

SOVIET FLEET ACTIVITY OFF BRITISH
COLUMBIA, 1972-73
(submitted by Canada)

British Columbia (October 1972 - September 1973)

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The Soviets made use of Tasu Sound on two occasions in 1972 under terms of the Canada-U.S.S.R. Agreement. During the first period of activity from September 22 to October 6, twenty stern trawlers and two smaller support vessels were serviced by two refrigerated transports. In the final period, November 8 to 21, six stern trawlers, one patrol vessel and two refrigerated transports entered the Sound. In addition an average of ten trawlers fished off the southwest coast of Vancouver Island through October decreasing to a solitary vessel by the third week in November. By December 5 the area was completely cleared.

Soviet fishing activity off the coast of British Columbia was extremely light and sporadic during 1973. Two trawlers were off the southwest coast of Vancouver Island early in June, another checked the area at mid August and a maximum effort by 7 vessels occurred between August 15 and 20. Despite this light fishing effort the Soviet fleet operating off the United States coast made use of Tasu Sound during two periods in 1973; July 18 to July 30 with 21 trawlers, 1 transport, 1 tug and 1 supply vessel - September 25 to October 1 with 1 transport and 11 trawlers.