

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWSLETTER

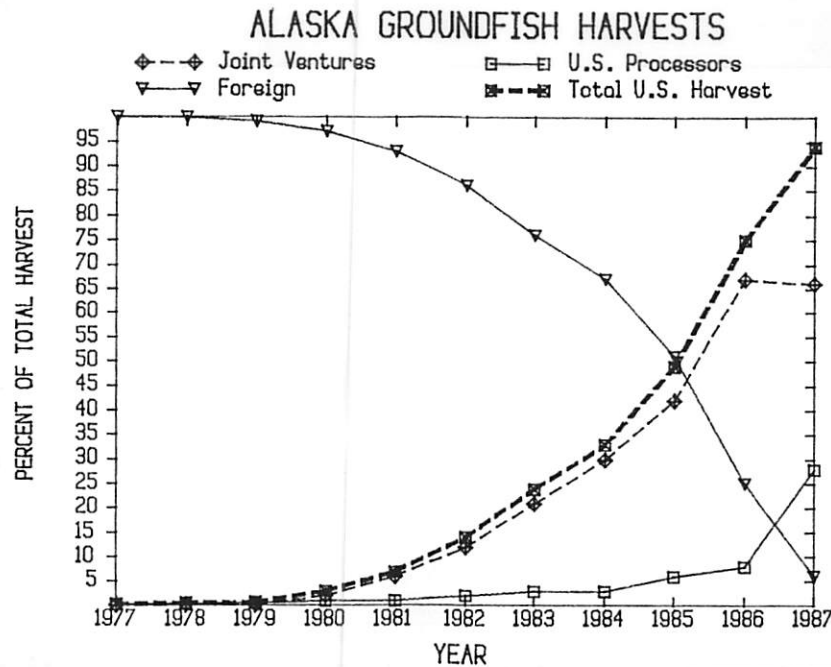
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## Gulf of Alaska to go All-American Next Year

The major issues on the North Pacific Council's agenda last week in Anchorage were groundfish harvest levels and apportionments to U.S. and foreign fisheries in 1987. U.S. processors testified they will require just over 193,000 mt groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska, product that will flow through shorebased plants and floating processors and factory trawlers. With minor exception, the Council voted to reserve Gulf fisheries next year for U.S. fishermen and processors.

The bulk of the joint ventures will operate in the Bering Sea and Aleutians on a projected harvest of 1.4 to 1.5 million mt. If projections hold true, U.S. fishermen will harvest around 2.0 million mt or 94% of the total groundfish available. This is a significant increase over the U.S. projected catch for 1986, between 1.35 and 1.45 million mt.

Foreign fisheries will be confined to the Bering Sea and Aleutians, fishing on relatively small quantities of cod, flatfish, turbot and sole amounting to 140,000 mt total, or 6% of the available groundfish harvest. This tonnage is only about one fourth the foreign allocation in 1986 and far below allocations of previous years.



Council to Meet Next in Anchorage

The North Pacific Council will hold its next meeting January 21-23 at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. The Council will review proposals for amendments to the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish plans and determine which should be further developed by the plan teams and presented at the March meeting. Final decisions on these amendments will be made in May. The Council also will review halibut regulatory proposals for 1987 and select a contractor to study future options for groundfish management. There will also be staff reports on the salmon fisheries and Council review of regulatory actions taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries concerning salmon off Southeast Alaska. Meetings of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel will be held on Monday and Tuesday, January 19-20.

Council Meeting Schedule for 1987

All 1987 Council meetings will be held in Anchorage.

Week of January 19, 1987	Hotel Captain Cook
Week of March 16, 1987	Anchorage Hilton
Week of May 18, 1987	Anchorage Hilton
Week of September 21, 1987	Anchorage Hilton
Week of December 6, 1987	Anchorage Hilton

Meeting agendas are available approximately two weeks prior to each meeting.

Scientific & Statistical Committee and Advisory Panel Members Named

Three new appointments to the Advisory Panel and one to the Scientific and Statistical Committee were announced at the Council meeting last week.

The Council approved the recommendation of the AP Nominating Committee to retain a 20-member Advisory Panel. The three new members appointed are Ronald Peterson, Lamar Cotten, and Edwin Fuglvog. Peterson, a commercial fisherman from Seattle, is President of the Alaska Crab Coalition and has fished Alaskan waters since 1960. Lamar Cotten is the City Administrator for Sand Point and Chairman of the Southwest Municipal Conference Fish Committee. He has lived in Alaska for over 35 years and has worked with Alaskans in the coastal communities of the Aleutians. Ed Fuglvog is a commercial longline fisherman from Petersburg, Alaska, and a member of the Petersburg Vessel Owners' Association.

