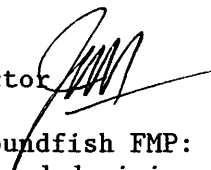


MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 1980

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

FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish FMP: Proposed Amendments,  
Comment on Release of Reserves and decision on 'scoping'  
meeting. .

ACTION REQUIRED

- (1) No action required on proposed amendment list.
- (2) Recommendations are needed on the first scheduled release of reserves.
- (3) Set a 'scoping' meeting for amendments as required by NEPA.

BACKGROUND

- (1) The BS/AI Management Plan Drafting Team met in Seattle on January 29-31 to discuss annual amendments to this plan. Bert Larkins turned over the leadership of that team to Dr. Low who produced the attached list (Attachment #1) of "Categories of Amendments" and the following schedule:

February Meeting . . . . . Present broad amendment categories  
(Attachment 1)

Early March . . . . . Scoping Meeting

March Meeting. . . . . Present actual amendments

April 1 - 20 . . . . . Public hearing on amendments

April Meeting. . . . . Council action on amendments  
Effective January 1, 1981

- (2) The BS/AI Groundfish Plan has not been implemented yet. The PMP, which regulates the foreign fishery is in place and currently contains "Apportionment of Reserve" regulations similar to those in our Plan. The first release of reserves is scheduled for February 2nd. Up to 25% of each reserve amount (attachment 2) is to be reallocated to DAH or TALFF as appropriate.

Two sets of comments have been received and are attached (attachment 3); both from Marine Resources, Inc. They collectively recommend:

- (a) Atka mackerel reserves be released to DAH (JVP).
- (b) No yellowfin sole, turbot, or other flounders be released to TALFF.
- (c) Yellowfin sole reserves be released to DAH (JVP).
- (d) Reallocate unallocated 7,500 mt yellowfin sole from TALFF to DAH.

We are presently unable to provide catch data from the US/USSR joint venture or the Icicle operation because it would violate the confidentiality of data, interim final regulations. We are also not able to provide foreign catch data because the tabulated foreign catches are only used with "NMFS best blend" calculations which are not available to us.

- (3) A 'scoping' meeting is required by Sec. 1501.7 of CEQ's NEPA regulations and a workplan by NOAA Directives Manual, Chapter 21, Sec. 24 (part of E012044 process). We file a 'Notice of Intent' to prepare an EIS, then decide if we should at scoping meeting. Estimates of costs and benefits of regulation,, etc., are supposed to be decided and decision made as to whether fishery is in need of regulation.

Attachments

MIH

2

CATEGORIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE  
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. A multiple year, multiple species approach in which MSY, OY and reserve apply to the groundfish complex as a whole with TAC ranges established for individual species groups. Between-year adjustments within each TAC range would be accomplished by the regulatory rather than amendment process.
2. A package of amendments dealing with prohibited species which, if accepted in total, would allow doing away with most time and area closures by:
  - (a) Establish limits on the tonnage of each prohibited species that will be allowed (but must still be discarded) which will be allocated to DAH and TALFF and if exceeded, cost closure of entire national fishery.
  - (b) Economic disincentive (per my July, 1979 letter to Branson) with options as to whether it should apply to domestic fishermen.
  - (c) Funding for sufficient observer coverage to assure that prohibited species do not exceed the allowable tonnage.
3. Resolve the problem of the high incidental catch of salmon and herring in the foreign trawl catch.
4. Reexamine the concept of area closures for the following: the Misty Moon Grounds, the winter halibut savings area and the Bristol Bay pot sanctuary.
5. Update the status of stocks.
6. Address the Processor Preference Amendment, especially evaluating the impact and the criteria for specific time and area closures: especially the Akutan/Akun 12-mile closure.
7. Re-examine the definitions for Pacific ocean perch and other rockfishes.
8. Evaluate and examine the OY's for pollock and yellowfin sole.
9. Evaluate and modify the Regional Director's in-season authority for time and area closures for gear conflicts and potential ground pre-emption problems.

