SOVIET AND SOUTH KOREAN FISHERIES

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U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
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SOVIET FISHERIES IN THE GULF OF ALASKA IN 1974

(October 1973 - September 1974)


Alaska Pollock and Flounder

Soviet trawling for Alaska pollock and flounder in October and November 1973 was by 5 to 10 stern trawlers and two medium trawlers along the edge of Albatross and Portlock Banks. In December the effort increased slightly with the addition of a few side trawlers and a factory ship and the fishery became centered on Portlock Bank. The fleet rose to over 20 vessels in January and shifted to Chiniak Gully on Albatross Bank south of Kodiak Island. The fishery remained in that area in February and March and the fleet continued to increase reaching a peak of 45 vessels (28 medium trawlers, 11 stern trawlers, and six support ships) in mid-March. The fishing area expanded in March to along the edges of Albatross and Portlock Banks. In late March the fleet began to decline and by April only 10 medium trawlers which had shifted to the edge of the Yakutat grounds in the eastern Gulf remained. In May the fleet dropped to seven medium trawlers and shifted to Albatross Bank. The fishery continued to decline involving three stern trawlers and one medium trawler in June and one stern trawler and one medium trawler in July. In August the fleet decreased to only one medium trawler which fished along the Continental Shelf edge between Chirikof Island and the Shumagin Islands in the western Gulf of Alaska through September.

Soviet trawling along the Aleutian Island Chain was by a single medium trawler fishing along the western Aleutians in August and September.

It is estimated the Soviet's catch totaled between 55,000 and 65,000 metric tons. Ocean perch was the primary species taken incidental to Alaska pollock and flounder and a sprinkling of Pacific halibut was evident in most of the catches containing flounder.
Shrimp Fishery

In late October 1973 one medium trawler began exploring for shrimp on the Continental Shelf east of the Shumagin Islands in the western Gulf. In early November a second trawler arrived and by the end of that month the fleet had increased to nine medium trawlers. The number of trawlers decreased to seven in December and to five in January. In early February the number of trawlers in the Shumagin Islands area increased to eight and five other medium trawlers began fishing on Portlock Bank. By mid-February the fishery decreased to only 3 medium trawlers all in the Shumagin Islands area. In late February the number of trawlers increased to seven and a factory ship and a patrol vessel joined the fleet. In early March the eight medium trawlers and patrol vessel shifted to Portlock Bank and the factory ship departed the fishery. The fishery remained at that level until late March when it ended. It is estimated the catch totaled approximately 2,000 metric tons.
South Korean Fisheries in the Bering Sea during October 1973 - September 1974 included a groundfish trawl fishery primarily for Alaska pollock by factory ship fleets and independent stern trawlers and a trawl fishery for herring. Present in the Bering Sea but apparently never actually fishing were two crab pot vessels.

**Groundfish Fishery**

South Korean trawling for groundfish in the Bering Sea was initially by a large Danish seine type trawler which operated north of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians the later half of April and the first few days of May. Alaska pollock was presumably the target species. In late May a factory ship accompanied by a total of 19 trawlers and two independent stern trawlers began fishing for Alaska pollock along the Continental Shelf edge west of the Pribilof Islands. In mid-June a factory ship accompanied by four trawlers, which had previously been fishing for herring in the northern Bering Sea, also began fishing for Alaska pollock west of the Pribilof Islands. In late June one of the independent stern trawlers shifted to along the Aleutian Islands. The remaining stern trawler and the factory ship accompanied by 19 trawlers continued fishing for Alaska pollock along the Continental Shelf edge moving northwest of the Pribilof Islands far into the central Bering Sea. The factory ship accompanied by four trawlers departed the Bering Sea at the end of July.

In early August four stern trawlers which had been fishing on Albatross and Portlock Banks and south of the Fox Islands in the Gulf of Alaska shifted to just north of Unimak Pass in the eastern Bering Sea. The vessels remained in that area catching primarily Alaska pollock until late August and then shifted to south of the eastern Aleutian Islands.

