

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Jim H. Branson *JB*
Executive Director
DATE: May 20, 1985
SUBJECT: MFCMA Reauthorization

*USA
Coalition ltr
calling for
phase out.
Coffer*

I. House Action

On May 2 the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment held a mark-up session on H.R. 1533, a bill to amend and reauthorize the MFCMA. A full Committee mark-up session was held by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee on May 8. Several amendments to the original bill were adopted at both sessions. A copy of the new bill integrating the Subcommittee and Committee amendments is not yet available, but we have the separate amendments as introduced in the mark-up sessions. If anyone wants copies, please let me know.

The following changes to the MFCMA are proposed by H.R. 1533 as reported out of Committee:

A. U.S. Fishery Management Authority

1. The Fishery Conservation Zone is designated the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the U.S. has sovereign rights over all fishery resources in the EEZ except for highly migratory species.

B. Foreign Fishing

1. The Secretary of State, with concurrence from the Secretary of Commerce and after consultation with the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council, may enter into a bilateral fishing agreement with a foreign nation (with a GIFA) that:
 - a. May last for all or part of the term of the GIFA;
 - b. Specifies dispute resolution procedures;
 - c. May exempt the foreign national from current allocation release schedules;
 - d. May guarantee a fixed percentage of an annual TALFF;
 - e. May reduce or eliminate foreign fishing fees;
 - f. May obligate the foreign nation to limit its export of fish products to the U.S.;

- g. May obligate the foreign nation to specify actions it will take to open its markets to U.S. fishery products.
2. The Secretary of Commerce may approve foreign fishing permits in whole or in part.
3. The basket clauses, i.e., Section 201(e)(1)(E)(viii) relating to allocation of TALFF by the Secretary of State and Section 204(b)(6)(B)(iii) relating to approval of joint venture applications by the Secretary of Commerce, that give the Secretaries authority to consider any matter they deem appropriate are amended to focus on matters pertaining to the conservation of living marine resources.
4. The Secretary of Commerce's authority to levy sanctions against foreign fishing vessels is expanded to apply to the commission of prohibited acts by the owner or operator of a foreign fishing vessel.
5. The reasons for which a foreign fishing permit may be revoked, denied or suspended are clarified.
6. The Secretary of Commerce may, after certain findings, temporarily deny or suspend a foreign fishing permit pending the outcome of administrative enforcement proceedings.

C. Council Composition and Operations

1. The Secretary of Commerce may adjust the terms of appointed Council members to ensure the number of expiring terms each year are more nearly equal over the three-year appointment cycle.
2. Appointed Council members, Council nominees, and Executive Directors must file statements disclosing any financial interests they, their spouses, minor children, business partners or any organization (except the Council) in which they are an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee may have in any harvesting, processing or marketing activity that may be undertaken in any fishery within the appropriate Council's jurisdiction.
3. Council members are exempted from the application of the Federal criminal conflict of interest statute, 18 U.S.C. Section 208, as long as they are in compliance with the financial disclosure requirements.
4. Appointed Council members must be individuals who are knowledgeable and experienced with regard to the management, conservation, or recreational or commercial harvest of the fishery resources of the geographical area concerned. In making Council appointments, the Secretary of Commerce must ensure fair apportionment on a rotating or other basis of the active participants involved in the fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction.

