

TAIWANESE FISHERIES OFF ALASKA, 1975

The Republic of China or Taiwan entered the fisheries off Alaska in 1975 with an independent stern trawler which fished for groundfish and salmon in the central and eastern Bering Sea.

Groundfish Fishery

A Taiwanese stern trawler initiated a groundfish fishery in the eastern Bering Sea about late December 1974. During the next six months the vessel made three separate voyages to the Bering Sea fishing grounds: late December to mid-February, March to early April, and late April through May. The vessel fished primarily west and southwest of the Pribilof Islands along the Continental Shelf edge. It is believed that the stern trawler was targeting on pollock but took a variety of groundfish species.

It is estimated that the Taiwanese groundfish catch in the Bering Sea totaled approximately 2,250 metric tons.

Salmon Fishery

The Taiwanese stern trawler which had previously fished for groundfish later returned to the eastern Bering Sea after having been temporarily modified to fish salmon gill net. The vessel arrived north of the Alaska Peninsula in the approaches to Bristol Bay on July 2 and began fishing for salmon using over ten miles of monofilament gill net. The vessel continued fishing salmon in that area until departing July 31 for return to its homeport of Keelung via Japan.

It is estimated the Taiwanese salmon catch in the eastern Bering Sea totaled 150 metric tons, roughly 50 percent sockeye salmon and 50 percent chum salmon.

Longline Fishery

Taiwan began a longline fishery for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska in 1975 utilizing a single vessel. Converted from tuna fishing, the vessel fished in the western Gulf of Alaska for a few days and then moved to the southeastern Gulf in early September. The vessel was seized on September 9 for violating the United States contiguous fishery zone. The vessel caught five metric tons of sablefish prior to its seizure. On October 20, the master was fined \$5,000. Settlement of \$222,000 reached in civil suit against the vessel. After payment of the fine, the vessel continued fishing in the southeastern Gulf of Alaska through the end of 1975.