

SOUTH KOREAN FISHING OPERATIONS - 1975

South Korean fishing off Alaska in 1975 was at a reduced effort from 1974. A total of 13 independently operating stern trawlers and 9 longliners operated off Alaska in 1975. This was a decrease of 15 vessels from the previous year. It is estimated that the 1975 catch totaled 18,000 metric tons, nearly half the estimated catch of 35 to 40 thousand metric tons for 1974.

Groundfish Trawl Fishery

This fishery was conducted by independent stern trawlers, a independent Danish seiner in the Bering Sea and independent stern trawlers in the Gulf of Alaska and along the Aleutian Islands chain. It is estimated that the South Korean trawlers caught 15,000 to 17,000 metric tons of groundfish in 1975.

South Korean trawling in the Gulf of Alaska was confined to a brief period at mid-year. In late July, five stern trawlers operated along the Continental Shelf edge from the Shumagin Islands eastward to Albatross Bank. One of the trawlers departed in mid-August and the remaining trawlers departed a week later.

Trawling along the Aleutian Islands chain began in mid-May by a single stern trawler fishing south of the eastern Aleutians until mid-June. In late July, three stern trawlers resumed fishing in that same area with one vessel leaving soon to fish in the Gulf of Alaska. The two remaining trawlers were joined in late August by two additional trawlers bringing the total to four. The effort continued at four stern trawlers until mid-September when it declined to three which operated throughout the month and then departed the area. Also in late July one stern trawler fished briefly south of the central Aleutians in the Andreanof Islands area.

It is estimated that a South Korean trawl catch in the Gulf of Alaska and along the Aleutian Islands totaled approximately 10,500 metric tons, primarily rockfish, sablefish and pollock.

South Korean trawling for groundfish in the Bering Sea was initially by an independent stern trawler which operated northwest of the Pribilof Islands along the Continental Shelf edge from late 1974 until early January 1975. A large Danish seine trawler operated north of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians during February and the first half of March. During June another stern trawler operated off the Pribilof Islands. The Danish seine vessel returned in mid-July and fished west of the Pribilof Islands until early August when the vessel returned to the area north of the Fox Islands. The seiner continued to operate in that area until late September. During 1975 the South Koreans did not employ a factory ship fleet for groundfish in the eastern Bering Sea as they had done in 1974.

The three vessels which operated in the Bering Sea during 1975 presumably were targeting on pollock and it is estimated that their catch totaled about 6,000 metric tons.

Longline Fishery

South Korean longline fishing for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska was sporadic and involved at least 9 different longline vessels. Most of the effort was in the eastern Gulf of Alaska, largely off southeast Alaska, and involved: one vessel in September; one to three ships in December and January; one or two vessels from February through April; four longliners in May; and one or two vessels from June through September. In the central Gulf, mainly on Portlock and Albatross Banks, there were: one vessel in September; three longliners in June; and one or two vessels in July and August. Longlining in the western Gulf was limited to one ship in November and two in April.

Longlining for sablefish along the Aleutian Islands chain was confined to two brief periods. One vessel fished south of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians from mid-September through the end of October and one vessel fished in the Seguam-Amukta Islands area of the central Aleutians during the month of April.

It is estimated the South Korean longline catch in the Gulf of Alaska and along the Aleutian Islands totaled between 1,500 and 2,000 metric tons, primarily sablefish.