5. Before submitting the names of Council nominees to the Secretary of Commerce, a governor must first consult with representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the state regarding those nominees.
6. The Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that those persons dependent upon fisheries within the jurisdiction of the Pacific Fishery Management Council are fairly represented as voting members of that Council.
7. Each Council must specify procedures that will ensure its committees and advisory panels are involved, on a continuing basis, in the development and amendment of FMPs.
8. All FMPs must take into consideration and may provide for temporary adjustments regarding access to fisheries if vessels are prevented from participation because of weather or other ocean conditions.
9. All FMPs must include readily available information concerning the significance of habitat to the fishery and also contain assessments regarding the effects which changes to that habitat may have upon the fishery.
10. Councils may comment on or make recommendations concerning any activity by any state or Federal agency that may affect the habitat of a fishery resource under that Council's jurisdiction. A Federal agency must, within 45 days after receiving such comment from a Council, respond in writing to the Council.
11. A system for limiting access to a fishery must be approved by at least 3/4 of the voting members of the Council and 2/3 of the fishermen presently participating in the fishery. Permits, shares or rights created by the access limitation system could not be sold.
12. The criteria that must be considered by a Council before implementing limited entry is expanded to include the effects such a system will have on fishermen who will be displaced by access limitation.
13. Councils may, in conjunction with access limitation, implement a fishery compensation plan to provide for the purchase of vessels, financial assistance to modify vessels for use in other fisheries, or other financial compensation as established by the Council. Compensation plans may be funded through fees levied against U.S. fishermen and must be approved by 2/3 of the fishermen presently participating in the subject fishery and at least 3/4 of the voting members of a Council.
14. NMFS and Council staff members responsible for FMP development and monitoring are given access to confidential fisheries data.

D. Secretarial Action

1. The comprehensive program of fishery research mandated by Section 304(e) must be carried out in cooperation with the Councils and is expanded to include information on the economics of the fisheries. The Secretary must also annual review and update these programs and make the results of the review and update available to the Councils.
2. The Secretary must begin formal review of a management plan or amendment on the fifth day after the date on which a Council transmits to the Secretary what it characterizes as a final plan or amendment.
3. After receipt of a plan or amendment, the Secretary must immediately make a preliminary evaluation to decide if it is consistent with the National Standards and sufficient in scope and substance to warrant Secretarial review. If the decision is affirmative, the Secretary must then proceed with the formal Secretarial review process. If the decision is negative, the Council must be notified in writing of the disapproval.
4. The current requirement that Secretarial preemption of state fisheries management may take place only after notice and a hearing is deleted and replaced by the requirement that the Secretary only consult with a state before preemption. Preemption authority is expanded to apply to a state's internal waters as well as the territorial seas. A state may request that the preemption be submitted to arbitration, but the Secretary may still manage the fishery in state waters pending the outcome of the arbitration. A state may request an administrative hearing regarding the Secretarial preemption, but the authority to preempt state fisheries management shall terminate on the sixtieth day after the date on which the hearing is requested unless the hearing has commenced before that date.

E. Violations and Enforcement

1. It would be unlawful for anyone to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary of Commerce, or the governor of a state false information regarding any information that the Council, Secretary or governor is considering for the purposes of carrying out the MFCMA.
2. The procedures to be followed to appeal a civil penalty assessed under the MFCMA are clarified.
3. A civil penalty assessed against a vessel for the commission of a prohibited act, if that penalty is final, shall constitute a maritime lien on the vessel.

E. State Authority

1. Management authority over crab resources in the Federal intrusion areas in southeast Alaska is delegated to the State of Alaska.

F. Appropriations and Other Provisions

1. Sixty-nine million dollars is appropriated for each of fiscal years 1986 and 1987 for the purposes of carrying out the MFCMA.
2. The Secretary of Commerce is prohibited during fiscal years 1986 and 1987 from replacing the NOAA fishery research vessels operated by the Atlantic Marine Center.
3. Section 401 regarding the effect of the MFCMA on the Law of the Sea Treaty is deleted.

Floor action in the House on H.R. 1533 is expected during the latter half of June.

II. Senate Action

On May 9 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved S. 958 which provides a straight two-year reauthorization of the MFCMA at funding levels of \$68,555,000 for FY 1986 and \$71,639,975 for FY 1987.

Senator Stevens is expected to introduce a bill containing substantive amendments to the MFCMA during the week of June 3-7. Hearings on this bill are expected to be held in late June.