Members reappointed to the Advisory Panel for another one-year term are:

Bob Alverson	Rick Lauber
Rupe Andrews	Nancy Munro
Terry Baker	Dan O'Hara
Al Burch	Cameron Sharick
Joe Chimegalrea	Thorn Smith
Barry Fisher	Richard White
Ron Hegge	Dave Woodruff
Oliver Holm	John Woodruff
Pete Isleib	

William Clark of the Washington Department of Fisheries will replace Tom Northup on the Scientific and Statistical Committee. Clark is a research scientist and Chief of the Technical Services Division, Marine Fish Program. Members reappointed for two-year SSC terms are: William Aron, Larry Hreha, Donald Bevan, Richard Marasco, Robert Burgner, Phil Mundy, John Burns, Terrance Quinn, Douglas Eggers, and Donald H. Rosenberg.

#### Legislative Update

The Council received a report on the omnibus fisheries bill, S. 991, that passed Congress on October 18, 1986 and was signed into law by the President on November 14, 1986. The bill, among other things, reauthorized and amended the MFCMA, created seafood marketing councils and a NOAA estuarine programs office, authorized the appointment of a chief scientist of NOAA, repealed the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act of 1964 and replaced it with an interjurisdictional fishery research program, and redesignated the office of NOAA Administrator as the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

The Council also was briefed on legislation from the last Congress that may be reintroduced in the early days of the 100th Congress. H.R. 5013, the Commercial Fishing Vessel Liability and Safety Act of 1986, was defeated in the House on August 13. That bill would have set limits on liability for vessel owners and operators and require certain safety equipment on fishing vessels. Congressman Don Young intends to reintroduce that bill early next year.

Three bills were introduced in October 1986 that dealt with reflagging of foreign processing vessels. Congress did not act on any of the bills before adjourning. All three bills are expected to be reintroduced next year.

#### Fishery Funded Organization for Research and Data Gathering

The Council received a status report on a public forum to discuss the creation of a private, non-profit industry supported foundation that would fund fishery research and data gathering. The meeting will held in Anchorage on January 18, 1987, at the Hotel Captain Cook. A detailed agenda will be mailed to those on the Council mailing list in the near future.

#### Halibut Proposals

The Council reviewed regulatory proposals that have been submitted to the International Pacific Halibut Commission by fishermen from Atka, the Pribilof Islands, and Dillingham. The fishermen from Atka had requested the Council to implement exclusive area registration in the halibut fishery around Atka Island. The Council will consider that proposal at its January meeting.

#### State Management Under Council Plan Preferred for Crab

The Council voted last March to suspend the implementing regulations for the Tanner crab plan because they made it very difficult to set harvest levels and make inseason adjustments in a timely manner. The plan team analyzed management alternatives for the fishery that went out for public comment over

the summer. They considered three major alternatives: State management and no Council fishery management plan (FMP), an FMP that delegates management to State, or an FMP and direct federal management.

Four overriding concerns were evident in the public comments reviewed by the Council in September. Any management arrangement used needs to provide efficient and effective management, conservation of the crab stocks, fair access by non-residents to management decision-making, and protection for non-residents against discrimination.

The Council appointed an industry-Council workgroup, the Crab Management Committee, to develop a comprehensive management approach for the crab fisheries off Alaska that would address these concerns. Larry Cotter (as chairman), Lloyd Cannon, Don Collinsworth, Bob McVey, Rudy Petersen, Thorn Smith, Jeff Stephan, Arni Thomson, John Winther, and Bill Woods made up the committee which met in Seattle on November 20. They were told that NMFS/NOAA strongly favored an FMP and that an FMP delegating routine management to the State for both king and Tanner crab was acceptable. NMFS was prepared to "accord great deference to state management of the crab fisheries." After deliberating all aspects of the problem the committee recommended that the Council instruct the crab team as follows:

1. Draft an FMP with maximum flexibility to defer management to the state.
2. Include all king and Tanner crab species in the Bering Sea and Aleutians.
3. Work closely with NOAA General Counsel to ensure the plan's contents meet the required provisions of MFCMA Section 303.
4. Use the existing king crab FMP as a point of departure for developing the new plan.
5. Separate management measures into three categories: those that are fixed in the plan and need amendment, those that are frameworked, and those on which the plan remains silent. Present options if in doubt on certain measures.
6. Report back to the Council at its March 16-20 meeting.

The general schedule for the new FMP would be for the team, after initial review next March, to further develop the plan with guidance from the Council as necessary throughout 1987. The plan would then enter the annual crab amendment cycle in January 1988. Public review would be in February through April with final Council action in May 1988. The FMP would be in effect for the 1988-89 winter fishery.

The Council discussed including the Gulf of Alaska in the proposed plan and finally voted to follow the committee recommendation to cover just the king and Tanner crab resources of the Bering Sea and Aleutians and that the plan should mesh with crab management in the Gulf of Alaska.

The Council also recommended that NMFS extend the emergency rule suspending the federal Tanner crab regulations a second 90 days. The original rule first took effect November 1 and expires January 31. The Council expects the State of Alaska to have full management authority for the crab fisheries inside and outside three miles while the new plan is being developed.

The Council asked the Secretary of Commerce to develop a Secretarial amendment permanently repealing the current Tanner crab plan. Secretarial action was requested since the process is faster than a Council amendment and can be accomplished before the second (and last) emergency rule expires.

Council Phases Out All Foreign and Most Joint Ventures in Gulf

The Council eliminated all directed foreign fishing and most joint venture groundfish fishing operations from the Gulf of Alaska for 1987, leaving the Gulf predominantly a domestic fishery. Their decision was based on both biological and socioeconomic considerations. Most of the recent foreign and joint venture fisheries have targeted on pollock, now in low abundance. There will be insufficient resource in 1987 to accommodate anything but an expanded domestic fishery. Foreign and joint venture fishing on Pacific cod was eliminated after receiving testimony that shoreside processors are having difficulty obtaining cod deliveries.

The Council revised harvest limits for most of the groundfish species in the Gulf of Alaska. New harvest levels (in metric tons) for 1987 are:

<u>Species</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Pollock	166,600	108,000
Flounder	14,380	30,000
Pacific ocean perch	3,702	5,000
Sablefish	15,000	20,000

Harvest limits for each management area (Figure 1) are in Table 1 with Council-designated allocations to U.S. fishermen and processors (DAP) and U.S. fishermen selling to foreign processors (JVP). The allocations were based on recent NMFS surveys of U.S. industry needs.

Table 1's new term, target quota (TQ), is much the same as last year's optimum yields (OY) for individual Gulf groundfish species. The TQ considers social and economic factors in addition to the biological factors used to determine ABC. Except for minor technical differences in the application of reserves, the Gulf TQs and Bering Sea total allowable catches (TAC), discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, are the same. Both represent retainable catches based on biological and socioeconomic considerations. The introduction of target quotas into the Gulf plan by Amendment 15 (approved by the Council in September) allows harvest levels to be changed annually without formal plan amendment.

The greatest quota change was for pollock which has declined in abundance since 1981. Scientists believe the pollock biomass reached its lowest level in 1986 but that little increase to the 1987 fishery will be realized because the increased biomass is due to recruitment of small fish that are less available to the gear. The fishing industry told the Council that the pollock

