

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 1980
TO: Council, SSC & AP
FROM: Jim H. Branson, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Groundfish FMP

ACTION REQUIRED

- (1) *Recommend release of reserves.*
- (2) *Clarify the intent of the Pacific Cod OY amendment approved last month.*
- (3) *Comment on implementation of 1980 plan.*

BACKGROUND

1. The third of four release of reserves has been scheduled in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island area for June 2nd. A final release is scheduled for August 2nd. No releases have been made to date except for 25% (310 metric tons) of Atka Mackerel released to the DAH (JVP) February 14, 1980 (see attachment 1). Information on the U.S. and foreign catch to date will be available from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The National Marine Fisheries Service has just completed a 1980 processor survey to determine the amounts of groundfish they intend to process this year. Reserves in the Bering Sea represent 5% of the OY and appear, based on the 1980 processor survey, to provide the cushion needed for the projections from the domestic processors.
2. At our last Council meeting, we approved an amendment to increase the OY for Pacific cod in the Bering Sea by 29,300 metric tons for a new OY of 88,000 metric tons. At that time, it was not clear whether the amount should be designated TALFF or DAH or some combination of the two. Since that Council meeting, we have new information which indicates that the U.S. Pacific cod catch for 1980 and 1981 could be larger than anticipated. It is, therefore, important to clarify the apportionment of the new OY to either DAH, reserve, or TALFF.

3. The life and times of the Bering Sea Groundfish Plan has been interesting. In April, we received word the plan would be implemented May 1. Since that time, we have pressed for the rapid implementation of the plan: hopefully sometime this summer. Much confusion has stemmed from our comments on the proposed implementing regulations recommending relaxed restrictions on the domestic fishery in the winter halibut savings area. NMFS will likely have a difficult time implementing the plan while incorporating those comments.

It is noteworthy that the original regulations we proposed for the FMP would have closed the domestic fishery this year at one-half the present catch. Our 1981 amendments allow the U.S. trawl fishery to continue fishing in the halibut savings areas with no ceiling and yet institute a method for controlling the incidental catch of prohibited species.

If we withdraw our experimental fishery comments the plan is more likely to be quickly implemented. Last week I told the National Marine Fisheries Service I would ask whether the Council wanted to withdraw the January comments on the winter halibut savings area to facilitate the implementation of the FMP for 1980. The catch restrictions end May 31, in any case, well before the FMP could become effective. The only question is whether we can get our present amendment package implemented in time to offer relief for next years fishery. the winter halibut saving areas close on Dec 1 - put a 2000 m.t. ceiling on the U.S. catch. We might have the amendments implemented by March.

- Attachments:
1. Release of the reserve table.
 2. NMFS 1980-1981 processor survey.
 3. Disposition of specific cod.
 4. Konrad Uri letter
 5. Marine resources letter

Appendix I—Section 611.20

| Alaska fisheries | Species | Species code | Areas | Optimum yield (OY) mt. | Domestic harvest (DAH) mt | Joint venture (JVP) ¹ mt | Reserve | TALFF |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| A. Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish fishery. | Pollock | 701 | Bering sea ² | 1,000,000 | 19,550 | 9,050* | 50,000 | 930,450 |
| | | | Aleutian ³ | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| | Yellowfin Sole | 720 | | 117,000 | 2,050 | 850 | 5,850 | 109,100 |
| | Turbots | 721, 118 | | 90,000 | 1,075 | 75 | 4,500 | 84,425 |
| | Other Flounders | 129 | | 61,000 | 1,300 | 100 | 3,050 | 56,650 |
| | Pacific Ocean Perch ⁴ | 780 | Bering Sea | 3,250 | 1,380 | 830 | 162 | 1,708 |
| | | | Aleutian | 7,500 | 1,380 | 830 | 375 | 5,745 |
| | Other Rockfish ⁴ | 849 | | 7,727 | 1,550 | 450 | 500 | 5,677 |
| | Sablefish | 703 | Bering Sea | 3,500 | 700 | 200 | 350 | 2,450 |
| | | | Aleutian | 1,500 | 700 | 200 | 150 | 850 |
| | Pacific Cod | 702 | | 58,700 | 24,265 | 17,055 | 2,935 | 31,500 |
| | * Atka Mackerel ⁵ | 207 | | 24,800 | 100 | 100 | 1,240 | 23,460 |
| | Squid | 509 | | 10,000 | 50 | 50 | 500 | 9,450 |
| Other Species | 499 | | 74,249 | 2,000 | 200 | 3,712 | 68,537 | |
| B. Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Herring fishery. | Herring | 209 | | 41,200 | 33,200 | 6,000 | 2,000 | 6,000 |

¹JVP is a subset of DAH.

