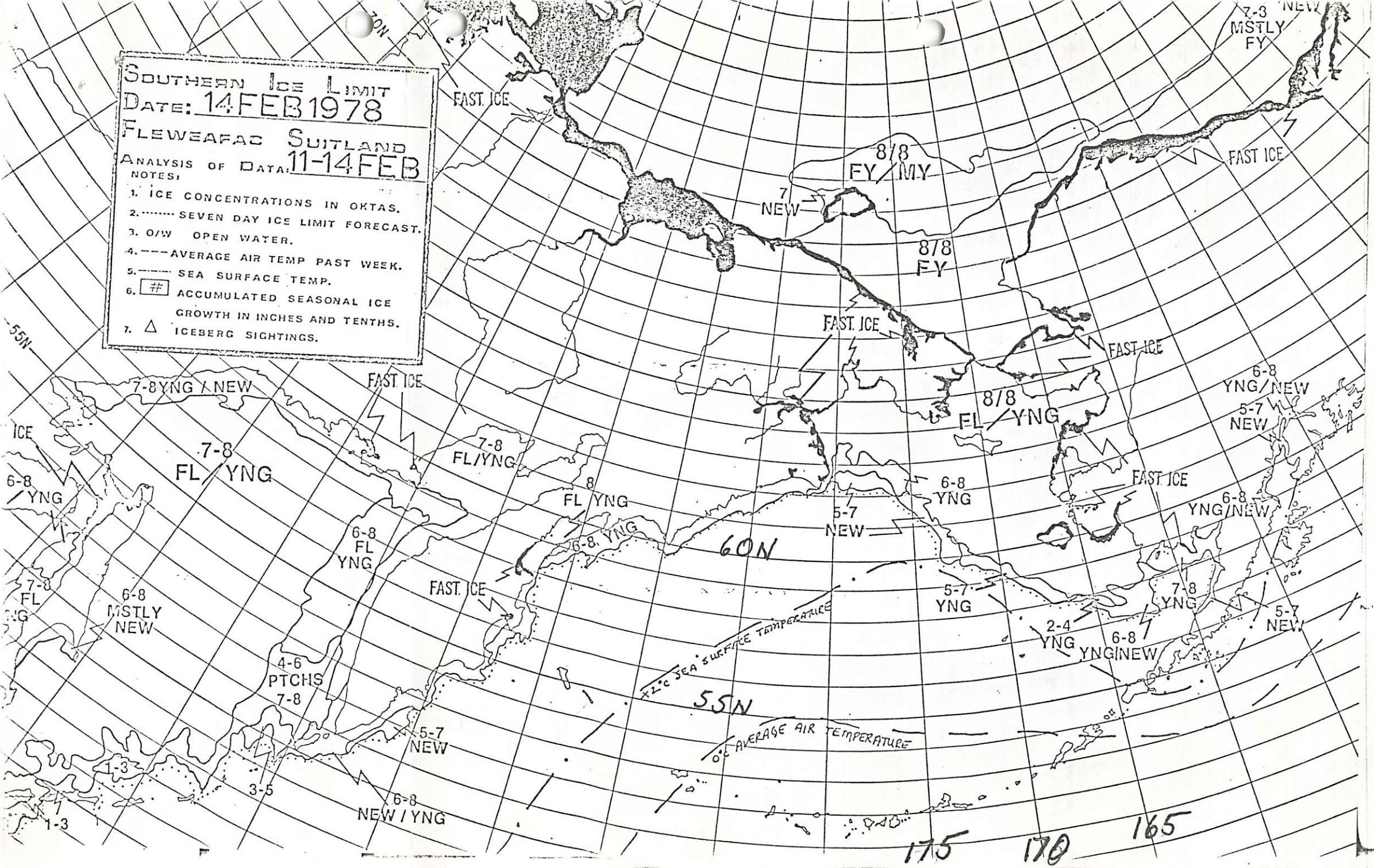
