FOREIGN FISHERIES OFF ALASKA,
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SOVIET FISHERIES
Bering Sea

Soviet fisheries in the Bering Sea from October 1974 through September 1975 included a trawl fishery for herring on the Continental Shelf northwest of the Pribilof Islands and a groundfish trawl fishery along the Continental Shelf edge in the eastern and central Bering Sea. In 1975, as in the previous three years, the Soviets did not fish for crabs in the eastern Bering Sea.

Herring Fishery

The Soviet herring expedition was begun in early December 1974 and involved nearly 45 vessels by mid-month. The fleet increased to 50 ships from late December until mid-January and then decreased to 45. In mid-February the herring expedition ended and the fleet shifted to the groundfish fishery. The 1975 herring expedition was about two months shorter than in 1974.

It is estimated the 1975 herring expedition took between 20,000 and 30,000 metric tons.

Groundfish Fishery

The Soviet fishery for groundfish along the Continental Shelf edge was again conducted primarily in two areas: (1) in the eastern Bering Sea north of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians, and (2) in the central Bering Sea northwest of the Pribilof Islands. The principal species taken were arrowtooth flounder, sablefish, rockfish, and pollock
in the eastern Bering Sea, and pollock in the central Bering Sea. The central Bering Sea fishery was continuous throughout the year and was conducted by side trawlers and stern trawlers. The fishery in the eastern Bering Sea was also continuous but was conducted principally by side trawlers. The number of vessels present simultaneously in the groundfish fishery ranged from 10 to 75. The peak months were November, March, April, May, June, and September averaging 60 vessels. October, December, February, July, and August averaged 30 vessels while only 10 vessels fished in January.

It is estimated that the groundfish catch, including herring, during the period was about 300,000 metric tons.
Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands

Soviet fishing in the Gulf of Alaska during October 1974 - September 1975 was limited to a trawl fishery for groundfish. In 1975, for the first time since their annual fishery began in 1964, the Soviets did not fish for shrimp in the Gulf of Alaska. Also in 1975, the Soviets did not employ a fleet of side trawlers supported by a factory ship to fish primarily for flounders and pollock near Kodiak Island. Such a factory ship fleet was used in 1973 and in 1974 and their catches included significant numbers of Pacific halibut.

Groundfish Fishery

Soviet trawling for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska was primarily by stern trawlers concentrated mainly along the Continental Shelf edge off Albatross and Portlock Banks near Kodiak Island. During October, March, May, and August a few vessels fished near Chirikof, Sanak and the Shumagin Islands in the western Gulf of Alaska. During July, a few ships operated near Kayak and Middleton Islands in the central Gulf of Alaska. The effort was fairly constant with 5-10 trawlers except during February and September when the number of vessels increased to 20. Those increases reflected the passage of vessels to and from the hake fishery off the Pacific Northwest coast. Principal species taken in the Gulf of Alaska were rockfish, pollock and Atka mackerel.
Soviet trawling along the Aleutian Islands chain was conducted mainly by stern trawlers in three principal areas. The area south of the Fox Islands was fished by three trawlers from late March through late April and by one vessel in May. The Seguam-Amukta Islands area in the central Aleutians had a small fishery by four vessels in late August and mid-September. A new fishery was initiated along Petrel Bank in the western Aleutians by about 20 vessels in August and it increased steadily to 40 vessels by the end of September. The principal species taken along the Aleutians are rockfish, Atka mackerel and pollock.

It is estimated that the Soviet groundfish catch in the Gulf of Alaska and along the Aleutians during the period totaled between 55,000 and 65,000 metric tons.
SOUTH KOREAN FISHERIES
Bering Sea

South Korean fishing in the Bering Sea during October 1974 - September 1975 involved only a minor groundfish trawl fishery primarily for pollock by two independent stern trawlers and one independent Danish seiner. Unlike 1974, the South Koreans in 1975 did not conduct a herring fishery or employ a factory ship fleet for groundfish in the eastern Bering Sea.

Groundfish Fishery

South Korean trawling for groundfish in the Bering Sea was initially by an independent stern trawler which operated northwest of the Pribilof Islands along the Continental Shelf edge from mid-November until early January. A large Danish seine trawler operated north of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians during February and the first half of March. During June another stern trawler operated off the Pribilof Islands. The Danish seine vessel returned in mid-July and fished west of the Pribilof Islands until early August when the vessel shifted to north of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians. The vessel continued to operate in that area until late September.

The three vessels which operated in the Bering Sea during 1975 presumably were targeting on pollock and it is estimated that their catch totaled approximately 15,000 metric tons.
Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands

South Korean fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska in 1975 included a trawl fishery for groundfish and a longline fishery for sablefish.