BS/A FMP

ANNEX III -- Derivation of Total Allowable Level of Foreign Fishing

(TALFF) (Metric Tons)

Reference: Species group	Sub-area <u>1/</u>	Annex I ABC = OY	Section 13.1 Reserve	Annex II Initial DAH	Initial TALFF
Pollock	Bering Sea	1,000,000	50,000	19,550	930,450
Pollock	Aleutian	100,000	<u>3/</u>	--	100,000
Yellowfin sole		117,000	5,850	2,050	109,100
Turbots		90,000	4,500	1,075	84,425
Other flatfishes <u>2/</u>		61,000	3,050	1,300	56,650
Pacific cod		58,700	2,935	24,265	31,500
Pacific ocean perch	Bering Sea	3,250	162	1,380	1,708
Pacific ocean perch	Aleutian	7,500	375	1,380	5,745
Other rockfish		7,727	500	1,550	5,677
Sablefish	Bering Sea	3,500	350	700	2,450
Sablefish	Aleutian	1,500	150	700	650
Atka mackerel		24,800	1,240	100	23,460
Squid		10,000	500	50	9,450
Others		74,249	3,712	2,000	68,537
Total		1,559,226	73,324	56,100	1,429,802

\*1/ BS Bering Sea (Statistical Areas I, II, III combined).

AL Aleutian Island Area (Statistical Area IV).

2/ Excluding Pacific halibut.

3/ This OY calculated for the offshore pollock population in deep water is discussed in Annex I (p. A-13). No reserve is considered necessary at this time since there is little U.S. capability for a pelagic trawl fishery and resource abundance on the continental shelf is expected to keep any U.S. effort on that component identified as "B.Sea."

\* Includes territorial waters.

25% or  
 310 mt available  
 for release.

4







# Marine Resources Co., Inc.

Agenda G-3

Feb. 1980

**HEAD OFFICE:**

4215 - 21st Avenue West  
Suite 206  
Seattle, Washington 98199  
Phone: (206) 285-2701  
Telex: 32-8041 MRC SEA

**NAKHODKA OFFICE:**

Hotel Horizon-BAMR  
Suite 224  
Nakhodka Primorskogo 4  
U.S.S.R.  
Telex: 213434 MRKNHDSU

January 25, 1980

Harry Rietze  
Regional Director  
Alaska Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P. O. Box 1668  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Harry:

Marine Resources Company would like to comment on the decision whether to release any of the reserves established in the Bering Sea Groundfish PMP scheduled for February 2, 1980. With our fishing operation in the Bering Sea just getting underway, the uncertainties of the elements, available fish, and regulatory constraints cause us to be reluctant to recommend the release of any of the reserves to TALFF for species sought by Marine Resources at this time.

Our claim to the reserves is highlighted by the circumstances which we have recently encountered concerning Atka mackerel. Although we projected only small Atka mackerel harvests and therefore requested only 100 tons of fish, we now find that our fishermen are catching this species in significant quantities. As the catch approaches the 100 MT JVP for Atka mackerel, we are very concerned that the permit condition on the Soviet processing vessels limits the amount of fish that may be received to the amount of JVP.

Because of this permit condition, U.S. fishermen will have to wastefully return to the sea Atka mackerel in excess of 100 tons unless the restriction is lifted. More importantly, they will have to sort the catches before transfer, which will cause serious delays and increase costs, to insure that we don't shut down all J.V. operations (both Soviet and ROK). This would occur if the 100 MT limit were reached before any corrective actions were taken with respect to the JVP amounts in the PMP.

6.

Harry Rietze  
January 25, 1980  
Page 2.

This type of permit condition may be appropriate for certain species in certain instances. However, as it is applied across the board to all JVP's, the result is a limitation on U.S. fishermen where none is needed, nor intended. We believe that this permit condition should be changed immediately to allow joint ventures to proceed as planned and approved.