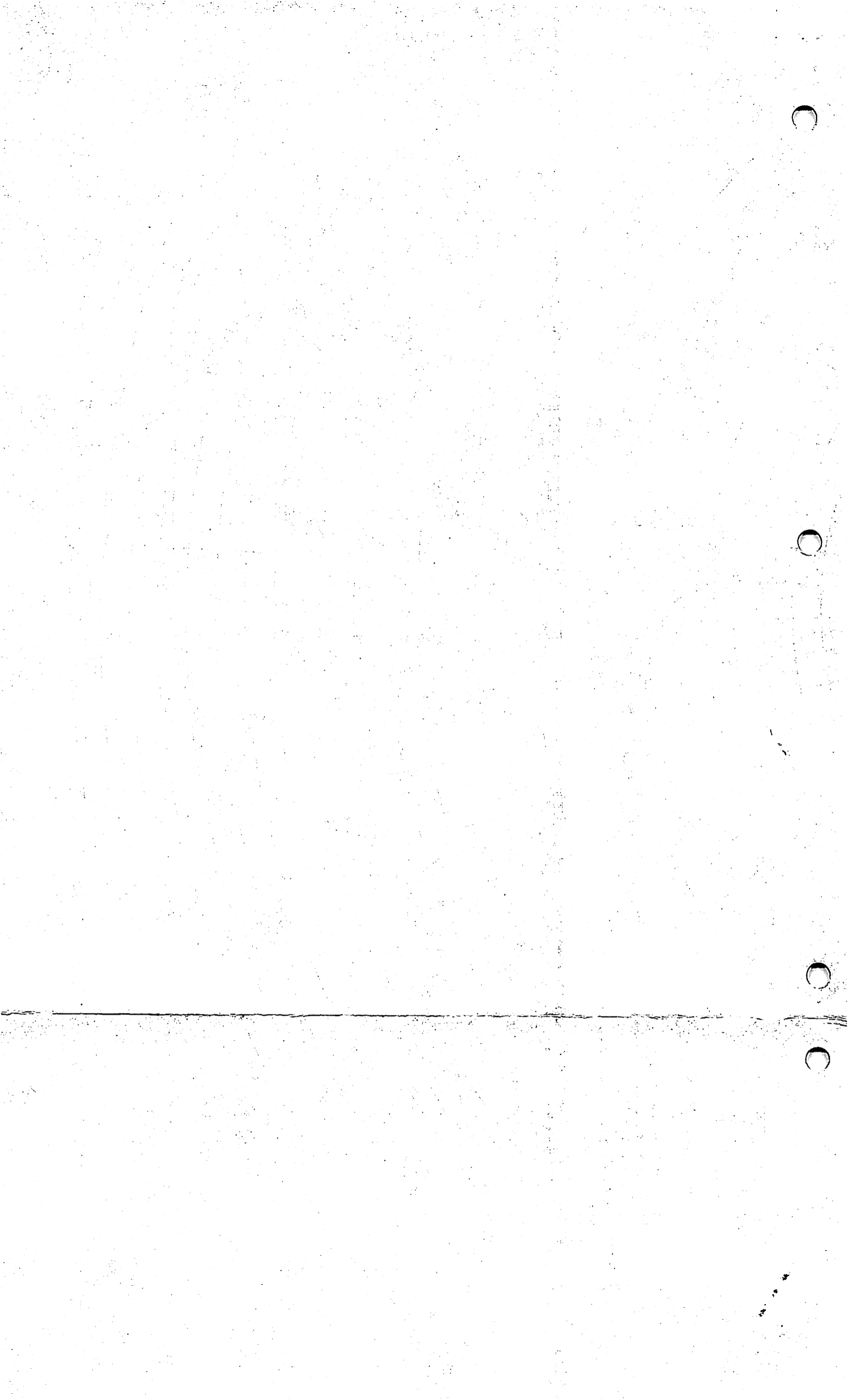


