

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Resolution No. 80-68-FB

Regarding Bering Sea Herring

See also # 79-49-FB,
79-59-FB,
79-60-FB,
80-80-FB

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council held a joint meeting on December 13, 1979, and discussed the Bering Sea herring fishery; and

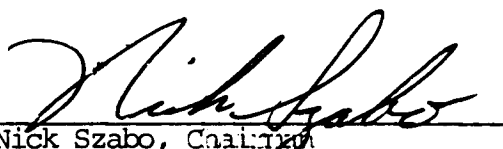
WHEREAS, the Board of Fisheries has adopted regulations prohibiting the offshore harvest of mixed stocks of herring north of 56° North latitude because

- (a) important subsistence fisheries exist along the western shore of Alaska and protection of the herring stocks upon which these Alaskans depend is of paramount importance to the State of Alaska,
- (b) only mixed stocks of herring are present in the offshore areas north of 56° North latitude. Sound principles of biological management favor the harvest of herring in discrete stocks, such as when the herring have separated to spawn along the coast,
- (c) certain Western Alaska herring stocks are currently depleted and sound biological management principles dictate that harvest of these depleted stocks be undertaken only after they have separated,
- (d) harvest of herring on the high seas is not advisable due to the inability to make accurate assessments of abundance in the high seas,
- (e) accurate catch reporting is more difficult in a high seas fishery.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Fisheries requests the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to exercise his Emergency Order authority granted under Alaska Statute 16.05.060 to allow a high seas herring fishery if unanticipated conditions result in an inshore harvest of herring that has not achieved a level consistent with sound biological management principles and such a harvest is determined to be in the broad public interest.

ADOPTED: January 11, 1980
Anchorage, Alaska

VOTE: 6/0


Nick Szabo, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries