

MEMORANDUM

TO: Policy & Planning Committee

FROM: Jim H. Branson *JHB*
Executive Director

DATE: August 28, 1987

SUBJECT: Joint Venture Policy

Action Required

1. NWAFC report on pollock catches from the international waters of the Bering Sea.
2. Revise policy if necessary to express Council concern over foreign fisheries for pollock in the international waters.

Background

In June the Policy and Planning Committee recommended that we not change the joint venture policy, other than possibly adding language expressing the Council's great concern over unreported pollock catches in the international waters ("Donut Hole") of the Bering Sea. The Northwest & Alaska Fisheries Center will give their best estimates of pollock catches from these waters. Mr. Kazuo Shima, Counselor, Japan Fishery Agency, has provided information on Japanese catches in the "Donut", estimating 698,000 mt pollock were caught in 1986 (item B-1).

A statement like the following could be added to the policy under "Basis for Recommendations" (page 2 of item B-2).

"The Council remains very concerned about pollock ^{and other spp} catches in the international waters of the Bering Sea and the impact[^] on overall stock abundance in the setting of harvest quotas in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Any nation receiving directed allocations or operating in joint ventures off Alaska will be expected to provide timely, accurate, and verifiable data on their past, present and projected pollock catches from the international waters ^{and other spp}

and to cooperate as possible in international research.