The other regulatory constraint which affects our operation is the procedure specified in 50 CFR Section 611.93 for re-assigning reserve amounts to DAH. While such a process is clearly necessary to reallocate reserves to TALFF, it seems less logical to require the same procedures to be followed before the reserve amount may be made available to domestic fishermen. We suggest that the reserve ought to be automatically available to domestic fishermen who need it, rather than requiring U.S. fishermen to go through a lengthy procedure which may take as long as two months before having access to fish that are rightfully theirs under the principles spelled out in the FMP and the FCMA. This could be achieved by including the reserve as a subset of DAH along with DAP, JVP and NP. The reserve would be available to domestic fishermen on demand unless reallocated to TALFF through the reserve release procedure.

In summary, we request that you immediately make available the Atka mackerel from the reserve to meet the demand of U.S. fishermen for this highly underutilized species or to alter the permit restrictions to allow our processing vessels to retain Atka mackerel beyond the specified JVP amount. We also request that the DAH/reserve/TALFF system be reviewed to consider the above concerns. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Wally*  
Walter T. Pereyra  
Vice President and General Manager  
for U. S. Operations

WTP:kb





Harry Rietze  
January 25, 1980  
Page 2.

We note with concern that the present PMP only provides for a yellowfin sole DAH of 2,050 MT with a JVP portion of 850 MT. Moreover there is only 5,850 MT in reserve. Considering the potential harvest from our operation plus that which may be taken by other domestic fishermen (Stewart Investment Group, for example) it seems to us that the amount presently available for domestic fishermen is not sufficient. For this reason we strongly urge that after consulting with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council the following non-actions or actions be taken:

- 1) No allocation of Reserves of yellowfin sole, turbot or other flounders to TALFF
- 2) Allocation of the entire yellowfin sole Reserve of 5,850 MT to the JVP portion of DAH (This will increase DAH to 7,900 MT and JVP to 6,700 MT.)
- 3) Re-allocation by PMP amendment of 7,500 MT of yellowfin sole TALFF which as yet has not been allocated to any foreign nation to reserve.

The above actions will insure that the developing domestic fisheries in the Bering Sea will not be impeded while at the same time not disrupting any foreign fisheries. Since the foreign sole fishery has traditionally taken place in the last half of the year, there will be ample time to re-allocate from DAH and Reserve to TALFF if for some reason the domestic fishery doesn't reach the level anticipated.

Sincerely,

*Walter T. Pereyra*  
Walter T. Pereyra  
Vice President and General Manager  
for U. S. Operations

WTP:kb  
cc: Jim Branson  
Terry Leitzel  
Bob Alverson  
Dr. Frank Fukuhara

Total observed data through 1/26/80  
for Joint Venture Catches in Bering Sea

Turbot 5.81

Other  
Flatfish ~~1.3~~ 1.3

Pollock 411.08

P. Cod 104.17

Herring 16.34

Arctic Hake 16.51

BCP 5.25

Rockfish 0.43

Other ~~11.1~~ ~~19.66~~ 14.61

Total Observer data for 12/6/80  
For Saint Vincente Catlines in Bering Sea.

Harpor 5.81

~~Other~~ ~~Flutish~~ 1.3

Pallack 411.08

P. Cal 104.17

Avsimg 16.34

Atka Mnk 16.51

BSX 5.25

Brownish 0.43

~~Other~~ ~~14.61~~

Total observed data through 1/26/80  
for Joint Venture Catches in Bering Sea

Turbot 5.81

Other  
Flatfish ~~1.3~~ 1.3

Pollock 411.08

P. Cod 104.17

Herring 16.34

Atka Mackerel 16.51

BCP 5.25

Rockfish 0.43

Other ~~1.3~~ ~~1.3~~ 14.61

Total Observer data for sample 126/80  
For Joint Venture Cutlines in Bering Sea

Fur Seal	5.81
Other Fur Seal	<del>1.3</del> 1.3
Polar Bear	411.08
P. Seal	104.17
Harling	16.314
Arka Mark	16.57
BSR	5.25
Brookish	0.143
Other	<del>1.1</del> 14.61