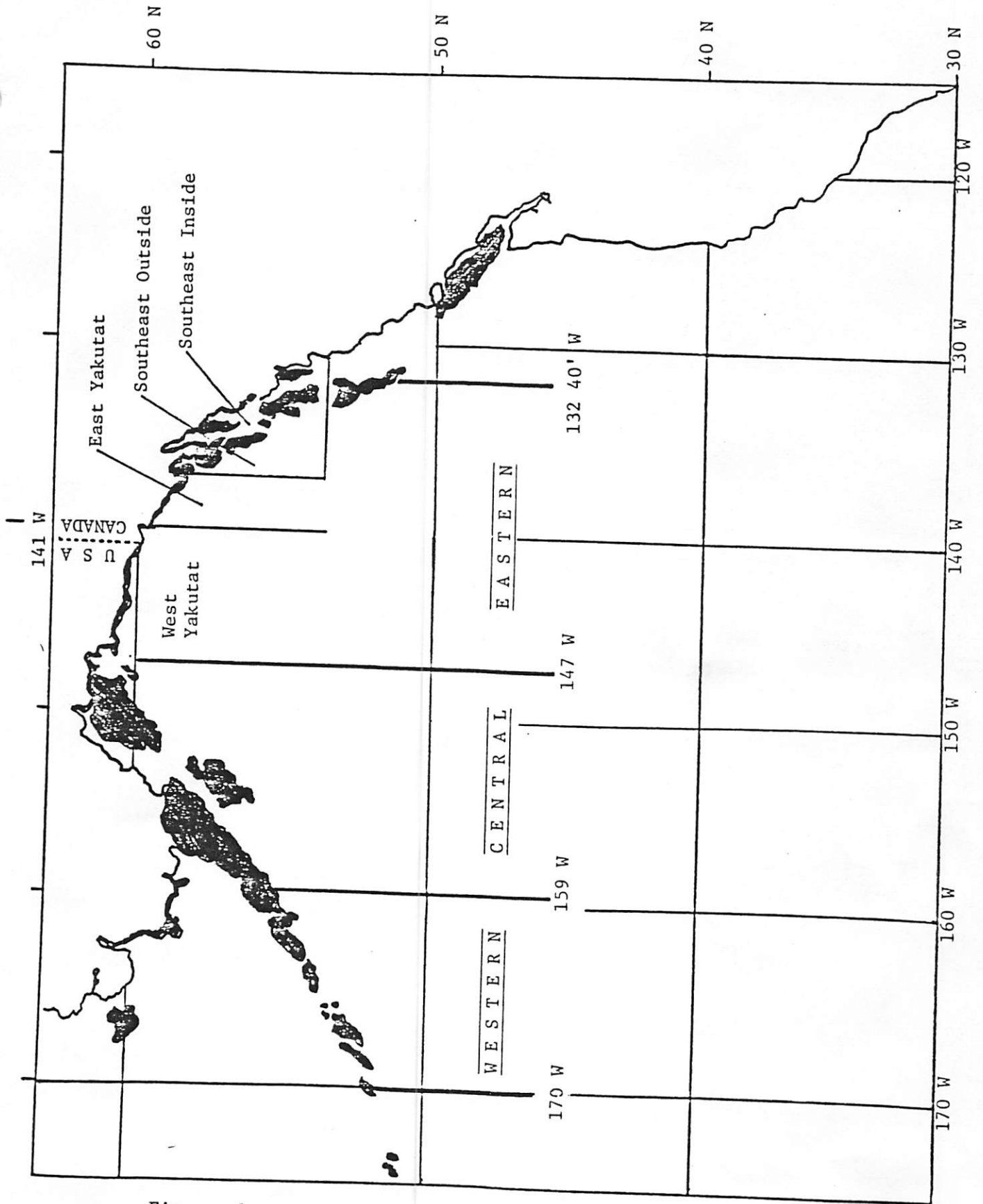


Figure 1. Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP)

Table 1.  
 GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH 1987 ABCs, TQs, DAPs, JVPs, TALFF, and PSCs (MT) (December, 1986)  
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Species	Area	ABC	TQ	RESERVE 20% TQ	DAP	JVP	TALFF	Halibut PSC limits		
Pollock (1/15-4/10)	W/C	95,000	84,000	0	83,700	300	0	DAP	JVP	
	Out.Shel.	n/a	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	3,000	47	
	E	17,000	4,000	0	4,000	0	0			
	Total	112,000	108,000	0	87,700	20,300	0			
Pacific Cod	W	33,750	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	Joint Venture PSC limits		
	C	70,000	33,000	0	32,775	225	0	Sablefish	P.O.P	O. Rockfish
	E	21,250	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	48	101	20
	Total	125,000	50,000	0	49,775	225	0			
Flounders	W	101,000	3,000	0	3,000	0	0			
	C	346,000	5,500	0	4,000	1,500	0			
	E	90,000	500	0	500	0	0			
	Total	537,000	9,000	0	7,500	1,500	0			
Pacific ocean perch	W	2,800	1,500	0	1,500	0	0			
	C	3,300	1,500	0	1,500	0	0			
	E	4,400	2,000	0	2,000	0	0			
	Total	10,500	5,000	0	5,000	0	0			
Sablefish	W	3,750	3,000	0	3,000	0	0			
	C	11,000	8,800	0	8,800	0	0			
	W. Yakutat	5,000	4,000	0	4,000	0	0			
	E. Yak./ S.E.Out.	5,250	4,200	0	4,200	0	0			
	Total	25,000	20,000	0	20,000	0	0			
Atka Mackerel	W	0	100	0	100	0	0			
	C	0	100	0	75	25	0			
	E	0	40	0	40	0	0			
	Total	0	240	0	215	25	0			
Rockfish	S.E.Out.	n/a	1,250	0	1,250	0	0			
	W/	n/a	4,000	0	4,000	0	0			
	C/	n/a		0		0	0			
	E	n/a		0		0	0			
Total	n/a	5,250	0	5,250	0	0				
Thornyhead	GW	3,750	3,750	0	3,700	50	0			
Squid	GW	n/a	5,000	0	4,950	50	0			
Other Species	GW	n/a	10,312	0	9,212	1,100	0			
TOTAL			216,552	0	193,302	23,250	0			

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in Shelikof Straits are most valuable as a roe fishery and asked that the 1987 harvest be reduced to allow these fish to mature. Full sexual maturity of the recruiting 1984 year class into the Shelikof Strait spawning stock will be achieved in 1988. The TQ for the Western and Central areas combined was reduced to 84,000 mt to prevent overharvest of the Shelikof stock.

A 20,000 mt TQ was set for the Western and Central areas outside Shelikof Strait (Figure 2) that will be available only between January 15 and April 10. The Council is trying to encourage an exploratory fishery to determine if pollock concentrate for spawning elsewhere in the Western/Central Gulf. The April 10 closure for the "Outside Shelikof" fishery should minimize fishing mortality on the Shelikof stock as it disperses into the Western and Central areas. This protection is essential if rebuilding is to continue and to maximize the economic value from this resource. Pollock harvested outside Shelikof before January 15 should be counted against the Western/Central 84,000 mt TQ.

The TQ was reduced to 4,000 mt in the Eastern area in response to DAP requests and to allow for rebuilding. The OY in this area was 16,600 mt but was based on old Japanese estimates and is not supported by recent NMFS surveys or catch statistics.

The flounder TQ was increased to 30,000 mt to stimulate domestic expansion into this fishery.

