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ADDRESS BY THE LOWER YUKON FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE KUSKOKWIM UNITED FISHERMEN TO THE
NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL CONCERNING JAPANESE INTERCEPTION OF
WESTERN ALASKAN KING AND CHUM SALMON

Many months ago, Congressman Young and Senator Stevens asked that our fishermen be patient during the development and final passage of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976. They stated that our concerns that Japanese interception of our kings and chums would be resolved through the development of United States management and conservation of its salmon throughout their migratory range. With the assurances of our Alaskan representative we put our own skepticism aside, and informed our fishermen that soon the Japanese high seas gill net fishery would pull off of our kings during their peak harvest in the mid-Bering Sea in mid June through early July, east of the abstention line. We informed both Congressman Young and Senator Stevens that we desired the Japanese to cease their fishing in these months in Mothership Fishery Districts 9 and 10 east of the Abstention Line. High seas tagging had proven that the not so incidental interception of our 4 year old kings was occurring during these months in these fishing districts. We were assured by both Young and Stevens that the United States Government and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council would take quick action to stop this clear violation of our nation's salmon.

In the last months, with the failure of the United States Government to take positive steps during the recent International North Pacific Fisheries Commission in Tokyo, and the break-down in the GIFA talks, our worst fears have now become the truth. Western Alaskan salmon far out in the ocean are once again being offered up to a foreign nation as a trading item. A representative of Senator Stevens came to Bethel and informed us after passage of the Management Act of 1976 that United States Coast Guard ships and planes would be dispatched to the mid-Bering Sea to protect our salmon. We have recently learned that in the international market place, our salmon are still up for sale to foreign nations. No Coast Guard ships or planes will be in the mid-Bering Sea to protect our salmon, and our salmon will not be used to barter with the Japanese on bottom fish harvest. They are just going to keep on harvesting our fish.

The Council may not like what I am saying, but I have talked it over with our fishermen and they think that it is important for us to speak the truth. The U.S. Government and the Japanese Government never heard of us before this year. We were unorganized then, but we are organized now. Our fishermen organized because they have had many promises made to them by many people; when the people go away, there was no one among us to follow up on what these men had said would happen. Now, I am here because our fishermen do not want to watch their livelihood disappear. They are requesting at this time that the Council begin the development of its own management plan for Bering Sea harvest of kings. We realize that both Japanese aquaculture stocks and western Alaska chums are co-mingling in the Bering Sea's mothership area, and that more detailed analyses must take place on chums. We ask that the Council begin the development of an intensive research program on Western Alaskan chum migration routes to determine the points of Japanese interception. But we ask that the Council take the positive step of restricting Japanese interception of our king salmon

immediately. Both the United States Government and the Japanese Government know where the interception of the four year old western Alaskan kings is occurring, and we want this principal site of interception made off-limits to the Japanese high seas gill net fishery. This is the principal issue our fishermen want the Council to act on by March 1, 1977.

We believe that the Council holds our only hope to settle this foreign interception. You must understand that I come from an area where the only industry is fishing. Although the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is very familiar with our fishery the Council is not. We have 15,000 people in our region. The only large business is fishing, both subsistence and commercial. The majority of our village people hunt and fish all year to support their families. Our median income is \$1,042 to \$1,340 per person depending on whose statistics you want to believe, so we are not cash rich. The only major source of income for our 56 widely scattered villages is commercial fishing. I am submitting to the council the compilation of our villages subsistence harvest in 1974 to go along with your Alaska Department of Fish and Game data to show the council that fisheries make up 81% of our food harvest of 14.2 million pounds. Salmon is included and accounts for 4 million pounds of subsistence food. As we stated in our herring paper, the United States Public Health Service has calculated that a gram of replacement protein delivered to one of our villages is worth 18¢/gram, which makes buying food very expensive. The king is the mainstay of our subsistence salmon fishery. The king is also the mainstay of our commercial fishery. Since 1968, we have been having a steady decline on our kings. We have already asked the Council to assist the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to find out how many fish we have in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. We are unsure even to this date how many fish we have. Every year, we gamble with our future on the Japanese harvest and our own commercial and subsistence harvest of kings. Each year, we take more fish, and allow fewer to escape, and we know that we are in trouble on the kings. Our fishermen have agreed to hold off on any further harvest requests on the Yukon and Kuskokwim for kings for commercial fishing until we get the Japanese off our stocks, and find out how many king salmon we have. We have come out of our little villages to let you people know about our lives, and our fisheries. They are very important, and they are our future. We plan to put our funds into enhancement of our stocks to increase our local economy, but not until the Japanese are off of our stocks. We can harvest everything allowable already, yet we have to wait until the Japanese are finished before we can start fishing. We don't want this very dangerous game to continue. We are requesting that the Council act now.

SUMMARY, 1974 SUBSISTENCE CALENDAR IN 41 MEMBER VILLAGES, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS, BY NUNIA KILITSISTI