On March 26 Senator Lautenberg (N.J.) introduced S. 747 which proposes to amend the MFCMA by:

- A. expanding U.S. fishery management authority to include highly migratory species found within the U.S. FCZ;
- B. closing loopholes in the full observer coverage program by preventing a foreign fishing vessel from receiving a fishing permit unless the vessel has adequate room with safe conditions for an observer and by requiring foreigners who wish to fish in the U.S. FCZ to submit and continually update plans of their vessels which will fish in U.S. waters;
- C. requiring Councils to consider the impact of their management schemes on the safety of vessels;
- D. requiring that each Council have a representative number of commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen and that all appointed Council members be both knowledgeable and experienced with regard to conservation and management of fishery resources;
- E. providing the Councils' Executive Directors access to confidential fishery data;

- F. requiring specific habitat information in all FMPs. The information would include actions that may adversely affect fishery habitat and measures to conserve fishery habitat;
- G. requiring Federal agencies to respond to any recommendations made by a Council concerning fishery habitat within 60 days after receipt of the Council recommendations;
- H. requiring the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish and implement a formal regional habitat planning and coordination process;
- I. allowing a Council to create a dislocation compensation program in conjunction with a limited access system. The program would be funded through fees paid by fishermen in the particular fishery with the limited access system. Those fees would compensate fishing vessel owners for loss or reduction in livelihood resulting from implementation of an access limitation system and could include vessel buy-back, vessel conversion or other programs to facilitate fleet reductions;
- J. limiting the Secretary of Commerce's ability to assess a final civil penalty greater than the penalty first assessed by written notice;
- K. appropriating \$69 million (of which not to exceed \$7.5 million is for the operation of the Councils) for each fiscal year 1986 - 1990 to carry out the purposes of the MFCMA.

No action has been taken in Committee on S. 747 and none as of yet has been requested. Senator Lautenberg's bill may be considered by the Commerce Committee along with any bill introduced by Senator Stevens.

RECEIVED MAY 10 1985

USA COALITION

UNITED SEAFOOD AMERICANIZATION

May 7, 1985

Mr. James Campbell, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P. O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim:

The USA Coalition is a group of seafood processors, commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, labor organizations, transport companies, and citizens concerned about the management of the nation's fisheries.

The Coalition's goal is to see the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act amended to provide for a phase-out of all foreign fishing in American waters by January 1, 1989, and to limit sales of American-harvested fish to foreign floating processors to current levels until foreign processors are replaced with American processors by January 1, 1991.

Measures supporting the Americanization of the fishery have been introduced in both houses of the Alaska State Legislature, and the Senate measure, SJR 24, was unanimously approved by the Senate this morning. Municipal resolutions in support of a phase-out of foreign fishing and processing have been passed by the City of Sand Point, the City of Kodiak, and the City and Borough of Sitka. The Aleutian-Pribilof Islands Association has also passed such a resolution.

Enclosed please find a list of the USA Coalition Committee members, a summary of the Coalition's position on the issue,



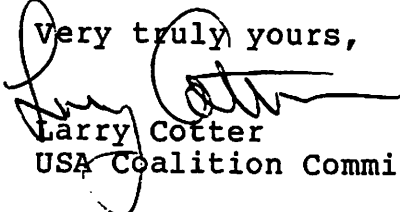
Mr. James Campbell
May 7, 1985
page 2

a copy of a recent press release, copies of the resolutions before the Alaska State Legislature, and recent newspaper clippings.

On behalf of the USA Coalition, I would appreciate it if you would place on the agenda for the May 21 Council meeting the consideration of a resolution calling for the Americanization of the fishery within the FCZ.

We earnestly seek the Council's position. Please call me (586-6642) if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,



Larry Cotter
USA Coalition Committee

enc.

USA COALITION

UNITED SEAFOOD AMERICANIZATION

USA COALITION COMMITTEE

Ron Jolin
Commercial fisherman

Bix Bonney
Sportfisherman

Larry Cotter
International Longshoremen's and
Warehousemen's Union

Rick Lauber
Pacific Seafood Processors Association

John Cleveland
Sea-Land Services



USA COALITION

UNITED SEAFOOD AMERICANIZATION

USA COALITION POSITION SUMMARY

* What is the USA Coalition?