Sablefish stocks continue to rebuild and scientists believe we are at MSY levels. The TQ was increased to 20,000 mt and distributed among the five management districts based on the biomass distribution in the 400-1,000 m depth zone.

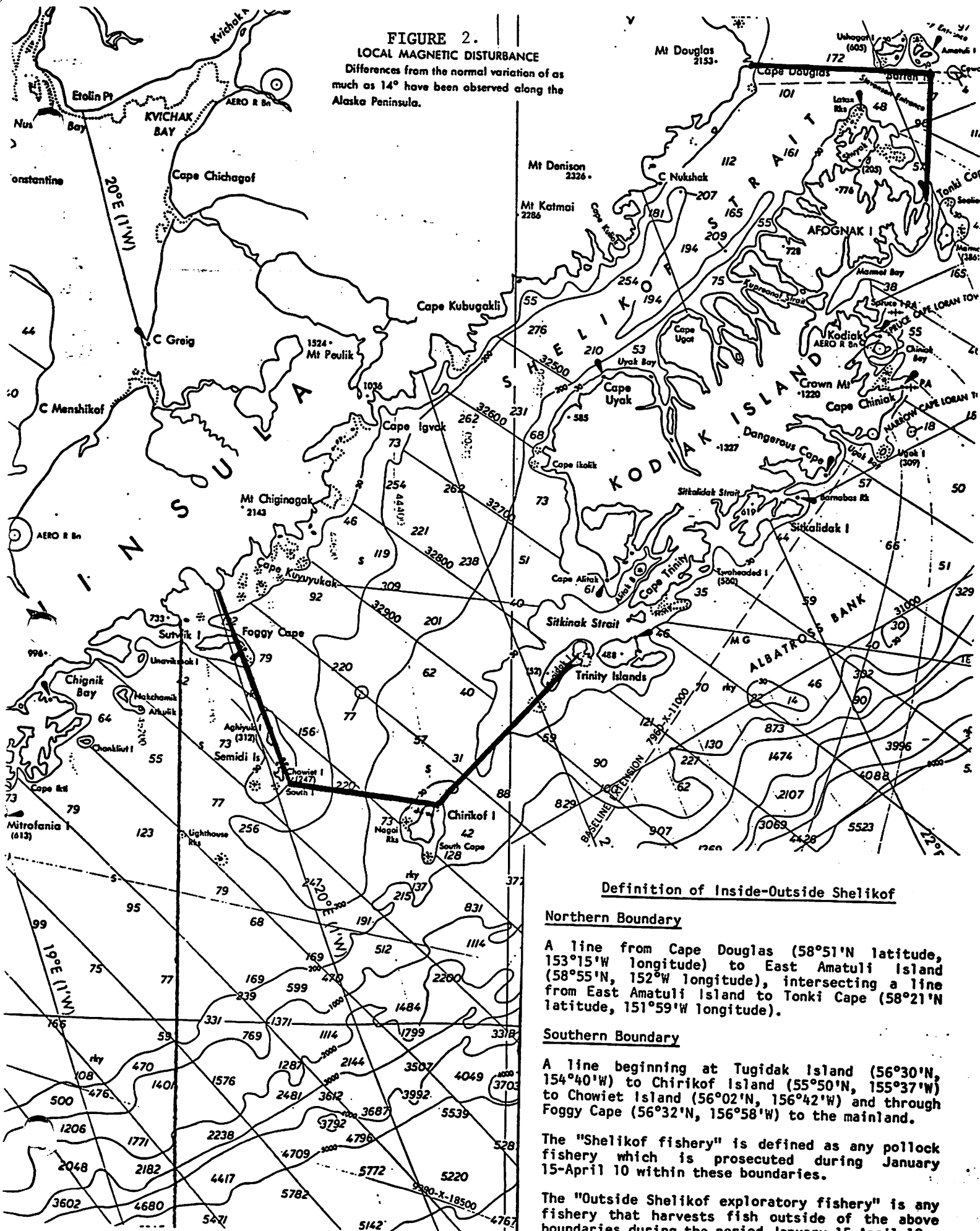
The Pacific ocean perch species complex is still depressed and shows no signs of rebuilding except in the Eastern area. Stock status information is limited due to the difficulty of surveying this group. Believing that Sebastes alutus has the greatest chance of recovery the Council has set the TQ below the S. alutus ABC in all areas for rebuilding purposes. The Council increased the TQ in the Eastern area to allow for a small domestic fishery which it hopes will provide valuable information on Pacific ocean perch in this region.

The Council asked the Regional Director to release reserves on January 1 to DAP and JVP so that it can be fully utilized by domestic fishermen at the beginning of the year. If excess DAP or JVP amounts are available during the year they can be reapportioned to other uses.

