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NEWSLETTER

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AS OF APRIL 21ST A TOTAL OF 667 FOREIGN VESSELS HAVE BEEN ISSUED permits to fish off Alaska. A breakdown of permits issued, including both fishing and support vessels, follows: Japan, 421; South Korea, 28; Tiawan, 4; Poland, 6, and USSR, 208.

Fishing activity through April was steady but showed definite changes over the patterns of previous years with considerably fewer ships fishing in North Pacific areas. During April there were 1 South Korean, 28 Russian, and 78 Japanese ships fishing off Alaska. That represents a decrease of 11 from the month of March and a decrease of 224 from April 1976.

Lists of actual permit numbers with the names of the vessels to which they were issued are available for inspection at the North Pacific Council office. The list includes the areas and the fisheries in which the vessels are authorized to fish.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE NORTH PACIFIC 200-mile zone are going well. Attitudes on board Japanese and Soviet vessels have been described by Coast Guard officials as "almost perfect."

By April 22 the Coast Guard reported sighting 75% of the foreign vessels permitted in Alaska waters and boarding 47% (86 vessels) of those. The 86 boardings revealed a total of 14 infractions of the law - six of those being violations, and eight being citations for minor offenses. Penalties for violations range from a written citation to forfeiture of the vessel and cargo.

Concern over violations and misunderstandings was expressed recently when Sergey Pterovich Tanaev, Soviet fleet commander, met in Kodiak with U.S. federal and state officials seeking clarification of the law. Thirty Soviet vessels have been boarded in the North Pacific area since the law went into effect March 1, with six of those resulting in enforcement actions ranging from citations to the imposition of civil penalties.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL'S SIXTH PLENARY SESSION,
held in Anchorage April 27, 28 include the following:

- The Council recommended by a vote of 6 to 2 that permits not be issued to six Korean processing and transport vessels which have applied for permits to buy fish from U.S. fishermen within the U.S. conservation zone. Korean Marine Industrial Development Corp. (KMIDC) is planning a joint U.S.-Korean ground fishing venture where fish caught by American fishermen would be delivered to a Korean factory ship for processing. The desire to avoid approving a new policy of fishery operation without adequate perception of the consequences and conviction of its general desirability by the Council led to the rejection.
- Council recommended approval of the following applications:
 - Korean: #3, #5, and #6 Chil Bo San Ho
Jinam #305 replacing Soo Gong #51
 - Japanese: Anyo Maru #11, Hoyo Maru #65, Shinsei Maru #2
- The Council reconsidered the permit applications for 31 independent Japanese tanner crab boats to fish in the Bering Sea. The recommendation to refuse the permits made at the March Council meeting was upheld by a 5 to 3 vote.
- A report by Dr. Lee Alverson, chairman of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), indicating drastic future reduction of tanner crab. According to his report by 1982 stocks of harvestable size C. bairdi would be reduced by 80%.
- Council authorization to form an Eastern Bering Sea Clam Management Planning Team.
- SSC report that since Council funding has been approved for the coded-wire salmon tag recovery program off south-east Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game would begin program work May 1.
- Council approval of the SSC recommendation that the R/V OREGON be maintained until a new research vessel to replace it was in place.
- Formation of a special study group to consider the appropriate structure and terms of reference for a renegotiated INPFC type agreement. The group includes: Don Bevan, Ed Miles, Frank Fukuhara, Jack Lechner, and a representative from both the halibut and high seas salmon study groups.
- Council acceptance of the following resignations and replacements: Jack Cotant's resignation as Advisory Panel chairman and his replacement by Keith Specking; (continued next page)

- Judith Ayres resignation from the Advisory Panel with her replacement to be named during the May Council meeting, and Bernard Skud of the SSC to be replaced by Don Collinsworth.

SIX NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

teams are organized and working toward final plan completion dates. Teams and their members are:

SALMON TROLL TEAM: Gary Gunstrom, Paul Gissner Jr., Larry Edfelt, Guy Thornberg, Don Collinsworth, and Allen Davis all of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) which is the lead agency. Outgoing team member Mike Fredin, NMFS, is being replaced by Bill Heard, NMFS Auke Bay. Alan Otness and Jack Cotant, Council Advisory Panel members, are working as consultants and advisors with this team. By August the team expects to submit a completed draft. The plan is scheduled to be in effect by spring 1978.

TANNER CRAB: Davis, Gissner, Edlfet, Thornberg, Collinsworth, William Donaldson, Al Kimker, and Tim Kinnimen of ADF&G. Chuck Jensen and Sig Jaeger represent the Advisory Panel. The plan is expected to be in effect by the first of the year. ADF&G is the lead agency.

KING CRAB: Kimker, Davis, Kinnimen, Edfelt, Thornberg, Collinsworth, Jack Lechner, and Guy Powell of ADF&G, the lead agency. Final plans submitted by this team probably will not differ much from the preliminary plan which resulted in zero total foreign allowable catch. The plan is expected to be completed and in effect by spring 1978.

HIGH SEAS OCEAN SALMON: Bud Burgner, University of Washington Fisheries Research Institute; Fredin; Steve Pennoyer, Ron Regnart, and James Park of ADF&G. Truman Emberg, Paul Guy, and A.W. Boddy consult with the team from the Advisory Panel. Lead agency is NMFS. The plan will dictate Council posture for the renegotiation of the INPFC.

TRAWL FISHERY FOR THE GULF OF ALASKA: Burt Larkin and Richard Bakkala, both of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, NMFS; Robert Stokes, University of Washington; Ron Regnart and Phillip Rigby, ADF&G, and Steve Hoag of the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Bob Alverson and Oral Burch are consultants from the Advisory Panel. The team expects to have a first draft by the May Council meeting. This plan has been given a higher priority than the Bering Sea plan and could be implemented by mid-January 1978.

TRAWL FISHERY FOR THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS: Same team is developing this plan, which will fall behind the development of the Gulf trawl plan. NMFS is the lead agency for both plans.

LIMITED ENTRY CONCEPTS as they might apply to the salmon troll management plan were discussed by the North Pacific Council during its March meeting. The Council subsequently directed the salmon troll team to use limited entry as a component in the ocean troll salmon management plan.

COPIES OF THE "STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION, PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES" for the North Pacific Council are printed and available at the Council headquarters.

The statement outlines the purpose of the Council, Council officers and terms of office, functions of the Advisory Panel and Scientific and Statistical Committee, staff employment practices, information on meetings and public hearings, organization of management plan development teams, and other operational policies. About 750 copies are available for distribution.

BEGINNING THIS MONTH THE NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL WILL MEET REGULARLY on the fourth Thursday and Friday of each month. Date of the next Council meeting is May 26, 27 in Anchorage. May, June and July meetings will be held in the Hill Building, 6th Avenue and F Street room 809.

If you have news, comments or opinions on fishery matters you would like to express, please submit them to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 3136 DT, Anchorage 99510.

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