FOREIGN FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 1974 TO JULY 1975

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USSR

In September 1974 the Soviet hake fishing off the Pacific coast consisted of 61 stern trawlers and 18 support vessels. Most of the fishing was centered in the southern Oregon area, although during the last third of the month, approximately 30 stern trawlers moved northward to fish off the Washington coast and on La Perouse Bank. This was the first large scale northern hake fishery since October 1972. During late September it was determined that the Soviets had reached their 1974 hake quota, and by October 3, the entire fleet had departed the Pacific coast.

During the last half of February 1975, the Soviet hake expedition again began arriving off the Pacific coast. By the end of the month, 6 stern trawlers were fishing in the San Francisco area.

The Soviet fleet off central California increased dramatically in March to 52 stern trawlers. Fishing was generally confined to west and southwest of San Francisco along the 100 fathom curve. Mostly small hake (25 to 30 cm) were taken until the larger hake began to show late in the month. On several occasions during the second week of March, red rockfish were observed in the Soviet catches.

In April the Soviet fleet totalled more than 80 vessels including 71 stern trawlers. Fishing activity centered around the Farallon Islands.

The hake fleet continued to grow, reaching a total of 75 stern trawlers in May. While most fishing remained in the San Francisco area, some of the fleet moved northward into northern California and Oregon waters. However, fishing was poor off Oregon, and most vessels returned to California. Catches of hake observed off central California continued to be small to moderate. Again during May, several observations were made of red rockfish in Soviet catches off California.

During June the Soviet fleet leveled off with 68 stern trawlers employed and gradually shifted northward toward northern California and Oregon. Soviet vessels were deployed heavily along the California coast north of Cape Mendocino and along the Oregon coast to Tillamook Head. Areas of greatest concentrations were from Trinidad Head to St. George Reef and Heceta Banks. Several large hauls of hake were observed early in the month, but catches in mid and late June were reported as small to moderate.
In July, the Soviet fleet consisted of 69 stern trawlers and 15 support vessels. Fishing took place along the entire Oregon coast with areas of concentration on Heceta Banks and off Tillamook Head. Until mid-month, several vessels fished off central California. The fishing off northern California was limited to a few vessels and mostly confined to the Redding Rock-St. George Reef area. Hake catches continued to be moderate.

Poland

During September and October 1974 the Polish hake fleet consisted of 7 stern trawlers and a support vessel. The fishery was concentrated on Heceta Banks. The few catches of hake observed were good.

In November and December, 4 to 6 stern trawlers fished on Heceta Banks and off the Columbia River.

In January 1975, 3 Polish stern trawlers were sighted off San Francisco, but no fishing activity was observed during the month. In February a single Polish vessel was observed fishing off Monterey.

In March, 8 stern trawlers fished hake, mostly off San Francisco. Three of these vessels explored the Oregon coast for hake, but returned shortly to California. The Polish reported moderate catches of small hake off California. In April the Polish fleet grew to 10 stern trawlers and generally remained in the San Francisco area. Again only moderate catches were reported by the Polish.

During May the fleet grew to 13 stern trawlers that were serviced by 3 transports. Again fishing generally remained off San Francisco. In late April and early May, 2 Polish stern trawlers were observed with substantial amounts of rockfish on their decks.

In June the fleet grew to 15 stern trawlers and spread north to northern California and Oregon and as far north as La Perouse Bank. Again, catches by the Polish fleet were reported as moderate.

In July, 14 Polish stern trawlers and a transport vessel were observed off the west coast. The effort was evenly divided between California and the Northwest. The fishing off California took place north of Cape Mendocino, and off Oregon, the Polish fishery concentrated on Heceta Banks. Observed catches of hake were moderate.

Japan

In September 1974 the Japanese fishery consisted of 2 stern trawlers off central California and 1 off Cape Flattery, all fishing rockfish. In October, a single stern trawler was off California and 2 off the northern
Washington coast. In addition, a longliner began fishing black cod off Cape Flattery. The vessel fishing off Pt. Reyes departed late in the month.

In November, 2 stern trawlers fished on La Perouse Bank, and 2 longliners fished black cod along the Washington coast. By December the stern trawlers had departed. A third longliner appeared, and the 3 vessels fished off Washington and Oregon as far south as Heceta Banks.

In January 1975, 3 longliners fished off northern Washington. In February a single longliner fished off Cape Flattery.

In March, April, and May, there was no Japanese activity reported along the Pacific coast.

In June, 2 stern trawlers fished off the San Francisco area. One of these vessels was observed nested with a transport off Oregon before it arrived off California.

Again in July, 2 Japanese stern trawlers worked off the Pacific coast. Both vessels were observed off southern Oregon and central California. A transport was sighted nested with one of these vessels off Oregon, and a Japanese patrol vessel was off the Pacific coast during the month.

Federal Republic of Germany

Late in November 1974, 2 West German stern trawlers made a port call in Long Beach, California, and reported that they would be working along the North American coast, under an exploratory fishing agreement with Mexico. The vessels were not observed again until February 1975, when they were both sighted off northern Oregon and off San Francisco.

In March, 1 stern trawler fished hake and rockfish off San Francisco, and in April, both vessels were involved in this fishery. The last West German activity was observed when a single stern trawler fished off San Francisco in early June.

German Democratic Republic

There was no East German fishing activity observed during the period of August 1974 to June 1975. However, during the second week in July a single East German stern trawler arrived off Oregon. Throughout the remainder of the month, this vessel fished hake on Heceta Bank.

Republic of Korea

In November 1974, 2 South Korean black cod vessels arrived off the Pacific Northwest. One of these vessels fished pots near Heceta Banks; the other
used longlines off northern Washington. In December, 3 more longliners joined the fishery off Washington, and, during the last half of the month, the pot vessel moved south to fish off Eureka.

In January 1975, 3 longliners fished black cod off the Oregon coast. In February and March, 4 South Koreans fished longlines off both Oregon and Washington. There was no South Korean activity sighted in April.

In May, 2 vessels carrying pots, were observed off the Oregon and Washington coasts. During June, 3 longliners worked along the Washington coast, and a pot vessel fished off southern Washington and northern Oregon.

During July, 8 South Korean black cod vessels were observed off the Pacific Northwest. Most of the effort was along the Washington coast, although 3 of the vessels did fish off Oregon. For the first time, a South Korean transport was observed servicing a longliner off the coast of Washington.