Total Observer data for sample 1/26/80  
For Soint Venture Catlines in Bering Sea

Harporot	5.81
<del>Other</del> Puffin	<del>1.3</del>
Puffin	411.08
P. Gull	109.17
Harporot	16.34
Arka Mark	16.51
BSR	5.25
Brookfish	0.143
Other	<del>14.61</del>

TOTAL BLEND	CATCH BLEND	TOTAL	QUOTA TONS	REMAINDER	CMPL DATE
7.5	7.6	7.6	5570.0	5562.6	
0.0	0.0	0.0	63700.0	63700.0	
260.2	260.2	260.2	33400.0	33139.9	
3214.4	3214.4	3214.4	734489.0	731274.6	
112.6	112.6	112.6	22000.0	21887.5	
0.6	0.7	0.7	1500.0	1499.4	
0.0	0.0	0.0	1900.0	1900.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	1008.0	1008.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	3550.0	3550.0	
1.8	1.9	1.9	50700.0	50698.3	
6.3	6.4	6.4	49700.0	49693.8	
0.0	0.0	0.0	1650.0	1650.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	41800.0	41800.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	21900.0	21900.0	
402.4	402.5	402.5	58734.0	58331.7	
0.0	0.0	0.0	3000.0	3000.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	370.0	370.0	
154.2	154.3	154.3	10400.0	10245.9	
0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0	150.0	
4.5	4.6	4.6	1900.0	1895.6	
0.0	0.0	0.0	10800.0	10800.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	32600.0	32600.0	
84.9	126.0	126.0	1650.0	1524.1	80/ 7/ 2
5.7	0.0	0.0	2600.0	2600.0	
16.9	124.0	124.0	1100.0	976.1	80/ 5/ 4
1392.3	1898.5	1898.5	82825.0	80926.6	81/ 9/ 1
35.9	62.8	62.8	4000.0	3937.3	
0.0	0.0	0.0	370.0	370.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	1670.0	1670.0	
2.2	3.1	3.1	300.0	297.0	
0.0	0.0	.0	400.0	400.0	
36.8	15.0	15.0	5140.0	5125.1	
22.5	0.0	0.0	1600.0	1600.0	
0.0	0.0	0.0	3883.0	3883.0	