The Council used the halibut bycatch framework to set a PSC catch limit for halibut of 3,000 mt for DAP fishermen and 47 mt for joint venture fishermen. Based on analysis of halibut mortality rates associated with different modes of operation and observed bycatch rates the Council believes these limits will result in an actual halibut mortality below the accepted management goal of 1,340 mt. The mortality goal was lowered from the 2,000 mt of 1986 but these limits will still provide adequate amounts of halibut for bottom trawl bycatch and allow significant growth in domestic groundfish catches beyond 1986 levels. If the halibut PSC limit is reached during the year it is the Council's intent that on-bottom trawling for the remainder of the year will end unless new information is available indicating lower bycatch rates.



FIGURE 2.  
LOCAL MAGNETIC DISTURBANCE  
Differences from the normal variation of as  
much as 14° have been observed along the  
Alaska Peninsula.



Definition of Inside-Outside Shelikof

Northern Boundary

A line from Cape Douglas (58°51'N latitude, 153°15'W longitude) to East Amatuli Island (58°55'N, 152°W longitude), intersecting a line from East Amatuli Island to Tonki Cape (58°21'N latitude, 151°59'W longitude).

Southern Boundary

A line beginning at Tugidak Island (56°30'N, 154°40'W) to Chirikof Island (55°50'N, 155°37'W) to Chowitz Island (56°02'N, 156°42'W) and through Foggy Cape (56°32'N, 156°58'W) to the mainland.

The "Shelikof fishery" is defined as any pollock fishery which is prosecuted during January 15-April 10 within these boundaries.

The "Outside Shelikof exploratory fishery" is any fishery that harvests fish outside of the above boundaries during the period January 15-April 10.

And finally, as last year, sablefish, Pacific ocean perch, and other rockfish were identified as fully U.S.-utilized fisheries (i.e., domestic harvesting and processing capacity exceeds TQ). Under Amendment 15, the harvest level framework authorizes the Council to provide bycatch amounts of fully utilized species to joint ventures and foreign fisheries as necessary. Since there will be no foreign fishery in the Gulf in 1987, the Council set the following fully utilized PSC limits for joint venture operations:

Sablefish	48 mt
Pacific ocean perch	111 mt
Other rockfish	20 mt

As with the TQs, NMFS' emergency rule will implement these bycatch limits until Amendment 15 is in effect this spring.

Total Allowable Catch for Bering Sea/Aleutians  
Again Set at 2 Million Metric Tons

Healthy groundfish stocks in the Bering Sea and Aleutians continue to support catches at the maximum level allowed by the FMP (Table 2). Only two major species groups, rockfish and Greenland turbot, are considered to be in stressed condition. Pacific cod and several flatfish species are above their MSY biomass levels and capable of supporting catches as large or larger than in 1986. U.S. (DAP) demand for sablefish, Pacific ocean perch, and other rockfish exceeds the fish available for harvest and DAP estimates have been reduced to equal total allowable catch (TAC). The Council has recommended that joint venture (JVP) and foreign directed fishing (TALFF) bycatch allowances of these species be provided from the Reserve, but in the Aleutians JVP bycatch will be provided from the TAC. The greatest acceptable biological catch (ABC) change was Pacific cod which increased from 229,000 mt in 1986 to 280,000 mt in 1987. The cod resource is at an all time high and the recommended TAC is only 70% of ABC.

Joint ventures are projected to catch over 1.4 million metric tons, or about 70% of the total harvest available. An additional 417,068 mt, mainly Pacific cod and pollock, will be U.S. harvested and processed. Only about 54,281 mt of foreign directed fishing will be available on January 1. This is a reduction of over 85% from the initial 1986 TALFF.

Joint Ventures Approved for 1987

The Council reviewed joint venture requests totalling just over 2.0 million mt in 1987. These operations represent partnerships between U.S. fishermen and five foreign countries, Japan, South Korea, the U.S.S.R, Poland and the People's Republic of China, with requests as follow:

Japan	922,626 mt	Poland	81,800 mt
Korea	759,640 mt	China	37,000 mt
U.S.S.R.	200,000 mt		

Table 2. Council Recommendations for TACs and Apportionments for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Groundfish Fishery in 1987 (all in metric tons). Approved 12-Dec-86

Species	Area	<del>1986</del> 1987 TAC	DAP	JVP	DAH	Initial TALFF <sup>1/</sup>	15% RESERVE
Pollock	BS	1,200,000	189,987	1,010,013	1,200,000	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
	AI	88,000	57,210	30,790	88,000	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
Pacific ocean perch	BS	2,850	2,850	111	2,961	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
	AI	8,175	6,786	163	6,949	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
Rockfish	BS	450	450	62	512	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
	AI	1,430	1,002	214	1,216	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
Sablefish	BS	3,700	3,700	340	4,040	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
	AI	4,000	3,317	83	3,400	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
Pacific cod	BSAI	280,000	111,767	94,938	206,705	31,295 <sup>3/</sup>	
Yellowfin sole	BSAI	187,000	100	173,683	173,783	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
Greenland Turbot	BSAI	20,000	15,213	37	15,250	1,750	
Arrowtooth Flounder	BSAI	9,795	830	3,363	4,193	4,133	
Other flatfish	BSAI	148,300	23,103	88,472	111,575	14,480	
Atka mackerel	BSAI	30,800	250	30,550	30,800	0 <sup>2/</sup>	
Squid	BSAI	500	4	48	52	373	
Other species	BSAI	15,000	500	10,000	10,500	2,250	
TOTAL		2,000,000	417,068	1,442,867	1,859,935	54,281	300,000 <sup>4/</sup>

1/ Initial TALFF = TAC - Reserve - DAH.