²Bering Sea means fishing Areas I, II, and I¹ in Figure 2, Appendix II of 50 CFR 611.9.

³Aleutian means fishing Area IV in Figure 2, Appendix II of 50 CFR 611.9.

⁴The category "Pacific Ocean perch" includes *Sebastes* species *S. alutus* (Pacific Ocean perch), *S. polyspinus* (northern rockfish), *S. aleuticus* (rougheye rockfish), *S. borealis* (shortraker rockfish), and *S. zacentrus* (sharpchin rockfish).

[FR Doc. 80-326 Filed 1-3-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

* Atka Mackerel - A release of 25% (310 mt) was made on Feb. 14, 1980.

Atka Mackerel entries now read as follows:

| OY | DAH | JVP | Reserve |
|--------|-----|-----|---------|
| 24,800 | 410 | 410 | 930 |

The release of reserve schedule for the BS/A is:

- February 2
- April 2
- * June 2
- August 2

(NPFMC

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May 9, 1980

F/NWC2 - Jim Balsiger/Loh Lee Low

F/AKR11 - Ron Berg

March-May, 1980, survey of U.S. Processor Intent to Purchase and/or Process Groundfish in 1980 and 1981

On March 26, 1980, the Alaska Region initiated a survey of companies with fish processing facilities in Alaska to determine the quantity of groundfish that U.S. processors intend to purchase from U.S. fishermen (DAP) in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands in 1980 and 1981. Questionnaires were sent to twenty-seven companies; twenty companies responded. Eight companies declared their intent to purchase U.S.-caught fish in the Gulf of Alaska in 1980 and seven companies declared such an intent for 1981. One company declared an intent in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands in 1980 and two companies declared an interest for that area in 1981.

The results of our survey are summarized in the attached table. Current 1980 DAP's are shown for comparison.

We are conducting a similar survey for joint ventures and expect to have the results in 2 or 3 weeks.

Amounts shown for 1981 are probably underestimated. The Alaska Region expects to conduct another survey prior to 1991 to ascertain expectations.

Enclosures

cc:
F/AKR12

April 30, 1980

Amounts of Groundfish (metric tons) U.S. Processors Expect to Purchase from U.S. Fishermen
 In the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Se/Aleutian Islands in 1980 and 1981
 Amounts Designated as Domestic Annual Processing (DAP) for 1980 Are Included for Comparison

GULF OF ALASKA
1980

| Regulatory Area | Pollock | Pacific cod | Atka mackere1 | Flounders | P.O.P. | Rockfish | Sablefish | Squid | Other Groundfish |
|-----------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|-------|------------------|
| EASTERN | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 0 | 5 | 0 | 45 | 11 | 118 | 2,450 | 0 | 0 |
| DAP | 695 | 280 | 0 | 900 | 80 | 455 | 4,700 | 0 | 100 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 2,278 | 1,588 | 45 | 227 | 227 | 90 | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| DAP | 5,380 | 3,480 | 0 | 300 | 295 | 200 | 1,000 | 0 | 100 |
| WESTERN | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 36 | 229 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| DAP | 25 | 240 | 0 | 100 | 25 | 45 | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 2,314 | 1,822 | 45 | 272 | 238 | 208 | 2,495 | 0 | 136 |
| DAP | 6,100 | 4,000 | 0 | 1,300 | 400 | 700 | 5,800 | 0 | 300 |

1981

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---|-----|
| EASTERN | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 104 | 1,838 | | 45 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 6,819 | 2,722 | 136 | 680 | 454 | 136 | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| WESTERN | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 454 | 460 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 136 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 7,273 | 3,183 | 136 | 680 | 454 | 240 | 1,918 | 0 | 226 |

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

| | Pollock | Pacific cod | Atka mackere1 | Yellowfin sole | Turbot | Flounders | P.O.P. | Rockfish | Sablefish | Squid | Other |
|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1980 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 272 | 2,722 | 68 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 113 | 0 | 113 | 0 | 0 |
| DAP | 10,500 | 7,200 | 0 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 0 | 1,800 |
| 1981 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intent | 5,445 | 12,704 | 0 | 227 | 0 | 907 | 0 | 227 | 68 | 0 | 0 |