**SOUTHERN ICE LIMIT**  
**DATE: 14 FEB 1978**  
**FLEWEAFAC SUITLAND**  
**ANALYSIS OF DATA: 11-14 FEB**

- NOTES:
1. ICE CONCENTRATIONS IN OKTAS.
  2. ----- SEVEN DAY ICE LIMIT FORECAST.
  3. O/W OPEN WATER.
  4. --- AVERAGE AIR TEMP PAST WEEK.
  5. - - - - SEA SURFACE TEMP.
  6. # ACCUMULATED SEASONAL ICE GROWTH IN INCHES AND TENTHS.
  7. Δ ICEBERG SIGHTINGS.



Agenda #20  
 February 1978



WESTERN ARCTIC  
30 DAY SEA ICE FORECAST

NEW 0-10cm 0-4in

30 - DAY WESTERN ARCTIC

YNG 10-30cm 4-12in

Expansion is expected to continue in the Bering Sea thru mid-March in response to northeasterly winds and sub-freezing temperatures. Expansion is also expected to continue in the Sea of Okhotsk as north-westerly winds dominate thru mid-March.

FL 30-70cm 12-28in

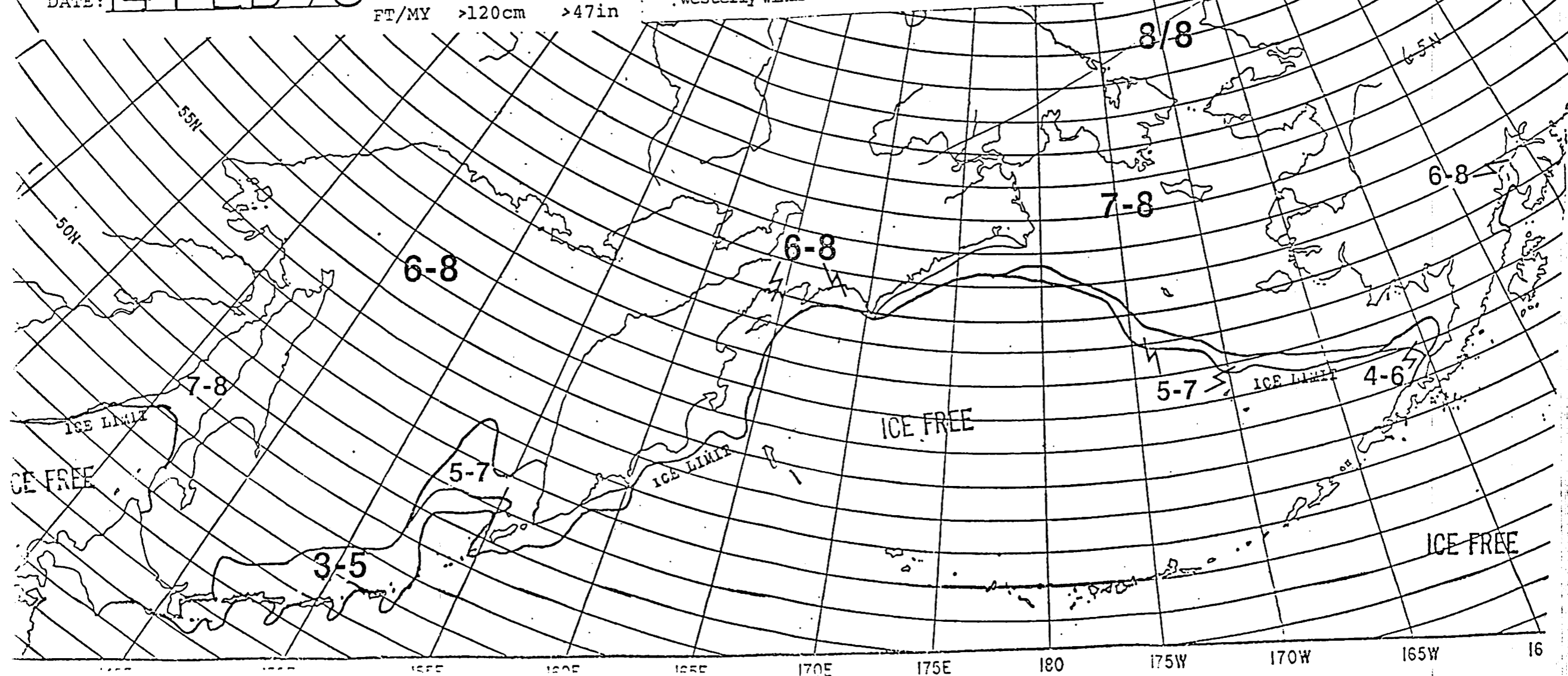
FM 70-120cm 28-47in

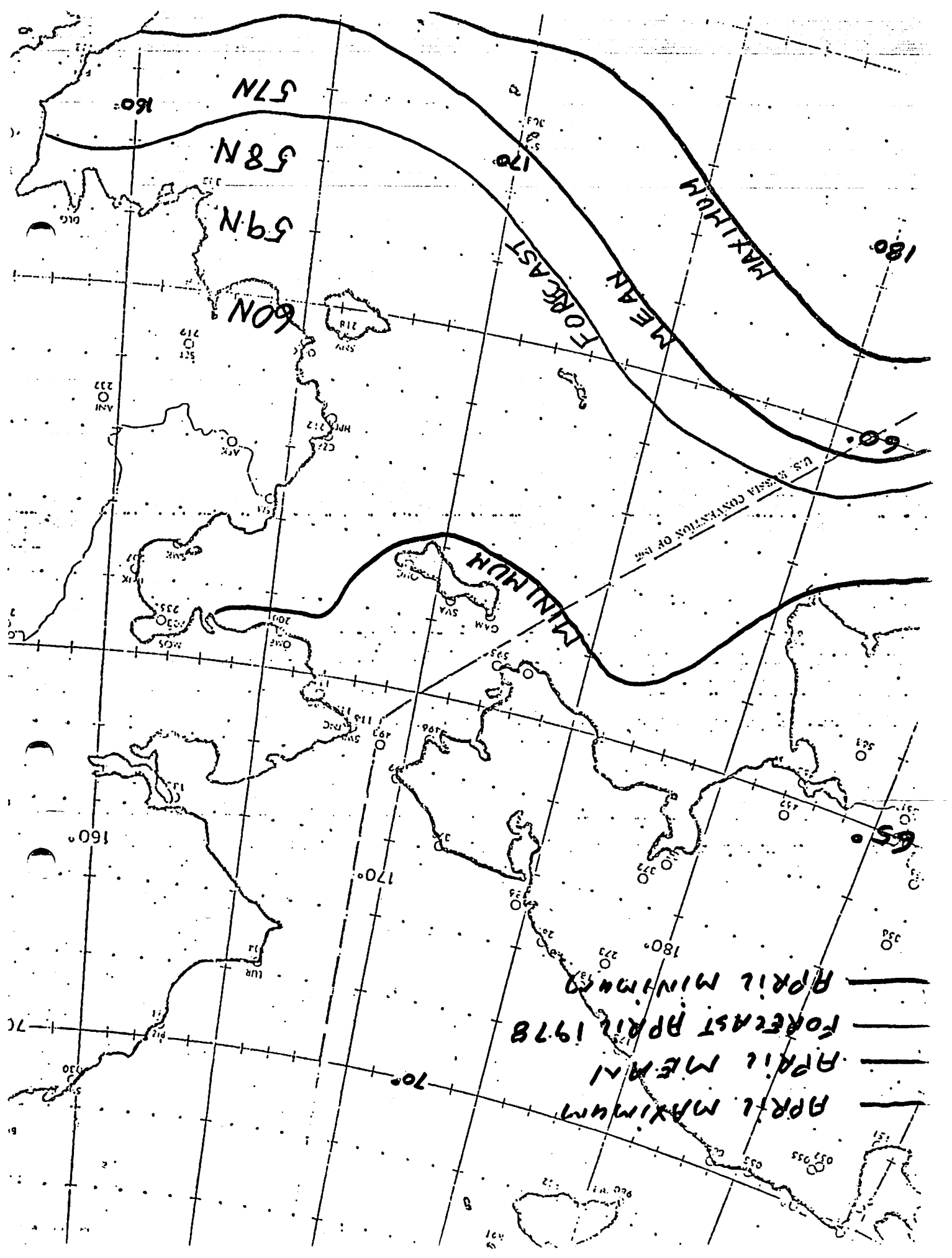
FT/MY >120cm >47in

VT: 14 MAR 78

FLEWEAFAC SUITLAND

DATE: 14 FEB 78





APRIL MAXIMUM  
 APRIL MEAN  
 FORECAST APRIL 1978  
 APRIL MINIMUM

57N  
 58N  
 59N  
 60N

MAXIMUM  
 MEAN  
 FORECAST

MINIMUM

U.S. - SIBERIA CONVENTION OF 1947

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Having delivered a previous proposal by letter dated February 1, 1978, to the Secretary of Commerce, the Japanese Tanner Crab industry would further like to make the following proposal at this final moment before our fishing season begins.

The Japanese Tanner crab fleet wishes to operate west of  $171^{\circ}\text{W}$  and north of  $56^{\circ}\text{N}$  only during the months of March and April when the fishing is impossible north of  $58^{\circ}\text{N}$  due to the danger of drift ice. The Japanese fleet will be prepared to return to the sea all *C. bairdi* as soon as they are caught while operating in this area. In case a substantial number of U.S. vessels operate in the area west of  $171^{\circ}\text{W}$  during March and April, we will remain west of  $172^{\circ}\text{W}$ .