2/ Bycatch TALFFs will be adjusted from the Reserve.

3/ 22,000 mt of Pacific cod Initial TALFF will be allocated to the Japanese longline fleet and a portion of the remainder will be for trawl bycatch. Longline TALFF must be taken north of 55°N. and west of 168°W. (2° longitude east of the 1986 boundary).

4/ Reserve will be reduced on January 1 to provide bycatch allowances. The Reserve is unspecified as to species.

Very limited amounts of fish are available for joint ventures in the Gulf of Alaska in 1987. A small 1,500 mt flounder joint venture has been approved around Kodiak and 20,000 mt of pollock are available for an exploratory fishery outside Shelikof between January 15 and April 10.

Most of the 165,000 mt demand for joint ventures in the Gulf may move to the Bering Sea and Aleutians. Even there the amount of fish available to joint ventures, about 1.4-1.5 million mt, is far less than the 2.0 million mt requested. The main shortfalls are in pollock where the request for 1.57 million mt far exceeds the 1.0-1.1 million ton supply, and in Atka mackerel where the requested 65,370 mt is over twice what's available. As in the past, all joint ventures will fish from a common pool for each species without specific allocations to countries or companies.

#### Japan, Korea and China to Share TALFF

Foreign directed fisheries for groundfish (TALFF) will be scaled way down in 1987 and only allowed in the Bering Sea and Aleutians. After U.S. fishermen and processor needs are met, only about 27,000 mt will be available to foreign fleets early next year. Through the year there could be up to 140,000 mt or possibly more available depending on how U.S. industry performs. Pacific cod, yellowfin sole, turbot, and other flatfish will comprise the only significant tonnages available to foreigners. (Please see Bering Sea and Aleutians news item for details.)

The Council considered the contributions to U.S. fisheries by Japan, South Korea, the People's Republic of China, the U.S.S.R., and Poland and then recommended that available TALFF be allocated 77% to Japan, 22% to Korea, and 1% to China. Taiwan did not apply for fishing privileges this year. The Soviet Union has been certified because of whaling and cannot fish in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

A slightly higher share of TALFF than normal was recommended to Japan because they are a major fisheries trading partner and their industry entered into an agreement with U.S. industry that could provide greatly expanded access to Japanese markets for U.S. processed fish products. South Korea also is very important to U.S. fisheries trade and has significantly increased its imports of U.S. processed fish products. The Council considers China a potentially large, latent market for U.S. fishery products, and also views very favorably the reporting by China and South Korea of their catches in the international waters of the Bering Sea. In contrast, Poland and the U.S.S.R. have never imported U.S. processed fishery products though they have had extensive fishing privileges off the U.S. in the past.

It was the Council's intent that about 22,000 mt of Pacific cod and associated bycatch be made available to the Japanese longliners in the early part of 1987, with a second equal apportionment of cod reserved for the longliners later in the year. Yellowfin sole, flatfish, and turbot species will be made available to foreign trawl fisheries later on as the Council and NMFS get a better feel for how U.S. industry is performing on these species.

Workgroup Will Address DAP Priority Access

In reviewing the groundfish needs of U.S. processors for 1987, the Council heard testimony on the problems shorebased processors are having finding catcher boats. Most U.S. trawlers find joint ventures much more profitable despite price premiums paid by shorebased plants.

Several processor representatives advocated establishing 100-mile zones around shorebased operations from which all but U.S. fishermen and processors would be excluded. Various localities mentioned included Dutch Harbor, Akutan, and Kodiak.

The Council established a Council-industry workgroup to develop a proposed amendment to the groundfish plans which would provide priority access to fully U.S. catching and processing (DAP) operations. The group was asked to look at all possibilities, including time and area closures. If an amendment is proposed it will be placed in the 1987 groundfish cycle, which starts in January and ends in May with a final decision by the Council. It would be operative for the 1988 season. The workgroup will also discuss how best to encourage shoreside deliveries by U.S. trawlers.

The workgroup will be appointed by Council Chairman Jim Campbell with balanced representatives from the trawl, joint venture, and processor communities. They will meet some time before the Council's January 21-23 meeting.

U.S.-Japan Trade Seminar Proposed

Members of the Council and public expressed interest in arranging a seminar on fisheries trade between the U.S. and Japan. The goal would be to unravel some of the mystery and complexity of exporting U.S. processed product into Japanese markets. The seminar would bring together experts from Japan and U.S. industries to discuss the Japanese import system, quotas, tariffs, and other trade aspects. The seminar probably will be scheduled for next spring. Further notice will be given in future Council newsletters.

