

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
STATUS REPORT ON JOINT VENTURES OFF ALASKA FOR 1988

The total joint venture catch off Alaska through March 26 as reported by NMFS was 537,707 mt. All of this catch is from the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands areas. There have been no joint venture harvests in the Gulf of Alaska. The species composition is:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Catch (mt)</u>
Pollock	319,128
Yellowfin sole	98,694
Pacific cod	69,447
Flatfish	47,002
Others	<u>3,436</u>
TOTAL	537,707

According to NMFS reports, there were 99 U.S. harvesting boats delivering to 87 joint venture processors during the week ending March 19. The number of active boats has not varied greatly since the beginning of the pollock season in mid-January.

Joint venture catches by company are listed in Table 1. Joint venture companies catching the largest amount of pollock, yellowfin sole, and Pacific cod were:

Pollock (over 50,000 mt each)
Northern Deep Sea Fisheries (Japan)
Westward Trawlers (Japan)
ProFish (Korea)

Yellowfin Sole (over 25,000 mt each)
Marine Resources (USSR)
Northern Deep Sea Fisheries (Japan)
ProFish (Korea)

Pacific Cod (over 50,000 mt)
Marine Resources (USSR)

After the December 1987 Council meeting a recommendation was sent to NMFS requesting that joint venture flounder fishing be allowed in the Gulf of Alaska subject to a bycatch plan [Item B-5(a)]. In March NMFS replied that they understood the Council's concerns but were unable to unilaterally impose permit restrictions and additional data collection requirements on both foreign and domestic fishermen without further public review [Item B-5(b)]. They felt that the Council should consider PSC limits on crab and salmon for a possible plan amendment. Alternatively, a negotiated arrangement with the JVP operators may be possible. Bob McVey is ready to assist if the Council so desires.

TABLE 1.

JOINT VENTURE REQUESTS AND CATCH THROUGH MARCH 1988^{1/}

	1988 Request (mt)	Catch to Date (mt)
<u>JAPAN</u>		
Westward Trawlers: Taiyo, Hakodate	--	80,000
Kodiak Western Trawl: Kanai	10,000	9,286
Alyeska Ocean: Hoko	--	16,715
Peter Pan: Kaiyo, Nichiro, Shinnichi, Kanefuji, Ohura, Esahi	--	22,776
Northern Deep Sea Fish.: Nissui	--	97,589
Profish: Anyo, Fukushin, Kanari, Marue, Matsubun, Yoshida, Ohtori	--	10,370,
Golden Age Fisheries: Watarai, Kato, Maruyozosen	38,500	unavail.
Trawl Resources: Hokkaido	--	249:
Alaska Pacific: Anyo	--	--
TOTAL	916,700	236,985
<u>KOREA</u>		
Cal-Alaska: Mar. Enterprise	9,043	--
Alaska JV Seafoods: Nambug, Taewoong	49,700	14,702
Profish: Korea Wonyang, Dongbang, Dongwon, Namyang, Namyangsa, Sajo, Silla, Oyang	320,630	87,746
Arctic Venture Fish: Gaeyang	12,601	5,
Dona JV Fish: Hansung, Korea Wonyang	69,501	25,100
Alaska Surimi Products/Korea Wonyang	66,709	16,584
Alaska Trawl Fisheries: Daerim	56,777	10,870
American Offshore Ventures: Samho Moolsan	70,000	unavail.
TOTAL	654,961	160,205
<u>USSR</u>		
Marine Resources	226,070	79,300
<u>POLAND</u>		
Alaska Pacific: Dalmor	15,000	2,600
Profish: Gryf	15,000	--
Quest: Odra	15,000	18,000
TOTAL	45,000	20,600
<u>CHINA</u>		
North Pacific Int.	?	3,681
China Pacific Ventures	?	10,165
TOTAL	87,000	13,846
<u>ICELAND</u>		
Kris Poulsen and Assoc.	40,000	--
GRAND TOTAL	1,969,731	510,

^{1/} Based on data volunteered by joint venture companies.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

AGENDA B-5(a)
APRIL 1988

James O. Campbell, Chairman
Jim H. Branson, Executive Director

411 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99510



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Telephone: (907) 274-4563
FTS 271-4064

December 15, 1987

Dr. William E. Evans
Asst. Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
Universal South Building
1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20235

Dear Bill:

Last week the North Pacific Council reviewed foreign directed and joint venture applications for 1988. The following summarizes the Council's recommendations.