The USA Coalition is a group of seafood processors, commercial fishermen, sportfishermen, labor organizations, transport companies, and citizens from every walk of life. The Coalition was organized to bring America one step closer to gaining control of fishery resources within the 200-mile FCZ.

* What is the USA Coalition's goal?

The Coalition's goal is to have the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act amended to: 1) provide for a phase-out of all foreign fishing in American waters by 1988; and 2) limit sales of American-harvested fish to foreign floating processors to current levels until foreign processors are replaced by domestic processors in 1990.

* How much fish is taken by foreign fishing interests?

Foreign fishing interests are currently taking more than four billion pounds of fish annually from within 200 miles of Alaska. That's 80% of the total seafood harvest in Alaskan waters.

* Shouldn't Americans be getting the benefit of this valuable resource?

YES! Americanization of the fishery will increase domestic participation in the fishing and processing industries, provide employment opportunities for Americans, stimulate economic growth and foster economic stability in Alaska's coastal communities.



*** Is it really necessary to establish a "time-certain" for the phase-out?**

A planned phase-out is crucial to enable the American fishing and processing industry to provide for an orderly transfer of the fishery to domestic interests. Establishing a date for phasing-out of foreign fishing interests will encourage the financial community to support capitalization of the American fishing and processing industries.

*** Will a phase-out of foreign fishing within the 200-mile limit affect the "incidental catch" of halibut, salmon, and herring by foreign-directed high-seas fishing vessels ?**

A phase-out of foreign fishing will drastically reduce the incidence of interceptions of halibut, salmon, and herring by the foreign-directed high-seas fishing fleet by keeping foreign fishing vessels outside the 200-mile limit.

*** Does the USA Coalition need my help?**

YES! The USA Coalition believes that the time has come for a large group of citizens to demand Americanization of the fishery. If we don't act now, that resource may never benefit the people of Alaska's communities. We need your support, and the support of all Alaskans. Sign a USA Coalition petition supporting a phase-out of foreign fishing, write your Congressmen and state legislators. If you want to become more involved, contact the USA Coalition directly. Thanks for your help. Let's fish for America!

Introduced: 4/23/85
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO: 24
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to the Americanization of the
6 fishery off the coast of Alaska.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS the fishery off Alaska's coast is greater than that of the
9 rest of the United States combined, and this resource is tremendously
10 important to the long range future of Alaska; and
11 WHEREAS there exists an excellent opportunity for American harvesters
12 and processors to take advantage of the more than 4,000,000,000 pounds of
13 fish currently being taken by foreign fishing interests within America's
14 200-mile zone; and
15 WHEREAS Americanization of the fishery will benefit Alaskan coastal
16 communities by providing jobs for harvesters, processing workers, and
17 transporters on a continuing basis; and
18 WHEREAS Americanization of the fishery will increase American
19 participation in the fishing and processing industries, provide employment
20 opportunities for Americans, stimulate economic growth and foster economic
21 stability in Alaska's coastal communities, and generate tax revenue for
22 Alaska's municipalities, the State of Alaska, other coastal states, and the
23 United States Government; and
24 WHEREAS over 99.5 percent of Alaska's harvesters currently have no
25 involvement in the catching and processing of fishery resources by foreign
26 fishing interests; and
27 WHEREAS joint ventures were originally intended as an interim step in
28 the Americanization of the fishery, to be phased-out as quickly as
29 possible; and

1 WHEREAS a planned phase-out is crucial to enable the American fishing
2 and processing industry to provide for an orderly transfer of the fishery
3 to domestic interests; and

4 WHEREAS establishing a time certain for the phasing-out of foreign
5 fishing interests will encourage the financial community to support
6 capitalization of American harvesters and processors; and

7 WHEREAS the Governor's authority to permit joint ventures in Alaska's
8 internal waters, to provide additional processing capacity according to
9 provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, is in
10 no way affected by this resolution;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
12 the United States Congress to phase out all foreign fishing in American
13 waters by 1988; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that sales of American-harvested fish to foreign
15 floating processors be limited to current levels until foreign processors
16 are replaced by American processors in 1990.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
18 Reagan, President of the United States, to the Honorable George P. Shultz,
19 Secretary of State, to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of
20 Commerce, and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
21 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
22 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Introduced: 4/26/85
Referred: House Special Committee
on Fisheries and Resources

