

INPFC
DOCUMENT

Ser. No. 1693

Rev. No. _____

SOVIET FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA

Submitted to the
INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

by the U.S. NATIONAL SECTION

U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
Northwest Region
1700 Westlake Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109

October 1974

SOVIET FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON, OREGON AND CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 1973 - OCTOBER 1974

Northwest Regional Office, NMFS

During the early fall of 1973 Soviet hake fishing remained active off Washington and Oregon; no Soviet fishery off California was observed after July. In September, the fleet consisted of 47 fishing and support vessels including 41 stern trawlers, most of which fished in the vicinity of Heceta Banks. Only a few stern trawlers fished off the Washington coast and none were observed on La Perouse Banks. In October the Soviet fleet was reduced to 25 stern trawlers confined to Heceta and Stonewall Banks. Observed catches indicated that fishing was good throughout 1973. The fishing season ended for the Soviets by November as no vessels were observed that month.

Of special interest was the arrival of one East German stern trawler in August of 1973 and one Polish stern trawler in September. Both vessels fished hake, departing the area in late October.

In the spring of 1974 the Soviet hake fishery built up rapidly off the California coast in April. Soviet fishing was the heaviest on record for that month with a fleet of 47 fishing and support vessels, including 42 stern trawlers, concentrated southwest of San Francisco 20 to 30 nautical miles offshore. Soviet fishing continued off California through the summer with some stern trawlers moving north to Point Reyes and Crescent City. There were still five stern trawlers fishing in the vicinity of San Francisco in August.

By May the hake fishery began spreading northward with 53 stern trawlers and 8 support vessels reported off Oregon. During the spring and summer most Soviet fishing was in the vicinity of Heceta Banks, 20 to 30 nautical miles offshore along the 100 fathom line. Only a few stern trawlers moved north and fished off the Columbia River, Grays Harbor and Cape Flattery. For the second year no fishing was observed on La Perouse Banks as had occurred regularly prior to 1973. Soviet fishing activities peaked off Oregon and Washington in August when 57 stern trawlers and 12 support ships concentrated mostly in the vicinity of Heceta Banks. The catches of hake by Soviet trawlers through August appeared similar to those of previous years.

In June 1974 one East German stern trawler arrived off the Pacific Northwest and departed in early July. One Polish stern trawler also arrived in June and another joined it in August.