

NORTH PACIFIC FISHING VESSEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

BUILDING C-3, ROOM 133
FISHERMENS TERMINAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98119

May 11, 1977

300-08

Ms. Juanita Kreps
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

RE: Joint fishing ventures with
foreign nationals.

Dear Ms. Kreps:

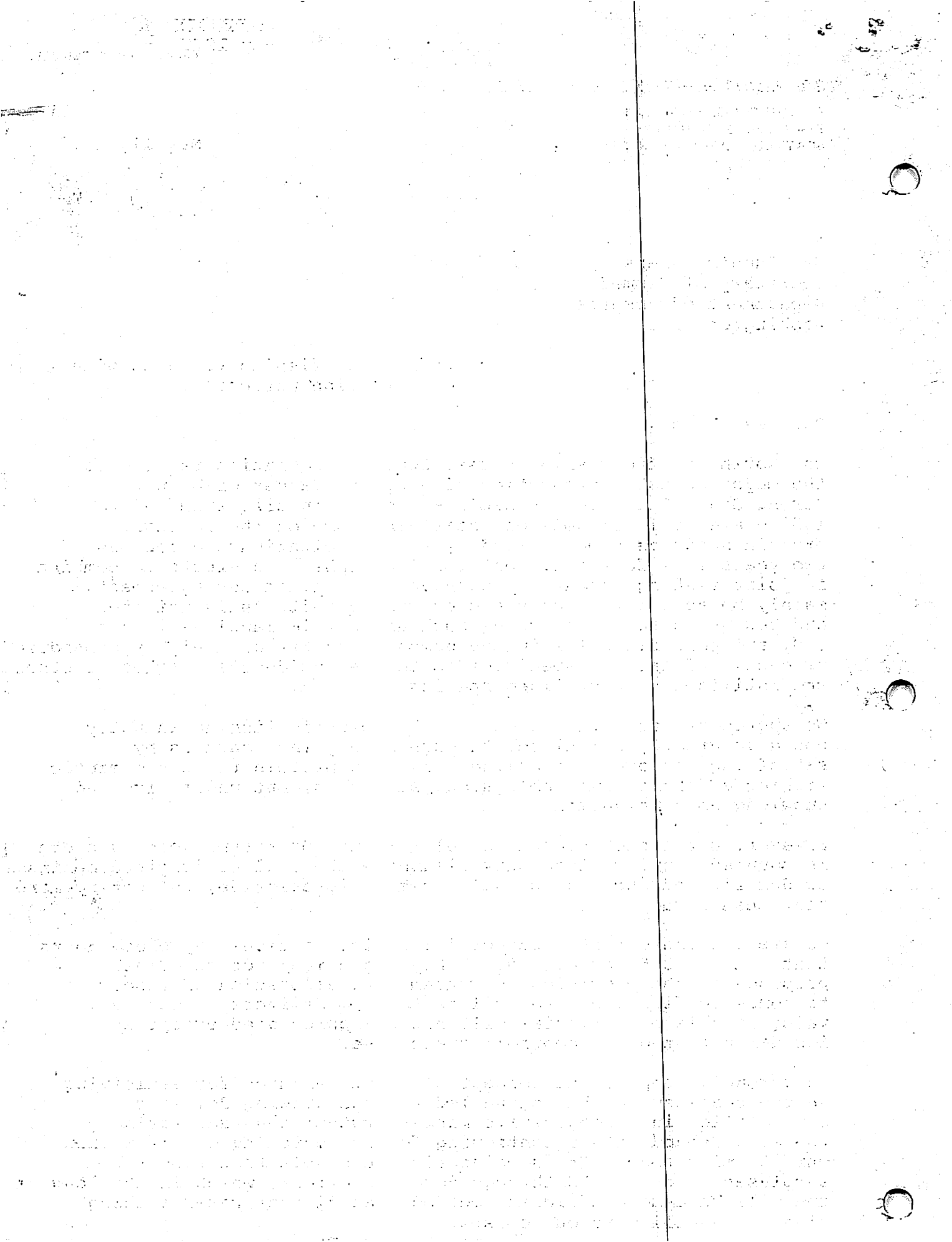
The North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association represents the major domestic production of King and Tanner crab in the Bering Sea. Our modern vessels - ranging in size from 86' to 135' - are fully capable of satisfying some of the foreign protein needs as demonstrated by the solicitations in the past two years from four different foreign fishery interests to combine in joint fishing ventures. We have not reached any agreement, mainly because our vessels are currently quite fully utilized, and because of other concerns such as interim landings in the U.S. and possible sales in the domestic market of a highly subsidized product, and lack of specifics as to the incidental catches of other underutilized or unutilized species.

We appreciate that the growth of the domestic fishing industry could be greatly stimulated through such joint ventures by satisfying the overseas demand for ocean protein through domestic fishing effort on available stock surpluses, but under firm and knowledgeable management.

However, until such time as a well-planned prototype joint venture is mounted - under close surveillance - the real or imagined merits or demerits of such an operation remain speculative, reflecting more heat than light.

We are concerned that hasty or ill-advised actions may close doors that P.L. 94-265 has opened. A key ingredient for negotiating purposes is the provision for preemptive allocation of resources to domestic fishermen, regardless to whom delivered. The full value of this preferential will not be appreciated except in its demonstrated and controlled exercise.

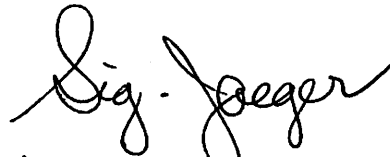
We strongly support the concept of joint ventures for satisfying an overseas demand, but channeled through growing domestic capabilities in a competitive manner, rather than satisfying the said demand with a continuing foreign catching effort within our 200 mile zone. It is eminently preferable that resource surpluses be channeled through domestic effort, which in the long run will be a more efficient method than distant water fishing fleets travelling to our coasts.



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The vision of an all-domestic fishing fleet catching most or all of the raw product available off our coasts seems now to be more real than pure vision. Well planned joint ventures offers a method toward this latent reality, and should have the opportunity and the stimulus to develop.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sig Jaeger". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first letters of "Sig" and "Jaeger" being prominent.

Sig Jaeger, Manager

SJ/lh

