

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Clement V. Tillion, Chairman
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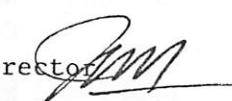
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Agenda Item #12
February 22-23, 1979

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 1979

TO: Council Members, Scientific & Statistical Committee,
and Advisory Panel

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Actions Taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries that Affect
the Council

Supporting material:

1. Letter from Board of Fisheries dated January 23, 1979
2. Chartlet of proposed closed trawling area
3. Table of foreign herring and pollock catches in proposed no trawling area

Following are the regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and their recommendations to the Council which affect the policy and regulations of fishery management plans--present and future.

I. Troll Salmon FMP

1. The Alaska Board of Fisheries defined the areas of traditional net fisheries in the Fishery Conservation Zone for the False Pass and Copper River-Bering Straits area. No action was taken on the third net fishery in the FCZ--Cook Inlet. That one is already adequately designated in the existing State regulations.

These boundary definitions were requested by the Council and have been incorporated in the regulations for the troll salmon FMP.

2. The State extended their coastal-fishing-zone salmon trolling regulations into the adjacent seaward biological influence zone (3-200 miles). Under 5 AAC.33.330. Gear., the State prohibits hand troll gear in the coastal fishing zone--thus bringing the State's regulations into conformity with the FMP.

II. Bering Sea Herring

1. In the absence of a fishery management plan, the State extended their regulations into the seaward biological influence zone (3-200 miles) and made all inshore regulations applicable in that zone.
2. They established three major areas which can be defined as:
 - (1) Southern: south of 54°36'N latitude; (2) Central: between 54°36'N latitude and 56°N latitude; and (3) Northern: north of 56°N latitude. They made the following seasons and gear restrictions on the U.S. fishery:
 - A. Seasons: Northern District: Open May 1 to June 30
Central and Southern Districts: no closed season
 - B. Gear: Northern District: Purse seines and gillnets
Central District: Purse seines, gillnets and trawls
Southern District: no restrictions
 - C. Closed Areas: No fishing outside three miles north of 56°N longitude--i.e. Bristol Bay and north.
4. The Board recommended a substantial time and area closure for foreign trawling in the eastern Bering Sea to limit the direct harvest of herring and asked that any directed foreign fishery for herring be prohibited.

III. Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Plan

1. The Board has asked that this plan minimize the catch of herring off Alaska by closing foreign trawling between 57° and 59°30' N latitude and 171° to 175° W longitude from November 1 through March 31 and prohibiting any directed foreign fishery for herring.

IV. Tanner Crab

1. The State adopted a guideline harvest level for the Kodiak district of 20 to 35 million pounds of Tanner crab, C. bairdi. This corresponds to our amendment of December 1 to the Tanner crab FMP.
2. The Board suggested that a Bering Sea harvest range in the neighborhood of 40 to 65 million pounds for C. bairdi was more appropriate than the stated FMP range of 60 to 89 million pounds.

Council Action at This Meeting

1. Direct the herring PDT to include Board recommendations in FMP.
 - a. No directed foreign fishery for herring
 - b. Close the herring fishery to U.S. fishermen north of 56° N latitude

2. Approve/Disapprove request for foreign trawl closure in Bering Sea from November 1 to March 31.
 - a. Direct BS/A PDT to draft closure section
 - b. Advertise for future Council meeting as an amendment to BS/A-FMP

Upcoming Meeting

The next Board of Fisheries Meeting will be in Anchorage from March 26th through approximately April 6th. The proposals discussed will deal primarily with shellfish and will have some bearing on Council FMP's.

To the extent these proposals are available we will distribute them to the Council group and ask that any comments, questions or suggestions be directed to the Board in March.

We expect Mr. Thornburgh, ADF&G Extended Jurisdiction Coordinator, to comment on this at this meeting.

Attachments

MIH

STATE OF ALASKA

Agenda #12
February 1979

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF FISHERIES
C/O DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SUPPORT BUILDING, JUNEAU 99801

January 23, 1979

Mr. Jim Branson
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim:

The Board of Fisheries concluded its meeting January 16, 1979. Here is one of the products of that session.

Would you please be kind enough to see that this information gets to the proper people? Thanks.

I. GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

In order to conserve and manage the fishery resources found off the Alaska coast, the Bering Sea herring drafting team is developing a management plan for the Bering Sea. One of the important management measures of this plan is to minimize the incidental catch of herring off the Alaska coast by members of the foreign fleet. The draft Bering Sea herring management plan includes a closure of a block described as 57° North Latitude to 59° 30' North Latitude and 171° West Longitude to 175° West Longitude from November through March. The Alaska Board of Fisheries respectfully requests that these time and area closures be incorporated into the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Bering Sea Groundfish Fishery Management Plan as soon as possible.

II. HERRING FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

At the January, 1979, public meeting of the Board of Fisheries, the Board adopted regulations (5 AAC 27.005-990, amended proposal #245) and recommendations which should also be incorporated into the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Bering Sea Herring Management Plan. In registration areas Q, W, T and part of area N north of 56° North Latitude, only gill nets and purse seines may be used (5 AAC 27.005 et seq). Those regulations, in conjunction with a landing law, (5 AAC 27.090), act to prohibit all United States trawling, purse seining, and gill netting on the high seas off the Alaska coast north of 56° North Latitude. South of 56° North Latitude in the Bering Sea, trawls, purse seines, and gill nets may be used both offshore and inshore. This will allow some development of the bait and food fishery for herring.

Another action by the Board was a recommendation to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to proscribe any directed harvest of Bering Sea herring by the foreign fleet in the future. This recommendation for future action,

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January 23, 1979

buttressed by the Board's recommended area and time closures, is based on information showing that the United States fleet is now capable of harvesting 100% of the optimum yield of these stocks. Furthermore, biological considerations brought to the Board's attention indicate that the majority of herring stocks should be harvested inshore, where stocks are discrete, rather than on the high seas.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries respectfully requests that the regulations and recommendations described above be incorporated as soon as possible into the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Bering Sea Herring Fishery Management Plan and Bering Sea Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, under the provisions of 16 USCA 1853 (b)(5), (b)(4), and (a)(4)(A), (B), and 16 USCA 1821 (d). Drafts of the regulations embodied in 5 AAC 27 will be sent to you by Larry Edfelt by February 7, 1979.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing you at the spring Board meetings in Anchorage.