Foreign Allocations

There will be no foreign directed fisheries next year if DAP and JVP projections hold true. NMFS projects a DAP of 966,646 mt and joint ventures have requested 1,969,731 mt. Together they far exceed the 2.261 million metric ton total allowable catch for 1988 off Alaska. If TALFF becomes available, the Council continues last year's recommendation of 77% to Japan, 22% to Korea and 1% for China.

Joint Ventures

Joint venture requests were received from Japan, Korea, the USSR, China, Poland and Iceland (Table 1). The bulk of the joint ventures will be in the Bering Sea and Aleutians with only a minor 19,000-20,000 mt available in the Gulf (Tables 2 and 3). The Council approved them contingent on the following permit conditions and restrictions:

1. Yellowfin sole and Other flounder joint ventures in the Bering Sea and Aleutians must comply with the bycatch plan in Attachment 1. It was formulated by an industry workgroup and contains guideline bycatch rates for red king crab and C. bairdi Tanner crab that will encourage individual operators to fish more cleanly next year. It is a consensus plan agreed upon by all joint ventures anticipating flounder operations in the eastern Bering Sea.

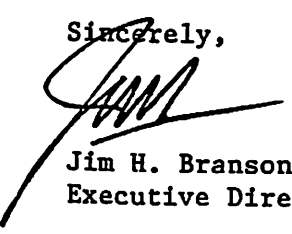
2. Joint ventures for flounders in the Gulf of Alaska are approved subject to agreeing to comply with a bycatch plan similar to, but not necessarily identical to, that submitted by the Kodiak and Western Trawl Group for 1987 (Attachment 2). The Council anticipates that these joint ventures will provide valuable data on halibut and crab bycatch composition in the Gulf.
3. Any foreign fishing vessel participating in joint ventures in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and fishing in the international waters of the Bering Sea in the same calendar year must agree to take an observer into the international waters of the Bering Sea if requested to do so by the U.S. government. This condition was approved after considerable discussion of the importance of receiving catch information on all species taken in the "donut hole" and their potential impacts on U.S. fisheries. Representatives of Poland, Paul Gilliland of Alaska Pacific International, quoting Edward Budzinski, Commercial Attache of the Polish Embassy, specifically offered to take observers into the international waters, at NMFS expense, in return for joint venture approval.

Foreign Permit Applications

The Council recommended approval for those foreign vessels that have applied for operations in 1988 off Alaska subject to the availability of JVP and TALFF. Though there was concern expressed over the Japanese trawler DAIEI MARU No. 2 which was a serious violator as defined by Council policy, the Council did not recommend denial of its permit for 1988.

The Council will not be sending any representatives to your foreign allocations board meeting this week. However we appreciate the invitation and would like to be informed of any meetings scheduled during 1988.

Sincerely,



Jim H. Branson
Executive Director

cc Fred Bilik
LTJG Michael Carney, Jr.
Craig Hammond

attachments



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20235

APRIL 1988

F/TS21:AJB

RECEIVED
MAR 17 1988

MAR 11 1988

cc: SD, J.R.J.C.

Handwritten initials and marks

Mr. Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim,

We have considered a recommendation by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) regarding joint venture permit conditions in the Gulf of Alaska. That recommendation was contained in your December 15, 1987, letter. The Council, at its December 1987 meeting had recommended approval of Gulf of Alaska JVP permits for flounder fishing subject to the applicants' agreeing to comply with a bycatch plan similar to, but not necessarily identical to, that submitted by the Kodiak and Western Trawl Group (Trawl Group) for 1987. The Council anticipated that these joint ventures would provide valuable data on Pacific halibut and crab bycatches in the Gulf of Alaska.