It is estimated the South Korean groundfish catch (mostly Alaska pollock) in the Bering Sea totaled 60 to 70 thousand metric tons.

**Herring Fishery**

The trawl fishery for herring was conducted by a factory ship and four accompanying trawlers from early May to early June. Fishing was initially off Kuskokwim Bay and then northward into Norton Sound. It is estimated the fleet caught 200 metric tons of herring.
South Korean fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska in 1974 included a trawl fishery for groundfish and a longline fishery for sablefish.

**Groundfish Trawl Fishery**

In early July a South Korean stern trawler began fishing along the edge of Albatross Bank south of Kodiak Island. By late July the fleet increased to three trawlers scattered along outer Albatross and Portlock Banks. All three trawlers shifted to the Bering Sea in early August.

South Korean trawling south of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutian Islands was begun in late June by one stern trawler. One to two trawlers fished in that area in July and in early August the vessels shifted to the Bering Sea. In late August trawling south of the Fox Islands was resumed by four stern trawler from the Bering Sea.

It is estimated the South Korean trawl catch in the Gulf totaled about 500 metric tons.

**Longline Fishery**

One South Korean vessel longlined for sablefish off Albatross Bank in October 1973 and then the fishery shifted to south of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutian Islands where one vessel fished in November. Fishing was suspended until late February when two longliners began fishing off southeastern Alaska. In early April the number of longliners increased to three and the fishing area was expanded to off the Yakutat grounds in the eastern Gulf. The number of longliners dropped to two in May and to one in early June and fishing remained in the eastern Gulf.

In late June the number of longliners in the Gulf increased to two with the arrival of a vessel between the Shumagin Islands and Chirikof Island in the western Gulf. In July the number of longliners increased to five and the fishery became centered in the central Gulf between Middleton Island and Chirikof Island. In August the fleet decreased to two vessels.

It is estimated the South Korean longline catch in the Gulf of Alaska totaled between 1,000 and 1,500 metric tons.
SOVIET FISHERIES IN THE BERING SEA IN 1974

(October 1973 - September 1974)

Soviet fisheries in the Bering Sea during October 1973 - September 1974 included a herring fishery on the Continental Shelf north and west of the Pribilof Islands and a groundfish trawl fishery along the Continental Shelf edge in the eastern and central Bering Sea. In 1974, as in the previous two years, the Soviets did not fish for crab in the eastern Bering Sea.

Herring Fishery

The Soviet herring expedition was begun in mid-November 1973 by six trawlers. The fleet increased steadily numbering 12 ships by the end of November, 45 ships by the end of December, 63 by the end of January, and peaking at 78 in early February. In late February the fleet began decreasing and dropped to less than 50 vessels in March. The expedition ended the first week of April. That was about a month earlier than the fishery ended in 1973. It is estimated the herring expedition in 1974 took between 40,000 and 50,000 metric tons.

Groundfish Fishery

The Soviet fishery for groundfish along the Continental Shelf edge was conducted primarily in two areas - north of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutian Islands and northwest of the Pribilof Islands in the central Bering Sea. The principal species taken were turbot, black cod, and Pacific Ocean perch in the Fox Islands area and Alaska pollock and the yellowfin sole in the central Bering Sea. This fishery, conducted primarily by large side trawlers, was continuous throughout the year. The effort was rather constant ranging between 20-25 trawlers except in March, April and May when fishing was intensified. The number of trawlers increased to over 40 in March and then in April with disbandment of the herring fishery increased to over 75. The fishery remained at that level until mid-May and then began declining dropping to 25 vessels in June. It is estimated in 1974 catch totalled upwards to 100,000 metric tons.
Crab Fishery

In early May two tanner crab pot fishing vessels appeared in the central Bering Sea west of the Pribilof Islands. U.S. officials boarded one of the vessels and issued a warning against taking creatures of the Continental Shelf. Shortly after the boarding the two vessels departed apparently without ever fishing.