Council Clarifies Regional Director's  
Discretionary Authority in Amendment 10

The domestic (DAP) rock sole fishery, expected to occur in the southwest corner of Zone 1 and into Zone 2 early in 1987, is likely to grow more rapidly than the Council expected. The result could be a large bycatch of C. bairdi Tanner crab and red king crab, forcing an earlier closure of the joint venture flatfish fishery. The Council's Advisory Panel/Industry Bycatch Subcommittee evaluated the situation and proposed a solution intended to provide guidelines in the use of the Regional Director's discretionary authority in Amendment 10. The Council approved the recommendation, which calls for:

1. The use of the Secretary's discretionary authority to allow the PSC limit which closes Zone 1 to flatfish trawling (either the PSC limit for C. bairdi or red king crab) to be exceeded by up to 10,000 crab.
2. The DAP trawlers to take one NMFS approved observer in Zone 1 at their own expense for a period not to exceed 45 days.

Joint Venture Update

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through early December was 1,219,600 mt. In the Gulf of Alaska joint ventures harvested 58,499 mt pollock, 865 mt of flatfish, and 1,230 mt Pacific cod. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, the harvest was 834,556 mt pollock, 62,658 mt flatfish, 153,049 mt yellowfin sole, 64,420 mt Pacific cod, and 31,985 mt Atka mackerel.

During 1986 there were 35 different joint venture company arrangements employing over 100 U.S. trawlers off Alaska. This year's joint venture catch increased significantly over previous years: 883,568 mt in 1985, 581,168 mt in 1984; 350,901 mt in 1983; 179,556 mt in 1982; 95,501 mt in 1981; 33,425 mt in 1980 and 1,507 mt in 1979. Joint venture harvests probably will exceed 1.4 million metric tons in 1987.

Domestic Groundfish Processing For 1986

By early December U.S. industry harvested and processed 136,344 mt of groundfish off Alaska. As shown below, pollock accounted for 55,368 mt, Pacific cod for 38,609 mt, and sablefish for 26,133 mt.

	<u>Eastern Gulf</u>	<u>Central Gulf</u>	<u>Western Gulf</u>	<u>Bering Sea</u>	<u>Aleu- tians</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pollock	70	7,782	727	45,588	1,200	55,368
Sablefish	9,402	8,053	3,212	2,670	2,796	26,133
Pacific cod	295	3,837	459	32,572	1,446	38,609
Flounder	17	774	351	4,960	2,002	8,104
P. ocean perch	1,828	389	560	693	117	3,587
Rockfish	2,053	923	619	91	88	3,774
Other	<u>156</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>769</u>
Total	13,821	21,950	5,954	86,914	7,705	136,344

(All in round weight in metric tons)

These figures do not include joint venture harvests by U.S. trawlers delivering to foreign processing vessels in over-the-side sales off Alaska. The domestic annual processed (DAP) harvest for 1986 will exceed past years' performance: 133,242 mt in 1985, 49,851 mt in 1984; 50,710 mt in 1983; 26,491 mt in 1982; 20,672 mt in 1981; 11,023 mt in 1980 and less than 10,000 mt in earlier years.

Foreign Fisheries Update

By early December the foreign fleets in the Gulf of Alaska harvested 15,529 mt, almost all Pacific cod. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians the foreign harvest was 451,350 mt which included 342,970 mt pollock, 33,230 mt cod, 50,933 mt yellowfin sole, 9,359 mt other flatfish, and 10,396 mt turbot.

U.S. Coast Guard and Enforcement Effort for 1986

U.S. Coast Guard enforcement efforts for calendar year 1986, through November 30, have totaled 512 cutter days and 1,323 aircraft patrol hours. Coast Guard ships and aircraft have patrolled over 15 million square miles of ocean in the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and North Pacific Ocean. To date, a total of 123 notices of violation and written warnings have been issued foreign fishing vessels.

The most significant MFCMA enforcement incident since the last Council meeting was the alleged sexual harassment and assault of a female NMFS observer assigned to the South Korean stern trawler SHIN YANG HO. The vessel was seized November 5, 1986 by the cutter MORGENTHAU and escorted to Kodiak where it was held until a release bond was posted.

Seward Vocational Center Announces Courses

Alaska Vocational & Technical Center in Seward, Alaska, is offering the following courses in February:

Fish Finding Systems	- February 16-20
Trawling Techniques	- February 23-27

Dennis Lodge, head of the Fisheries Department at the Center, will teach both courses. Tuition is \$75 per course and room and board is available for \$12.25 per day. For further information or to enroll, contact:

Admissions Office  
Alaska Vocational & Technical Center  
P.O. Box 880  
Seward, AK 99664  
(907) 224-3322

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From the Council staff to all of you, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