I understand the Council's concerns with data on the Pacific halibut and crab bycatch in joint venture fisheries and a possible need for bycatch restrictions for these species. However, we are unable to take unilateral action on our part to impose permit restrictions and additional data collection requirements on both foreign and U.S. vessel owners without greater public review and agreement of the industry on such restrictions. Permit conditions have the same effect as regulations and should have the benefit of public input and discussion. We should keep in mind that the data collections envisioned in these actions are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act and Office of Management and Budget approval.

We suggest that the Council consider the need for PSC limits for crab and salmon. If such a need is demonstrated, the Gulf of Alaska FMP could be amended to establish these PSC limits as was done previously for Pacific halibut and fully utilized species. Alternatives to an FMP amendment may be available. For example, an arrangement might be negotiated by JVP operators similar to that in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area,



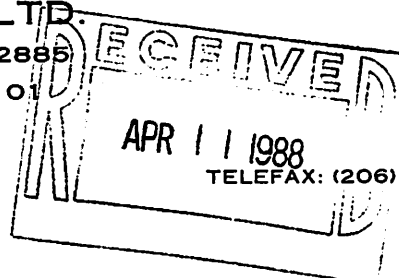
which focussed on avoiding crab in the flounder fishery. The Trawl Group's plan could very well be taken as a point of departure for a negotiated plan for the Gulf of Alaska. Bob McVey has indicated that he is ready to assist the Council in this process. He has already made these points with Larry Cotter of the Council's Bycatch Committee.

Sincerely,

James E. Douglas, Jr.
for William E. Evans
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

HOKO FISHING CO., LTD.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
PHONE (206) 624-5551



TELEX NO.
32-8836 HOKO CO. SEA

April 10, 1988

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Post Office Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Interim Report - 1988 Hoko-Alyeska Ocean
Joint Alaska Pollock Fishery

Dear sirs:

For the reference of the members of the Council, we are pleased to provide the following brief summary of the first phase of our United States-Japan joint Alaska pollock fishery:

Japanese Company
Hoko Fishing Company
No. 2-4, 1-chome, Tsukiji
Tokyo, Japan

Name and Size of the Processing Vessels:

Tsuda Maru	111 meters 4,317 gross tons
Chikubu Maru	111 meters 5,460 gross tons

American Company
Alyeska Ocean, Inc.
816 Fourth Street
Anacortes, Washington 98221

Name and size of the Fishing Vessels

Aldebaran (Jan. 15 to Feb. 9 - Bering Sea) (Feb. 11 to Feb. 13 - Aleutians)	195 gross tons
Alyeska (Jan. 15 to Feb. 9 - Bering Sea)	198 gross tons
Arcturus (Jan. 15 to Feb. 9 - Bering Sea)	198 gross tons

Beginning Date of Fishing (GMT) - Bering Sea January 15, 1988

End of Fishing (GMT) - Bering Sea February 9, 1988

Type of Gear mid-water trawl only

Area of Fishing		
Area 51 (Bering Sea)		26 days
Area 54 (Aleutians)		<u>3 days</u>
Total		29 days

Operating Days	Chikubu Maru	Tsuda Maru	Total
Bering Sea			
Fishing Days	26 days	26 days	52 days
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0 days</u>	<u>0 days</u>
Total	26 days	26 days	52 days

Aleutians			
Fishing Days		3 days	3 days
Other		<u>0 days</u>	<u>0 days</u>
Total		3 days	55 days

Composition of Catch

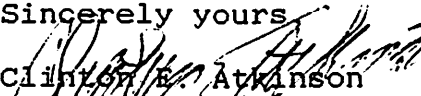
Bering Sea			
Alaska Pollock	7818.6 mt	7531.9 mt	15350.5 mt
Cod	41.6 mt	41.6 mt	83.2 mt
Other	<u>102.1 mt</u>	<u>92.0 mt</u>	<u>194.1 mt</u>
Total	7962.3 mt	7665.5 mt	15627.8 mt

