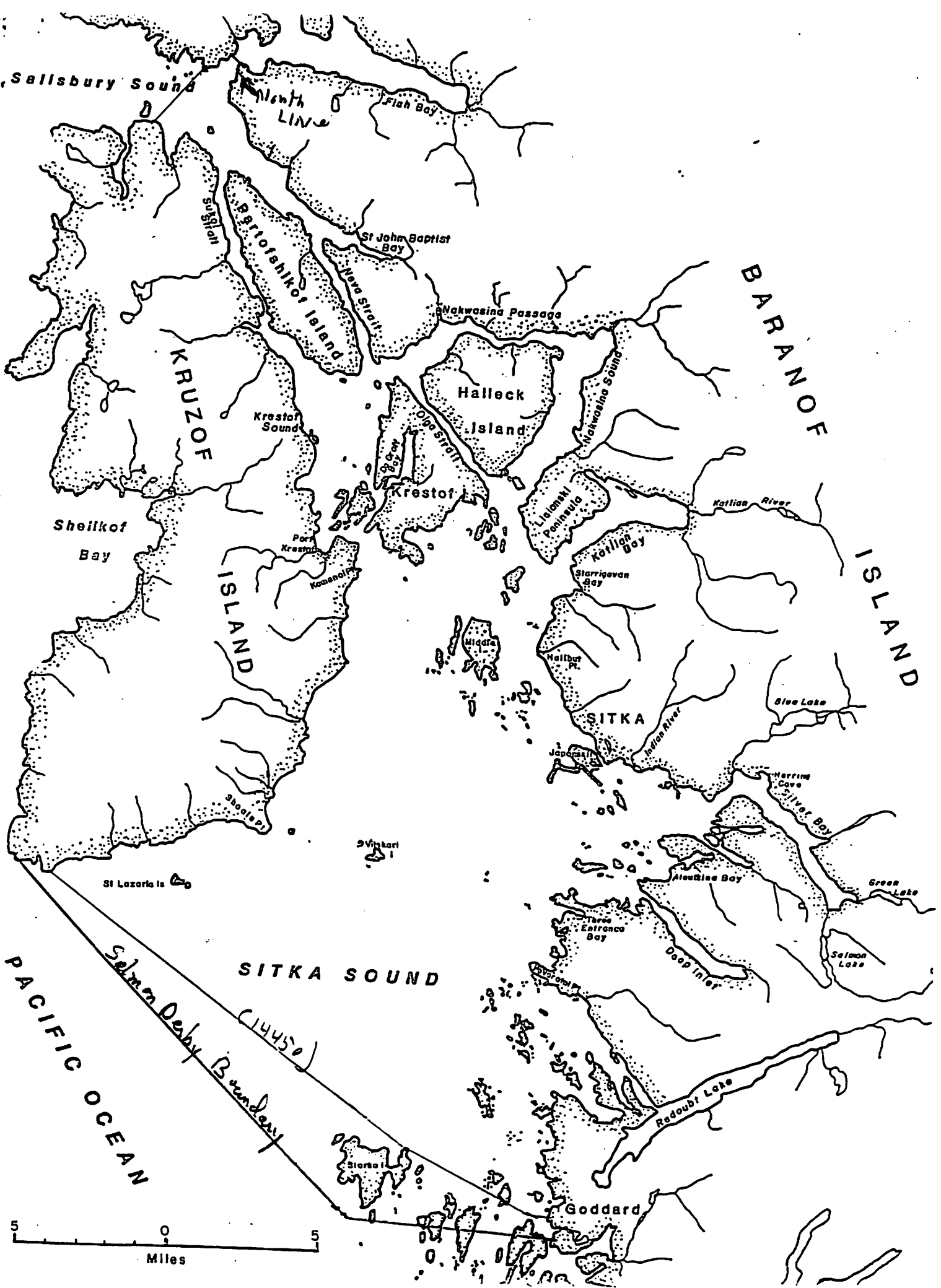
5. Supporting the International Pacific Halibut Commission Sitka Charter Association halibut tagging program.

6. Halibut longliners larger than "D" class would be prohibited from harvesting halibut in the Sitka Sound area, defined as a line across Kakul Narrows at the Green Buoy and from a point on Chichagof Island to Kruszof Island adjacent to Sinitis Island, (See Map), on the North to the Sitka Salmon Derby Boundaries on the South. (See Map).

7. Halibut longliners in the "D" category would be prohibited from harvesting halibut in the Sitka Sound area, same boundaries as for larger vessels in the North, and inside of a line from Sitka Pt. to Hamus Pt. (14450 Loran Line) and from Hamus Pt. to the Green Marker in Dorothy Narrows and across to Baranof Island, (see map), in the South in June, July, and August. 1000 pound trip limit in this area during the time it is open. Halibut catch in Sitka Sound will be monitored for growth rate.

8. Retention of halibut would be prohibited in the non-resident sport fishery and also in the guided sport fishery inside the same areas defined for the category "D" longliners during the months of June, July, and August. Halibut catch in Sitka Sound will be monitored for growth rate.

Salisbury Sound



PACIFIC OCEAN

Salmon Derby Boundary (1945)

SITKA SOUND

KRUZOF ISLAND

ISLAND

Halleck Island

SITKA

BARANOF ISLAND

St. Lazarus I.

St. John Baptist

Goddard

North Line

Flah Bay

St. John Baptist Bay

Nakwasina Passage

Krestof

Middle I.

Wallbar Pt.

Japan Pt.

Katlan River

Kaitlig Bay

Starrigavan Bay

Blue Lake

Adlan River

Herring Cove

Silver Bay

Green Lake

Salmon Lake

Aleutian Bay

Doop Inlet

Redoubt Lake

Three Entrances Bay

St. George Pt.

Sitka Strait

Ogo Strait

Nakwasina Sound

Krestof Sound

Port Krestof

Kamohai Pt.

Shoofat Pt.

St. Lazarus Is.