Village Name (Regions)	PER FAMILY		Harvest Total, lbs.	FISH Pounds		LAND MATERIALS Pounds		SEA MATERIALS Pounds		VEGETATION Pounds		BIRDS Pounds		ACCURACY %
	LBS.	Head of Households		%	Pounds	%	Pounds	%	Pounds	%	Pounds	%	Pounds	
Kotlik	14,616	35	560,036	81.58	525,231	15.68	13,533	97.	6,020	1.54	12,485	.23	2,767	20.00
Emonak	3,712	71	263,562	65.05	171,423	7.84	20,662	11.58	30,530	2.69	7,100	12.84	33,247	20.00
Alakanuk	4,356	82	357,200	59.59	212,840	6.60	23,560	22.28	79,600	5.98	21,350	5.55	19,250	70.00
Mountain Village	18,593	69	1,282,870	95.16	1,071,363	1.59	57,152	.55	24,840	.93	35,226	1.77	94,289	10.25
Saint Mary's	10,642	41	411,746	99.07	385,465	.38	3,745			.44	18,150	.11	4,325	30.40
Andreafski	1,756	12	21,072	57.60	12,136	29.65	6,248			7.59	1,600	5.16	1,089	12.50
Pilot Station	15,676	15	799,476	94.23	672,126	4.09	106,999	.03	459	.15	2,214	1.50	17,648	35.70
Marshall	10,408	35	364,277	95.08	329,677	3.99	27,565	.27	1,995	.28	2,205	.38	2,825	40.60
Russian Mission	3,787	29	109,835	98.51	104,789	1.20	2,842					.29	2,271	52.30
Subtotal	10,610	393	4,170,074	83.58	3,485,051	6.29	262,306	3.43	143,444	2.41	100,360	4.29	170,013	50.16
Kengiganak	6,993	15	104,745	47.74	50,010	4.76	8,240	49.12	51,450	3.16	6,806	3.16	3,285	16.60
Eek	4,662	37	173,241	58.62	101,543	.92	3,242	18.34	31,763	7.19	12,450	11.10	19,245	44.90
Tuntatulak	10,334	34	351,379	88.11	309,605	1.58	6,342	3.93	13,800	2.22	7,800	4.82	15,532	65.20
Kasigluk	6,535	42	400,985	82.49	330,725	2.32	5,198			14.11	56,600	1.82	7,312	17.80
Hunapitchuk	4,224	53	223,884	90.01	201,519	2.32	5,198			5.02	11,230	2.65	5,937	52.20
Atmuthluak	4,178	26	108,619	81.27	88,275	16.19	17,588			.60	650	1.94	2,136	42.70
Hapaskiak	5,572	40	222,867	63.64	141,850	5.22	11,643			15.37	34,250	15.76	35,124	81.70
Hapakia	7,893	40	315,706	92.98	293,546	3.20	10,440	2.02	6,400	1.20	4,000	.60	1,320	59.60
Oscarville	5,853	15	87,799	100.00	87,799							1.60	13,526	32.90
Bethel	1,999	422	843,741	97.30	820,931	1.10	9,284			1.36	6,806	4.10	20,501	71.90
Katchluk	6,083	82	499,180	86.54	431,939	8.00	39,934					.87	7,859	19.10
Akiachuk	15,916	57	907,220	96.08	871,652	3.05	27,759					3.18	6,047	63.30
Akiak	7,308	26	190,002	87.22	165,720	9.60	18,235					1.54	3,822	67.20
Tuluksak	8,623	28	251,468	91.96	231,234	3.98	10,014			2.52	6,328	1.84	3,896	57.10
Lower Kalskag	5,046	42	211,947	78.10	165,527	17.58	37,274			2.48	5,250	2.96	4,001	59.70
Upper Kalskag	4,925	28	135,039	90.04	121,634	7.00	9,454					.11	160	70.20
Ariak	3,577	40	143,079	94.13	134,679	5.76	8,240					3.64	2,655	59.30
Chuathbaluk	3,475	21	72,967	56.83	41,467	39.53	28,845			6.16	6,750	1.31	1,437	36.30
Sleetmute	4,057	27	109,539	50.11	54,985	42.42	46,467			2.84	52,114	2.30	155,101	27.76
Subtotal	4,920	1,075	5,353,457	86.76	4,644,540	5.57	298,199	1.93	103,413	2.84	52,114	2.30	155,101	27.76
Hopper Bay	5,518	79	435,884	74.28	317,975	3.70	11,703	14.20	67,977	1.22	6,081	6.60	22,149	13.02
Chevak	8,338	61	508,648	67.92	345,480	1.37	6,990	16.00	81,374	3.60	19,320	11.11	55,404	37.02
Navtek	3,356	21	70,485	71.85	50,636	6.10	4,300	4.77	3,360			17.28	12,139	8.85
Tununak	12,188	50	609,430	86.79	528,960	2.54	15,500	6.01	36,600	.41	2,500	4.25	25,870	16.19
Toksook Bay	2,750	46	126,407	68.87	87,032	4.36	5,512	20.91	26,450			5.96	7,413	3.98
Sleetmute	3,492	25	87,306	53.74	46,925	14.98	13,075	24.97	21,800			6.31	5,506	2.52
Makoryuk	3,500	52	181,003	39.38	71,500	16.73	30,450	23.14	42,116	10.26	18,670	10.49	12,257	4.49
Cherfurnak	8,980	28	74,551	52.00	38,900	9.97	7,300	20.42	15,225	13.92	10,375	3.69	2,751	30.92
Kipnuk	8,501	47	399,820	61.93	247,419	8.14	20,539	23.06	92,120	4.61	18,435	5.26	21,013	13.61
Quinhagak	7,357	71	522,349	2.95	381,053	3.77	19,687	19.41	101,380			7.17	20,058	0.74
Goodnews Bay	7,998	35	279,724	90.40	252,876	1.43	3,990	1.00	2,800			3.75	551	0.20
Platinum	3,000	5	15,000	75.93	11,387	8.99	1,349	11.33	1,700					
Subtotal	7,624	517	3,310,307	76.47	2,380,137	3.51	140,385	12.48	492,910	1.89	74,381	5.65	272,454	16.99
Other Villages	221	221	1,428,765		1,170,015		77,868		82,297		36,433		62,151	
TOTAL	6,465	2206	14,262,603	81.89	11,679,743	5.45	778,758	5.76	822,064	2.55	363,288	4.35	618,739	34.13