DISPOSITION OF PACIFIC COD OY INCREASE

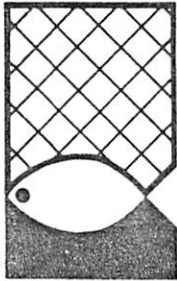
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|----------------------------|-----------|
| <u>PRESENT OY</u> | 58,700 mt |
| <u>PROPOSED OY</u> | 88,000 mt |
| <u>AMOUNT OF INCREASE</u> | 29,300 mt |
| | |
| <u>PRESENT DAH</u> | 24,265 mt |
| <u>DAH</u> (JVP) | 7,200 mt |
| <u>DAH</u> (DAP) | 17,065 mt |
| | |
| <u>PRESENT TALFF</u> | 31,500 mt |
| <u>TOTAL TALFF TO DATE</u> | 20,764 mt |
| | |
| <u>TOTAL DAH TO DATE</u> | 4,286 mt |

Present information indicates the 1980 U.S. fishery for true cod will be greater than thought during the early stages of this year's fishery. Correspondence from Trans-Pacific International Fisheries, Inc., (attached) and other information shows various fishermen and producers forecasting U.S. catches in the range from 8,000 to 50,000 mt before the end of 1981.

The possibilities for allocating the excess OY represented by increasing the Pacific cod OY by 29,300 mt range from placing all of it in the TALFF to all of it in the DAH or any combination of percentages to each plus the reserve.

The total U.S. catch to date has been 4,286 mt from a DAH amount of 24,265.

The total TALFF catch to date has been 20,764.7 mt from a total TALFF OF 31,500 mt. (Best blendcatch total).



Trans-Pacific International Industries, Inc.

Deep Sea, Inc.

Fishermen's Metal Products

Trans-Pacific Seafoods, Inc.

Penguin, Inc.

3419 - 16th West

(206) 284-4563

Seattle, WA 98119

May 12, 1980

Mr. Jim Branson
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Jim:

I thought I should write you a letter to follow up our telephone conversation on the anticipated catch of True Cod and Pollock by the Arctic Trawler and other United States vessels.

Using a 60% True Cod and 40% Pollock ratio to start with, we are anticipating that the Arctic Trawler will catch about 8 million pounds of round True Cod, and 5 million pounds of round Pollock for the rest of 1980. These figures are, of course, just projections, and the percentage of True Cod could be much greater as we get more familiar with the fishing grounds and are able to target more on True Cod. With the knowledge gained from fishing in 1980, our 1981 catch of round True Cod could exceed 10,000 tons.

When you add in the catch of the various joint ventures, salt fish boats, and other vessels which might enter the fishery, the United States True Cod catch could reach 50,000 tons in 1981.

I would appreciate it very much if these figures could be brought to the attention of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, so the domestic fishery for True Cod will be allocated a sufficient amount of fish to cover the expanding harvesting ability.

It was good to talk to you again, Jim, and I hope that we will be able to get together soon to discuss this situation further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Konrad S. Uri".

Konrad S. Uri

KSU:ms



Marine Resources Company

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May 16, 1980

MAY 20 1980

Mr. Jim H. Branson
Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
P.O. Box 3136 DT
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Jim:

In response to your letter dated 8 May, we are pleased to submit the following information to bring the Council up to date on our joint fishing operations in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. This information covers the period through 12 May.

| <u>Species</u> | <u>MT</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Food Grade Fish</u> | |
| Herring | 36.700 |
| Pollock | 3794.800 |
| Cod | 3104.380 |
| Rock Sole | 15.800 |
| Yellowfin Sole | 0.600 |
| Atka Mackerel | 139.400 |
| POP | 4.300 |
| Other rockfish | 0.400 |
| Sculpin | 15.300 |
| | |
| <u>Fish meal fish</u> | 3894.450 |
| (primarily small pollock) | |

TOTAL

11006.130 MT

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Jim Branson
May 16, 1980
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The above is inclusive from the beginning of our operations. You will note that our records do not breakdown the fishmeal fish into species due to the fact that we pay a flat price for all fish going to meal irregardless of species. The actual data on species breakdown for the entire catch irregardless of product form can only be obtained from NMFS as we don't have this information.

II. Vessels involved

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 1/11-1/31 | 1 processor | 7 catchers |
| 2/1 -2/15 | 3 processors | 7 catchers |
| 2/16-3/27 | 4 processors | 7 catchers |
| 3/28-5/12 | 2 processors | 5 catchers |

Our present operations are centered north of Unimak Pass. They will wind down near the end of May with the departure of our remaining processor Nadezhdinsk. The processor 18 Sezd VLKSM departed 12 May. One of our main reasons for stopping the pollock/cod fishery now is that we have experienced a noticeable drop in quality lately following spawning of these species.