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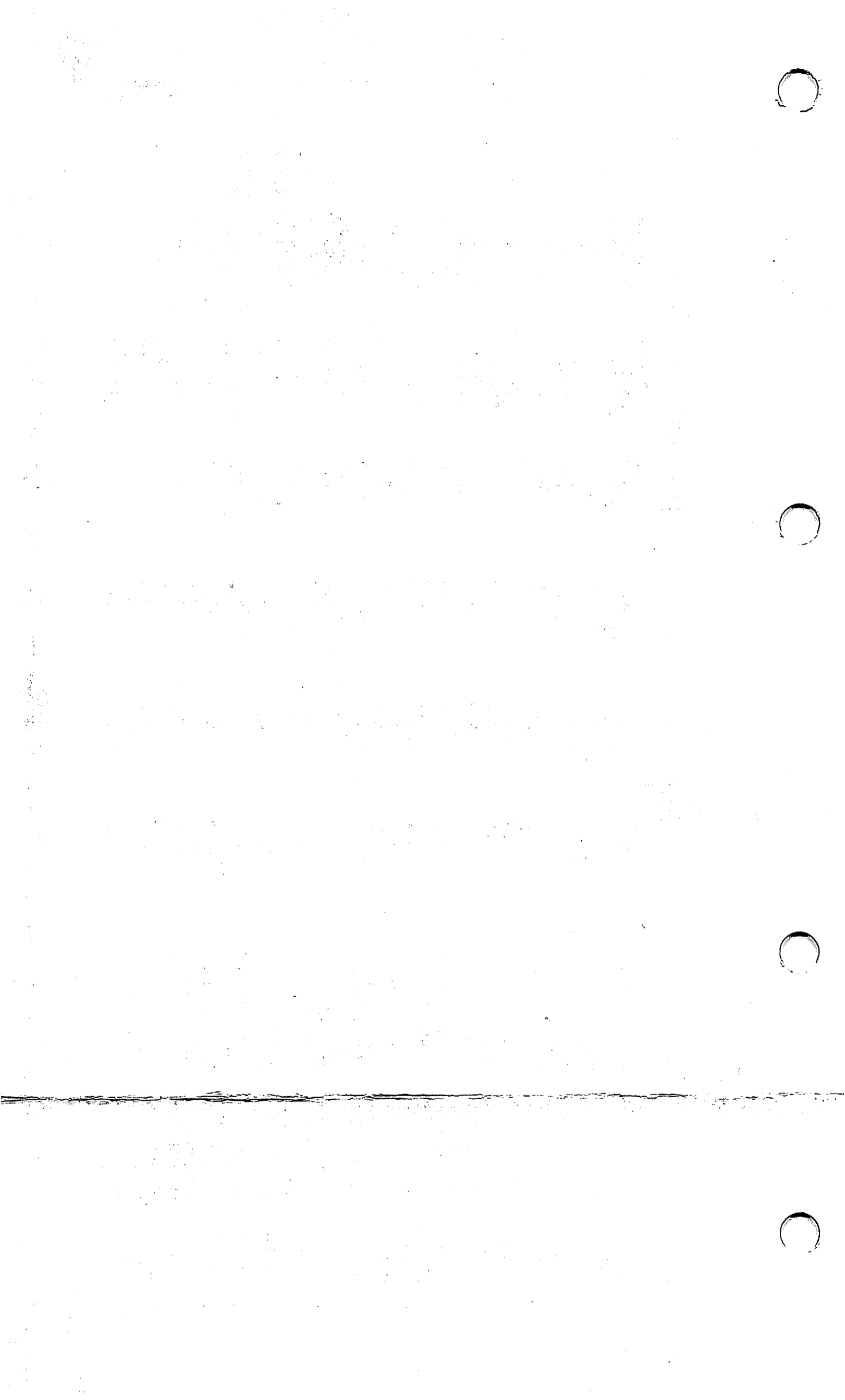


PERIOD	NATION	AREA	SPECIES	FOR. CATCH	FOR. TOTAL BLEND	CATCH BLEND	TOTAL	QUOTA TONS	REMAINDER	CMPL DATE
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	SQUID	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	5570.0	5562.6	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	YELLOWFIN SO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	63700.0	63700.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	FLOUN WO YFS	260.2	260.2	260.2	260.2	33400.0	33139.9	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	POLLOCK	3214.4	3214.4	3214.4	3214.4	734489.0	731274.6	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	PACIFIC COD	112.6	112.6	112.6	112.6	22000.0	21887.5	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	SABLEFISH	0.	0.6	0.7	0.7	1500.0	1499.4	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	ATKAMACKEREL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1900.0	1900.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	POP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1008.0	1008.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	HERRING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3550.0	3550.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	OTHER FISH	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	50700.0	50698.3	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	TURBOTS	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	49700.0	49693.8	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	SQUID	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1650.0	1650.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	YELLOWFIN SO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41800.0	41800.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	FLOUN WO YFS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21900.0	21900.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	POLLOCK	402.4	402.4	402.5	402.5	58734.0	58331.7	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	PACIFIC COD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3000.0	3000.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	SABLEFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	370.0	370.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	ATKAMACKEREL	154.2	154.2	154.3	154.3	10400.0	10245.9	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	POP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0	150.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	HERRING	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	1900.0	1895.6	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	OTHER FISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10800.0	10800.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	TURBOTS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32600.0	32600.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	SQUID	84.9	84.9	126.0	126.0	1650.0	1524.1	80/ 7/ 2
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	YELLOWFIN SO	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0	2600.0	2600.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	FLOUN WO YFS	16.9	16.9	124.0	124.0	1100.0	976.1	80/ 5/ 4
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	POLLOCK	1392.3	1392.3	1898.5	1898.5	82825.0	80926.6	81/ 9/ 1
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	PACIFIC COD	35.9	35.9	62.8	62.8	4000.0	3937.3	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	SABLEFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	370.0	370.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	ATKAMACKEREL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1670.0	1670.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	POP	2.2	2.2	3.1	3.1	300.0	297.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	HERRING	0.0	0.0	0.0	.0	400.0	400.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	OTHER FISH	36.8	36.8	15.0	15.0	5140.0	5125.1	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	TUBBOTS	22.5	22.5	0.0	0.0	1600.0	1600.0	