Sincerely,



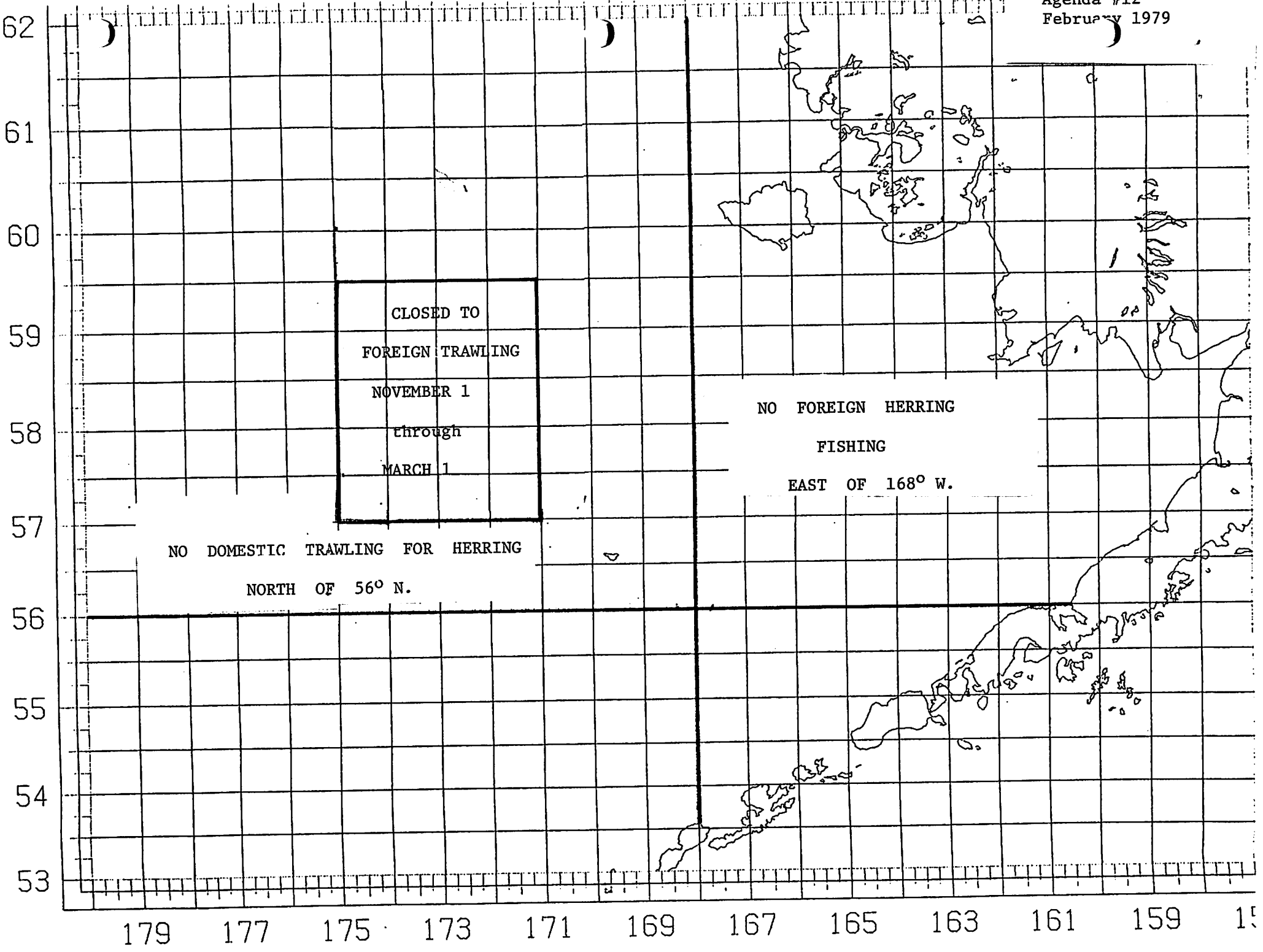
Greg Cook
Executive Director

cc: Don Collinworth
Guy Thornburgh
Nick Szabo

Table 21. Catch of pollock and herring by the Japanese trawl fishery (1964-1976) within a proposed time-area closure in the Bering Sea for herring conservation.

Year	Pollock Catch (1,000 mt)					Herring Catch (1,000 mt)				
	Total Bering Sea Catch	Total catch within proposed area (% of Bering Sea catch 1/)		Nov-Mar catch within proposed area (% of Bering Sea catch)		Total Bering Sea catch	Total catch within proposed area (% of Bering Sea catch)		Nov-Mar catch within proposed area (% of Bering Sea catch)	
1964	174.8	50.2	(29.0)	0	(0.0)	.9	0.1	(14.0)	0	(0.0)
1965	230.6	34.4	(58.0)	0	(0.0)	.9	0.6	(67.0)	0	(0.0)
1966	261.7	23.6	(9.0)	0	(0.0)	3.4	3.3	(98.0)	0	(0.0)
1967	550.4	66.7	(12.0)	Trace	(Trace)	2.7	0.3	(10.0)	0	(0.0)
1968	701.0	164.9	(24.0)	3.4	(0.5)	37.5	33.5	(89.0)	24.6	(65.0)
1969	830.5	103.1	(12.0)	2.1	(0.3)	33.0	28.6	(87.0)	28.3	(86.0)
1970	1,231.2	401.7	(33.0)	0.7	(0.1)	26.8	22.0	(82.0)	21.6	(81.0)
1971	1,514.0	307.2	(20.0)	2.9	(0.2)	18.5	16.3	(88.0)	16.3	(88.0)
1972	1,651.4	238.2	(14.0)	5.2	(0.3)	6.0	5.0	(83.0)	4.9	(81.0)
1973	1,475.8	181.3	(12.0)	6.8	(0.5)	Trace	0	(0.0)	0.0	(0.0)
1974	1,252.8	250.0	(20.0)	5.2	(0.4)	2.3	Trace	(2.0)	Trace	(1.0)
1975	1,136.7	283.9	(25.0)	9.0	(0.8)	1.1	0.3	(27.0)	Trace	(1.0)
1976	<u>913.3</u>	<u>165.4</u>	<u>(18.0)</u>	<u>2.9</u>	<u>(0.3)</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>(55.0)</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
Mean 1968-72	1,185.6	243.0	(21.0)	2.9	(0.3)	24.4	21.1	(86.0)	19.1	(80.0)

1/ See Figure 24 for description of proposed closed area, source: Japan Fishery Agency.



CLOSED TO
FOREIGN TRAWLING
NOVEMBER 1
through
MARCH 1

NO FOREIGN HERRING
FISHING
EAST OF 168° W.

NO DOMESTIC TRAWLING FOR HERRING
NORTH OF 56° N.

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