

STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE TANNER CRAB INDUSTRY
FOR TANNER CRAB OFF ALASKA FOR 1979

Prepared for the June, 1979 Meeting of the North Pacific
Fishery Management Council, Homer, Alaska

Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, my name is Tsuneo Takahashi. Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to express our views before the Council on behalf of the Japanese Tanner Crab Industry.

The purpose of our statement today is to keep you informed of the progress of the fishing operations and to provide the current data by the two mothership fleets in the Eastern Bering Sea. We believe it is a common understanding between the U.S. and Japan that the close observation of the fishery is indispensable prior to reaching any meaningful conclusion on the status of the stock, because this is the second year to conduct commercial fishery in the area north of 58° N.L.

Figure 1 and Table 1 compare the CPUE, catch and other data during this season with those of last year, which well demonstrates that the fishery of this year has shown almost the same catch trend as that last year. One of the notable features since the middle of May is that the fishery has been favoured with steady weather conditions at sea. The bottom temperature has averaged 3° C. which also coincides with that of last year.

Table 1 STATUS OF JAPANESE TANNER CRAB FISHERY

Year	Fishing Period	Days on the ground	Idle days due to bad weather	Days pot-lifted	Catch (mt)	Catch /day	CPUE crab/pot
1979	2/24 - 6/20	117	14.5	102.5	7876. ⁶⁷⁵	76.8	15.3
1978	3/12 - 6/20	101	4.4	96.6	7664. ⁹⁵⁰	79.3	15.0
* 1978	3/12 - 7/6	117	4.4	112.6	8521. ³⁴²	75.7	14.5

* The same days on the ground compare results during this year with those of 1978

Although the CPUE during the period from mid-May to end-May showed a declining trend, it has begun to recover since early June and has already exceeded the level of last year around the middle of June.

Based on the current data and information from the fishery,
it is reasonably anticipated that the Japanese fleets will not encounter
any difficulties in taking the quota during this season.

Thank you.

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Representative
Japanese Tanner Crab
Industry