The reasons for this proposal are as follows:

1. Basically recognizing the content of the proposed FMP, it is anticipated that the fleet would need more time in the area north of  $58^{\circ}\text{N}$  because the area is unknown to the Japanese fleet and would seem less productive. Due to bad weather usually anticipated in September, it is essential for the fleet to start its operation from the early part of March.
2. Additionally, based upon our past experience, in the area north of  $58^{\circ}\text{N}$  there is danger of drift ice during March and April, and, depending upon the year, even if the edge of the drift ice remains in the far northern waters there is a possibility, because of low pressure, for the ice to move south rapidly, as much as 20 miles per night. For the sake of maintaining a safe operation, by all means we would like to operate in the area south of  $58^{\circ}\text{N}$  during March and April.
3. We are even prepared to return all *C. bairdi* to the sea immediately leaving them available for the U.S. fishermen. Also, if U.S. vessels wish to operate in the area west of  $171^{\circ}\text{W}$  during March and April, we are prepared to remain in the area west of  $172^{\circ}\text{W}$ .

We hope that our proposal will be considered seriously and accepted since our industry has almost completed its preparation for the operation and any delay will be very costly to the industry.

February 1, 1978

Honorable Juanita M. Kreps  
Secretary  
United States Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Madam Secretary:

We have received information that during the Regional Council meeting held in Anchorage on the 26th and 27th of January, the Department of Commerce announced it is also agreeable to limit the operating area of the Japanese fishery to the waters north of 58°N latitude.

I. Regarding this information, we would especially like to reiterate our views concerning the following points:

1. If the operation is limited to north of 58°N, not only will it be impossible for us to catch C. bairdi, the whole operation will be economically impossible causing us serious economic dislocation.
2. Because we believe that the ABC for C. bairdi is exceedingly underestimated, we cannot agree scientifically that we should be excluded from these catches.
3. During 1977 there was no gear conflict between the two fleets because the Japanese fishery was mainly conducted to the west of 171°W and the United States fishery was conducted mainly to the east of 171°W. Even if the area of the United States fishery is substantially enlarged in the fishing grounds south of 58°N, we do not foresee the possibility of gear conflict during 1978. Taking care in order to avoid gear conflict between the United States and Japanese fleets, the conduct of our operation will be sufficiently possible.

Honorable Juanita M. Kreps  
Page Two  
February 1, 1978

II. If the United States government cannot accept the proposal submitted by the Japanese government up to the present time, we sincerely hope that the following proposal will be closely studied and incorporated into the final FMP in order to minimize our economic dislocation.

1. At least the waters west of 171°W and north of 56°N should be opened to the Japanese fleet.
2. If the United States cannot accept the foregoing proposal, we would like you to at least open this area until the end of April for the reason that the waters north of 58°N will have the danger of drift ice.
3. Furthermore, if necessary we will accept some amount of a quota south of 58°N. Based upon the actual result of our past year's operation, we think 4,000 metric tons is adequate (less than 1,000 metric tons for C. bairdi).

III. In order for our industry to survive, we have proposed the foregoing proposal as the minimum measure. Therefore, we sincerely hope for a fair decision on this matter and that you will accept our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Takuji Kato  
Japanese Tanner Crab Industry

cc:

Bud Walsh  
Deputy Administrator Designate - NOAA

David H. Wallace  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Robert W. Schoning  
Director, National Marine Fisheries Service

FISHERY AGENCY  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

2-1, 1-chome, Kazumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

February 15, 1978

Mr. Robert W. Schoning  
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, NOAA  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Department of Commerce  
Washington D.C., 20235  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Schoning,

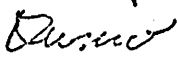
Subject: Japanese tanner crab fishing operation during  
the months of March and April

Please find enclosed the request of the Japanese tanner crab fishing industry with respect to your recent decision on the fishing ground to be assigned to it. In view of the pressing time before the Council's next meeting scheduled on February 23 and 24, I have taken the liberty of having the copy of this letter mailed directly to Mr. Lokken, Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. I am heartened to be advised in Vancouver that, thanks to good offices of you and Mr. Lokken, steps have already been taken for the Council to review this request at the Council's next meeting.

The request of the industry seems to me to be quite modest, and I sincerely hope that the Council and your Department would be able to give a favourable consideration to their request.

You will understand that the position of my Government on the status of the tanner crab stocks and the proposed regulations on our fishery remains unchanged from that as expressed in our previous correspondences to your Department.

Yours sincerely,

  
Kunio Yonezawa

Councillor, Fishery Agency

c.c. Mr. Harold E. Lokken  
Mr. Jim H. Branson