Aleutians			
Alaska Pollock		284.1 mt	284.1 mt
Cod		0.0 mt	0.0 mt
Other		<u>0.0 mt</u>	<u>0.0 mt</u>
		284.1 mt	284.1 mt

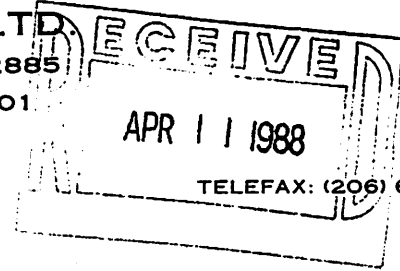
Total			
Alaska Pollock	7818.6 mt	7816.0 mt	15634.6 mt
Cod	41.6 mt	41.6 mt	83.2 mt
Other	<u>102.1 mt</u>	<u>92.0 mt</u>	<u>194.1 mt</u>
Total	7962.3 mt	7950.6 mt	15911.9 mt

Average Catch/ Fishing Day (Bering Sea) 300.5 mt/day

Fishing conditions were quite normal during this first phase of our 1988 joint operations. The season was very short and unfortunately, ended before the pollock had reached their maximum yield of mature roe. The average catch/fishing day was slightly higher than the 290.3 mt/day in 1987 and 290.8 in 1986 for approximately the same period of fishing. The trial fishery in the Aleutian area between February 11th and the 13th proved unproductive and was soon terminated.

Sincerely yours

 Clinton E. Atkinson
 Consultant and Advisor
 Hoko Fishing Company

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TELEX NO.
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April 10, 1988

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Post Office Box 3136DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Interim Report - 1988 Hoko-Alyeska Ocean
Joint Yellowfin Sole Fishery

Dear sirs:

For the reference of the members of the Council, we are pleased to provide the following summary of our 1988 United States-Japan joint fishery for yellowfin sole:

Japanese Company
Hoko Fishing Company
No. 2-4, 1-chome, Tsukiji
Tokyo, Japan

Name and Size of the Processing Vessel
Chikubu Maru

111 meters
5,460 gross tons

American Company
Alyeska Ocean, Inc.
816 Fourth Street
Anacortes, Washington 98221

Name and Size of the Fishing Vessels
M/V Alyeska (February 13 to March 4)
M/V Arcturus (February 19 to March 6)

198 gross tons
198 gross tons

Beginning Date of Fishing (GMT)

February 14, 1988

End of Fishing (GMT)

March 6, 1988

Type of Gear

bottom trawl

Area of Fishing

Area 51

Operating Days

Fishing Days 21 days
Cargo Transfer 1 day
Total

22 days

Composition of Catch

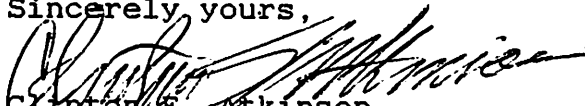
Yellowfin Sole	505.2 mt	
Rock Sole	113.6 mt	
Other Flounders	<u>129.7 mt</u>	
Total		748.5 mt

Average Catch/Fishing Day 34 mt/day

As can be seen from the above statistics, the 1988 yellowfin sole fishery was extremely poor. For comparison, the average catch per fishing day for yellowfin sole in 1986 was 77.0 mt/day, for 1987 it was 27.7 mt/day, and only slightly better in 1988 when it was 34.0 mt/day.

As in previous years, our operations continued to be conducted in a spirit of close cooperation between Hoko and Alyeska Ocean, with representatives aboard the processing vessel in order to assure a regular and adequate supply of fish for processing during the season.

Sincerely yours,


Clinton E. Atkinson
Fishery Consultant and Advisor
Hoko Fishing Company

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