BY GOLL, CATO, GRUSSENDORF,
HURLEY, JENKINS, M.M. MILLER,
NAVARRE, SUND AND TAYLOR

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the Americanization of the
6 fishery off the coast of Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS more fish and shellfish are harvested off Alaska's coast than
9 in the rest of the United States combined, and this resource is tremendous-
10 ly important to the long range future of Alaska; and

11 WHEREAS there exists an excellent opportunity for American harvesters
12 and processors to take advantage of the more than 4,000,000,000 pounds of
13 fish currently being taken by foreign fishing interests within America's
14 200-mile zone; and

15 WHEREAS Americanization of the fishery will benefit Alaska's coastal
16 communities by providing jobs for harvesters, processing workers, and
17 transporters on a continuing basis; and

18 WHEREAS Americanization of the fishery will provide increased fishing
19 and processing opportunities for the seafood industry, create employment
20 opportunities for Americans, stimulate economic growth and foster economic
21 stability in Alaska's coastal communities, and generate tax revenue for
22 Alaska's municipalities, the State of Alaska, other coastal states, and the
23 federal treasury; and

24 WHEREAS more than 99.5 percent of Alaska's harvesters currently have
25 no involvement in the catching and processing of fishery resources by
26 foreign fishing interests; and

27 WHEREAS large amounts of fish and shellfish important to Alaska's
28 commercial, recreational and subsistence users are incidentally caught in
29 the foreign fishing operations off Alaska's coast; and

1 WHEREAS joint ventures where foreign processors purchase fish from
2 American harvesters were originally intended as an interim step in the
3 Americanization of the offshore fishery, to be phased-out as quickly as
4 possible; and

5 WHEREAS a planned phase-out is crucial to enable the American seafood
6 industry to provide for an orderly transfer of the fishery to domestic
7 interests; and

8 WHEREAS establishing a time certain for phasing-out the foreign fish-
9 ing interests will encourage the financial community to support capitali-
10 zation of American harvesters and processors; and

11 WHEREAS the Governor's authority to permit joint ventures in Alaska's
12 internal waters, to provide additional processing capacity according to
13 provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, is not
14 affected by this resolution;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
16 the United States Congress to phase out all foreign fishing in American
17 waters by 1988; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED that sales of American harvested fish to foreign
19 processors be limited to current levels until foreign processors are
20 replaced by U.S. processors in 1990.

21 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
22 Reagan, President of the United States, to the Honorable George P. Shultz,
23 Secretary of State, to the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Com-
24 merce, and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
25 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
26 the Alaska delegation in Congress.

USA COALITION

UNITED SEAFOOD AMERICANIZATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information
please contact:
Laura Fleming
(907) 586-3105

USA COALITION TARGETS PHASE-OUT OF FOREIGN FISHING

JUNEAU, ALASKA. MAY 1, 1985. The USA Coalition Committee today held its first press conference, announcing its goal of having foreign fishing interests in U.S. waters completely phased out within the next five years. Citing the value of the fishery resources off Alaska's coast, and the original intent of the federal Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA), the USA Coalition is calling for Americanization of the U.S. fishery, and is seeking amendments to the MFCMA providing for a complete phase-out of foreign fishing by 1988 and of foreign processing by 1990.

"Foreign fishing interests are taking more than four billion pounds of fish each year from U.S. waters off Alaska's coast," explains Larry Cotter, USA Coalition Committee member and President of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Local 200, "and that amounts to 80% of the total harvest. We think it's

. . . more . . .



time Alaska started seeing more economic benefit from the fishery."