Groundfish Trawl Fishery

From mid-May to mid-June a South Korean stern trawler fished south of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutian Islands. In late July three stern trawlers reappeared in that same area, one vessel leaving soon thereafter to fish in the Gulf of Alaska. The two remaining trawlers were joined in late August by two additional stern trawlers bringing the total to four. The effort continued at four stern trawlers until mid-September when it declined to three which operated throughout the month. Those trawlers were serviced by two support vessels during September. In late July one stern trawler fished briefly south of the central Aleutians in the Andreanof Islands area.

South Korean trawling in the Gulf of Alaska was begun in late July by five stern trawlers operating along the Continental Shelf edge from the Shumagin Islands eastward to Albatross Bank. One trawler departed in mid-August and the remaining trawlers departed a week later.

It is estimated the South Korean trawl catch in the Gulf of Alaska and along the Aleutian Islands totaled between 15,000 and 18,000 metric tons, primarily rockfish, sablefish, and pollock.
**Longline Fishery**

South Korean longline fishing for sablefish in the Gulf of Alaska was sporadic and involved at least 10 different longline vessels. Most of the effort was in the eastern Gulf of Alaska, largely off southeast Alaska, and involved: one vessel in September; one to three ships in December and January; one or two vessels from February through April; four longliners in May; and one or two vessels from June through September. In the central Gulf, mainly on Portlock and Albatross Banks, there were: one vessel in September; three longliners in June; and one or two vessels in July and August. Longlining in the western Gulf was limited to one ship in November and two in April.

Longlining for sablefish along the Aleutian Islands chain was confined to two brief periods. One vessel fished south of the Fox Islands in the eastern Aleutians from mid-September through the end of October and one vessel fished in the Seguam-Amukta Islands area of the central Aleutians during the month of April.

It is estimated the South Korean longline catch in the Gulf of Alaska and along the Aleutian Islands totaled between 1,500 and 2,000 metric tons, primarily sablefish.
TAIWANESE FISHERIES

Bering Sea

The Republic of China or Taiwan entered the fisheries off Alaska in 1975 with an independent stern trawler which fished for groundfish and salmon in the central and eastern Bering Sea.

Groundfish Fishery

A Taiwanese stern trawler initiated a groundfish fishery in the eastern Bering Sea about late December 1974. During the next six months the vessel made three separate voyages to the Bering Sea fishing grounds: late December to mid-February, March to early April, and late April through May. The vessel fished primarily west and southwest of the Pribilof Islands along the Continental Shelf edge. It is believed that the stern trawler was targeting on pollock but took a variety of groundfish species.

It is estimated that the Taiwanese groundfish catch in the Bering Sea totaled approximately 2,250 metric tons.

Salmon Fishery

The Taiwanese stern trawler which had previously fished for groundfish later returned to the eastern Bering Sea after having been temporarily modified to fish salmon gill net. The vessel arrived north of the Alaska Peninsula in the approaches to Bristol Bay on July 2 and began fishing for salmon using over ten miles of monofilament gill net. The vessel continued fishing salmon in that area until departing July 31 for return to its homeport of Keelung via Japan.
It is estimated the Taiwanese salmon catch in the eastern Bering Sea totaled 150 metric tons, roughly 50 percent sockeye salmon and 50 percent chum salmon.
Taiwan began a longline fishery for sablefish using a single vessel in the Gulf of Alaska in 1975.

Sablefish Fishery

A Taiwanese longline vessel, converted from tuna fishing, initiated a sablefish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska in late August. The vessel fished a few days in the western Gulf of Alaska and then moved to southeastern Alaska in early September. The vessel was seized on September 9 for violating the United States contiguous fishery zone and has been held in custody pending completion of judicial proceedings.

The vessel caught 5 metric tons of sablefish prior to its seizure.
Poland entered the fisheries off Alaska in late 1974 with a groundfish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. This followed a brief exploratory cruise in 1973 by a stern trawler in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea.

Groundfish Fishery
An independent stern trawler initiated the Polish fishery off Alaska in late December 1974. The vessel fished mainly in the eastern Gulf of Alaska between Yakutat and Kayak Island until mid-January when it was joined by a sister ship and they shifted to Albatross Bank south of Kodiak Island. The first stern trawler was replaced by a third stern trawler in late January. Those two trawlers remained on Albatross Bank until departing the Alaskan area in late February.

The trawlers targeted on Pacific cod but also took a variety of other groundfish species. It is estimated that the Polish catch off Alaska totaled 3,500 to 4,000 metric tons.