On June 1 we plan to move the joint fishery to the central portion of the Bering Sea southeast of Ninivak Island in the areas that have traditionally been fished by the foreign fleets. This will be an experimental operation to see if we can do anything with the under-utilized yellowfin sole stocks which up to now have been dominated entirely by the foreign fleets.

We will have six U.S. trawlers involved, one of which is presently in Dutch Harbor with the other five on their way to the Bering Sea. Two-three processors will be used to process the delivered catches for our Company's account. We recently submitted permit applications for two of the processors (Novaya Era and Mys Prokofieva), for permission to process the fish we will buy from the American trawlers.

As I mentioned on the phone, we will be pleased to provide the Council with a monthly update of our operation for your consideration in your deliberations on releases of reserves, etc.

With regard to reserves we want to alert you and your staff that the amounts of yellowfin sole available in DAH and reserve are minimal at best. Our operation alone, which should continue to until mid-September, will probably take amounts in excess to the yellowfin which is available in DAH and reserve. The attached letter dated

Jim Branson
May 16, 1980
Page 3

25 January to Regional Director Rietze details our concern in this matter together with our suggestion that the reserves be augmented with 7500 MT of unallocated TALFF to make certain that this developing domestic fishery will not be impeded.

Sincerely,



Walter F. Pereyra
Vice-President and General Manager
Marine Resources Company

WTP:ar
enclosure



Marine Resources Co., Inc.

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MAY 20 1980

January

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Mr. Harry Rietze
Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 1668
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Harry:

Re: 1980 Yellowfin Sole fishery

In our response dated 10 August 1979 to your request for 1980 joint venture intentions we indicated that we expected to purchase around 4000 MT yellowfin sole plus various quantities of other flatfish in 1980. This response was based upon our intention to develop a domestic yellowfin sole fishery if we could put together the markets, processing capacity and fishermen. It now appears that this goal can be achieved in 1980. Accordingly by this letter we want to formally notify you of this intention so that the interests of ourselves and the domestic fishermen who will fish for us can be taken into consideration in your early deliberations on allocations of Reserves and unallocated TALFF.

Specifically this fishery, which will be in addition to our present operation with the Sulak and various replacement processors, will involve 4-5 American trawlers and two Soviet processing vessels (Novaya Era and Soyuz-5). We plan to operate from June - October in that portion of the central Bering Sea normally fished by the foreign flounder fleets. Our processing capacity will be about 90 metric tons per day which over a five month period could theoretically mean a take of 13,500 metric tons. We feel though that this amount is unrealistic considering that 1) it will be a new fishery for American fishermen; 2) processors will be unavailable during periods of unloading, re-supply, freezer defrosting, etc.; and 3) bad weather will disrupt fishing and delivery operations from time to time. Accordingly, we feel a more realistic maximum catch would be 7500 - 10,000 MT for a five month fishery.

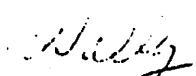
Harry Rietze
January 25, 1980
Page 2.

We note with concern that the present PMP only provides for a yellowfin sole DAH of 2,050 MT with a JVP portion of 850 MT. Moreover there is only 5,850 MT in reserve. Considering the potential harvest from our operation plus that which may be taken by other domestic fishermen (Stewart Investment Group, for example) it seems to us that the amount presently available for domestic fishermen is not sufficient. For this reason we strongly urge that after consulting with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council the following non-actions or actions be taken:

- 1) No allocation of Reserves of yellowfin sole, turbot or other flounders to TALFF
- 2) Allocation of the entire yellowfin sole Reserve of 5,850 MT to the JVP portion of DAH (This will increase DAH to 7,900 MT and JVP to 6,700 MT.)
- 3) Re-allocation by PMP amendment of 7,500 MT of yellowfin sole TALFF which as yet has not been allocated to any foreign nation to reserve.

The above actions will insure that the developing domestic fisheries in the Bering Sea will not be impeded while at the same time not disrupting any foreign fisheries. Since the foreign sole fishery has traditionally taken place in the last half of the year, there will be ample time to re-allocate from DAH and Reserve to TALFF if for some reason the domestic fishery doesn't reach the level anticipated.

Sincerely,


Walter T. Pereyra
Vice President and General Manager
for U. S. Operations

WTP:kb
cc: Jim Branson
Terry Leitzel
Bob Alverson
Dr. Frank Fukuhara