

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF BOARDS

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November 3, 1984

Commissioners
International North Pacific Fisheries
Commission
c/o Mr. C.R. Forrester
Executive Director
International North Pacific Fisheries
Commission
6640 Northwest Marine Drive
Vancouver, B.C. V6T1X2

Dear Commissioners:

The Alaska Board of Fisheries was alarmed by the research findings recently published in "Origins of Chinook Salmon in the Area of the Japanese Mothership Salmon Fishery" (Fisheries Research Institute [FRI], University of Washington). The institute estimates that the Japanese land based and mothership fisheries harvested from 200,000 to 700,000 Alaskan chinook salmon (including Canadian Yukon River stocks) annually between 1978 and 1983. This high seas interception of chinook salmon is completely unacceptable. Alaskan chinook are fully utilized in domestic fisheries. Indeed, some stocks are depressed. Proper conservation demands stock by stock management to protect depressed stocks.

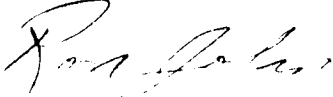
High seas fisheries indiscriminately harvest weak and strong stocks alike. Additionally, harvesting immature chinook which have great potential market value is an unforgivable waste of an extremely valuable resource.

Each year, the Board of Fisheries develops increasingly stringent regulations to protect this valuable resource and allocate these prized fish among subsistence, commercial, personal use and sport fishermen. However, we lack the authority to control what may be the single largest harvester -- the Japanese high seas fishing fleets.

November 3, 1984

Accordingly, the Alaska Board of Fisheries is compelled to submit the enclosed resolution. The resolution strongly urges that you take any and every step within your power, to immediately eliminate high seas interception of these salmon.

Sincerely,



Ron Jolin
Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Enclosure

cc: Governor Bill Sheffield
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Representative Don Young
Ed Wolfe, U.S. State Department
Commissioner Don Collinsworth
Jim Campbell, Chairman, NPFMC

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries is mandated to conserve, allocate, and manage Alaska's fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries has reviewed "Origins of Chinook Salmon in the Area of the Japanese Mothership Salmon Fishery" published by the Fisheries Research Institute of the University of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the new information indicates that from 200,000 to 700,000 Alaska chinook salmon were harvested annually between 1978 and 1983 in these high seas Japanese mothership and land based gill net fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these fish would have returned to western and southcentral Alaska; and

WHEREAS, this study estimates that Japanese interception of south-central Alaska chinook salmon has exceeded the annual inshore harvest of the commercial, subsistence, personal use, and recreational fisheries in this region since 1964; and

WHEREAS, previous research shows that substantial numbers of other salmon of Alaskan origin and steelhead of North American origin are being intercepted in this and other foreign high seas fisheries; and

WHEREAS, this high seas harvest of small immature fish which would have returned to domestic fisheries represents an unacceptable economic loss to the coastal fisheries of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries considers Alaska salmon stocks to be fully utilized by existing inshore fisheries; and

WHEREAS, some western and southcentral Alaska chinook stocks are already depressed, requiring special conservation measures to ensure their perpetuation; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes that under the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean, the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission is the body responsible for governing the conduct of these high seas fisheries; therefore,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Fisheries, expresses its concern for the conservation and proper utilization of salmon resources that are considered the common property of the State of Alaska and the United States, and strongly recommends that INPFC take immediate steps to terminate this wasteful and indeed dangerous high seas salmon harvest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Fisheries requests the assistance of the Governor of the State of Alaska, and the Alaskan congressional delegation to use all available methods and appropriate actions to resolve this unacceptable loss.



Ron Jolin, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

12/3/84
Date