At today's press conference, USA Coalition Committee members presented their views on the ways in which a transfer of control of the fishery from foreign to domestic hands will benefit Alaska, including the creation of jobs, the promotion of economic stability in Alaska's coastal communities, and the reduction in "incidental catches" of halibut, salmon and herring by foreign high-seas fishing vessels.

Committee member Rick Lauber, Alaska Manager and Vice-President of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, noted that resolutions supporting Americanization of the fishery have been introduced in both houses of the Alaska State Legislature, and that action is taking place on the municipal level. "The City of Sand Point, the City and Borough of Kodiak, and the City and Borough of Sitka have already passed municipal resolutions supporting a phase-out," notes Mr. Lauber. The Aleutian - Pribilof Islands Association, a non-profit regional corporation, has also passed such a resolution.

The USA Coalition comprises commercial fishermen, labor organizations, seafood processors, sportfishermen, transport

. . . more . . .

companies, and concerned citizens. Other members of the Coalition Committee are Bix Bonney, representing sportfishermen, and a member of the State Board of Fish; John Cleveland, with transport company Sea-Land Service; and Ron Jolin, a commercial fisherman from Kodiak and Chairman of the State Board of Fish.

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Anchorage Daily News

119, 170 PAGES

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

Alliance wants to end foreign take of state fish P.D.

By ANN CONY
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — Lay end to end all the fish caught or processed by foreigners off the Alaska coast last year and they'd wrap around the equator 13 times, according to Larry Cotter.

That may sound like trivia, but to Cotter and others it illustrates an important point.

Cotter is part of the United Seafood Americanization (USA) Coalition, a group of fishing, seafood processing, union and transportation interests which recently organized to advocate exclusion of foreign fishing and processing fleets from U.S. waters off Alaska.

Foreigners last year processed 80 percent, or 4.1 billion pounds, of the total seafood harvest within 200 miles of Alaska, said

Cotter, state president of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. The union represents cannery workers.

"It's an amazing resource out there, and we're getting little or no benefit from it," he said.

"The problem we have had is that a majority of people in the country, even in Alaska, don't realize — to put it frankly — that they're getting shafted," said Rick Lauber, a lobbyist for the Pacific Seafood Processors Association.

The USA Coalition wants to change that by passing laws to phase out all foreign fishing and processing off Alaska by 1988.

It also wants a freeze at current levels of joint ventures, in which American fishermen sell their catch to foreign processing fleets.

The coalition calls for elimination of joint ventures after 1990.

Foreign domination of the bottomfish industry boils down to an economic "Catch 22," coalition members said.

Domestic fish processors can't expand their capacity to handle vast quantities of cod, pollock and other groundfish species because they can't compete with foreign processors, who pay wages as low as 37 cents an hour.

Because the domestic industry can't process all the fish, foreign fleets are allocated huge quantities under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

That law is before Congress for review this year.

See D-3, ALLIANCE

Alliance wants fishing limits

Continued from Page D-1

Coalition members testified Wednesday before the Senate Resources Committee for a resolution asking Congress and President Reagan to act on the matter.

Anchorage residents and other Alaskans could enjoy lower freight rates if the domestic fishing industry were helped by excluding foreigners, said John Cleveland, a coalition member from SeaLand Service Inc., a main shipper serving Alaska.

Cleveland said more do-

would increase freight volume and lower costs.

Sport fishing activist Bix Bonney said foreign fleets fishing for bottomfish also catch king salmon that otherwise would return to streams in Southcentral Alaska.

The "incidental" catch of king salmon by the Japanese fishing fleet alone comes to about 200,000 fish a year, according to Bonney.

"Anybody who touches my king salmon, they're in trouble. This is something that runs right up there were God, motherhood and country," he

JUNEAU EMPIRE

"The Voice of Alaska's Capital City"

JUNEAU, ALASKA, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

JUNEAU EMPIRE, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985 3

Coalition pushes end to foreign fishing within conservation zone

By KIRK McALLISTER
The Juneau Empire

A group representing several segments of the seafood and transportation industries have banded together to push for an end to all foreign fishing in the 200-mile fishery conservation zone off the coast of Alaska.

The group, "USA Coalition" (United Seafood Americanization) wants Congress to amend the 1976 Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, which set up the 200-mile zone, to phase out all foreign fishing in the zone in the next five years.

In addition, the group wants a freeze on sales of American-harvested fish to foreign processors at current levels until 1990 when American processors can replace foreign operations.

Both of those goals would stimulate U.S. investment in the lucrative bottomfish industry, group members say. More than 5 billion pounds of seafood are caught off Alaska each year.

The coalition includes processors, commercial fishermen, sport fishermen, labor organizations and transportation companies.

Coalition member Larry Cotter, president of Local 200 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, said that phasing out foreign fishing in the 200-mile zone would have several major benefits for Alaska including:

- Stimulating the economies of coastal communities with investment by American processors. That would in turn provide thousands of year-round jobs for processing workers.

- Reducing the incidental catches of salmon, halibut and herring by foreign fleets, meaning more fish would return to Alaska's commercial and sport fisheries.

- Reducing transportation costs in Alaska as more freight would be hauled south and freight volume and competition would be increased.

Cotter said seafood processing workers have the lowest annual income of any major labor group in the state because of the seasonal nature of the salmon, halibut and crab fisheries. Bottomfish would allow many workers year-round jobs.

Another coalition member, Jeff Stephan, manager of the United Fishermen's Marketing Association in Kodiak, said that very few Alaskans are benefiting from joint ventures. Of the 85 to 95 American trawlers involved in joint ventures with foreign nations only about 10 are Alaskans.

Of the 2 million metric tons of fish harvested in the 200-mile zone by foreign fleets, about 900,000 tons was in joint ventures with American boats.

"There won't be any American investment in the bottomfish industry such as cod and pollack as long as there's a foreign presence in the zone," Stephan said. "But when you restrict access to Americans only it increases the value of the products to U.S. industry and will stimulate investment. We've seen this work already with tanner crab, king crab and sablefish."

Rick Lauber, Alaska manager of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, said that in the nine years of its existence, the 200-mile limit law has been "an absolute failure" for processors in Alaska.

"There's more fish being processed by foreign interests now than before the act went into effect," Lauber said. "There must be a foreign phase-out before domestic processors will begin investing. We just can't compete with their low costs. The Koreans, for example, pay their processing workers 37 cents an hour. How can we compete with that?"

Lauber said he was confident that American processors would be able to increase domestic markets for bottomfish and would still be able to sell to traditional Asian markets as well.

The USA Coalition is pushing resolutions in both houses of the Legislature calling for amendments to the 200-mile limit law. The Alaska delegation in Washington, D.C., plans to introduce amendments to the act this year, an aide to Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said this morning.

Gov. Bill Sheffield also supports removing foreign fleets from Alaska waters, which would help diversify the state's economy, said Molly McCammon, press secretary to the governor.

Anchorage Daily News

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

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By ANN CONY

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"The problem we have had is that a majority of people in the country, even in Alaska, don't realize — to put it frankly — that they're getting shafted," said Rick Lauber, a lobbyist for the Pacific Seafood Processors Association.

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Because the domestic industry can't process all the fish, foreign fleets are allocated huge quantities under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

That law is before Congress for review this year.

Alliance wants fishing limits

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Coalition members testified Wednesday before the Senate Resources Committee for a resolution asking Congress and President Reagan to act on the matter.

Anchorage residents and other Alaskans could enjoy lower freight rates if the domestic fishing industry were helped by excluding foreigners, said John Cleveland, a coalition member from Sealand Service Inc., a main shipper serving Alaska.

Cleveland said more domestic fishing and processing

would increase freight volume and lower costs.

Sport fishing activist Bill Bonney said foreign fleet fishing for bottomfish also catch king salmon that otherwise would return to streams in Southcentral Alaska.

The "incidental" catch of king salmon by the Japanese fishing fleet alone comes to about 200,000 fish a year, according to Bonney.

"Anybody who touches my king salmon, they're in trouble. This is something that runs right up there were God's motherhood and country," he said.

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