FISHERIES WITH NO ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD

1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	RKFISH WOPOP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3883.0	3883.0	
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Agenda G-3  
Feb. 1980



PERIOD	NATION	AREA	SPECIES	FOR. CATCH	FOR. TOTAL BLEND	CATCH BLEND	TOTAL	QUOTA TONS	REMAINDER	CMPL DATE
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	SQUID	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6	5570.0	5562.6	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	YELLOWFIN SO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	63700.0	63700.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	FLOUN WO YFS	260.2	260.2	260.2	260.2	33400.0	33139.9	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	POLLOCK	3214.4	3214.4	3214.4	3214.4	734489.0	731274.6	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	PACIFIC COD	112.6	112.6	112.6	112.6	22000.0	21887.5	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	SABLEFISH	0.	0.6	0.7	0.7	1500.0	1499.4	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	ATKAMACKEREL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1900.0	1900.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	POP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1008.0	1008.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	HERRING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3550.0	3550.0	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	OTHER FISH	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	50700.0	50698.3	
1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	TURBOTS	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	49700.0	49693.8	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	SQUID	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1650.0	1650.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	YELLOWFIN SO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41800.0	41800.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	FLOUN WO YFS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21900.0	21900.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	POLLOCK	402.4	402.4	402.5	402.5	58734.0	58331.7	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	PACIFIC COD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3000.0	3000.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	SABLEFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	370.0	370.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	ATKAMACKEREL	154.2	154.2	154.3	154.3	10400.0	10245.9	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	POP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0	150.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	HERRING	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	1900.0	1895.6	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	OTHER FISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10800.0	10800.0	
1	USSR	BERING SEA	TURBOTS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32600.0	32600.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	SQUID	84.9	84.9	126.0	126.0	1650.0	1524.1	80/ 7/ 2
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	YELLOWFIN SO	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0	2600.0	2600.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	FLOUN WO YFS	16.9	16.9	124.0	124.0	1100.0	976.1	80/ 5/ 4
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	POLLOCK	1392.3	1392.3	1898.5	1898.5	82825.0	80926.6	81/ 9/ 1
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	PACIFIC COD	35.9	35.9	62.8	62.8	4000.0	3937.3	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	SABLEFISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	370.0	370.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	ATKAMACKEREL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1670.0	1670.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	POP	2.2	2.2	3.1	3.1	300.0	297.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	HERRING	0.0	0.0	0.0	.0	400.0	400.0	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	OTHER FISH	36.8	36.8	15.0	15.0	5140.0	5125.1	
1	KOREA	BERING SEA	TUBBOTS	22.5	22.5	0.0	0.0	1600.0	1600.0	

FISHERIES WITH NO ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD

1	JAPAN	BERING SEA	RKFISH WOPOP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3883.0	3883.0	
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