

OPENING STATEMENT BY DELEGATION OF JAPAN

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates. My name is Iwamoto and I have great honour to greet all of you on behalf of Japanese Delegation.

I am very glad to meet you all again at the 10th Annual Conference and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Korean government for organizing this meeting.

It is already more than 10 years since we have applied moratorium as the most severe conservation measures in the area of Bearing See, although the research results still show the decrease in Pollock stock. I think that this proves that although the moratorium has contributed to the prevention of the depletion of fish catches in the Bering Sea, it has not resulted in stock recovery.

The objective of this Convention is conservation, management and optimum utilization of Pollock resources.

Our country is of the opinion that, even if it is set at a very low level, an AHL should be set at a level deemed reasonable from the scientific standpoint.

At this Annual Conference, building up on considerations of Seattle Workshop, we should deepen cooperation in research activities aiming at collecting scientific data necessary for establishment of AHL and working together with all the Parties to the Convention make effort to set AHL.

Finally I would like to express our expectations to achieve meaningful and productive results at this Annual Session.

Now let me introduce members of our delegation.

...

That is all. Mr. Chair, thank you very much.

Opening Statement of China

Good Morning.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a great honor for us to be here in Busan for the 10th Central Bering Sea Pollock Conference. On behalf of my delegation, I'd like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Korea for providing the excellent facility to hold this conference, also I'd like to extend my thanks to Korean people for the hospitality we received in this beautiful city.

In the past ten years, we have discussed Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea in many respects since we have voluntarily agreed and established a moratorium in 1993 for the Pollock resource recovery. But 12 years have past, even we have managed to maintain a minimum level of fishing effort in this area, unfortunately we are still failed to see any signs of recovery for the Pollock resource in the Convention area. Now, it was acknowledged that number of factors could affect Pollock abundance. However, no one factor was identified as sole responsible for the delay of stock recovery in the Central Bering Sea. So we need further research and continuously exchange information, so as to attain better understanding on this issue.

I regret that China could not attend last two years annual conference for some reason, but today we are here, and we are willing to cooperate with other countries to make better results. Mr. Chairman, I do hope with all the delegations' efforts and contributions on this meeting, we can achieve fruitful outcomes so that we can persuade our fishermen to keep hopeful and patient for the re-opening of the fishery in the near future.

Thank you.

**THE TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

September 6-9, 2005, Busan, Republic of Korea

Opening Statement of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentleman!

Korean delegation is pleased to host the 10th Annual Conference in Busan where the 4th Annual Conference was held in 1999. On behalf of Korean delegation, I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to all delegations to this Conference.

Twelve years have passed since fishing operations have been suspended in the Central Bering Sea in 1993. In the meantime, Korean fishermen have provided their cooperation in the all-out effort to conserve and manage Pollock resources, patiently awaiting their recovery so as to resume fishing operation. However, recovery rate during the last twelve years has been seriously disappointing. There is no clear evidence that Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea will reach 1.67 million metric ton level as determined in the Conference. As well, the Annual Conference has not provided a clear vision for resuming fishing operations.

Therefore, the Korean fishermen have been seriously concerned about whether the moratorium is in fact contributing to recovery of Pollock resource, or whether the 1.67 million metric tons determined in the Convention is too ideal.

Under such circumstances, if the Annual Conference cannot provide or suggest any prospects or visions for resuming fishing operations, it will be difficult to request the Korean fishermen to continue to be patient. Therefore, at the 10th Annual Conference here, the Korean delegation would like to propose two prominent issues among agenda items before us.

Firstly, an AHL should be set on consensus in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, even if the biomass does not reach the 1.67 million metric ton level. As you are aware, at the Workshop on AHL held in Seattle in June this year, issue on an AHL was deeply discussed and productive outcome was created. Setting a token AHL must be helpful for the Government of Parties to persuade their fishermen to be more patient for the time being.

Secondly, trial fishing should be conducted by more fishing vessels. Korean proposal for trial fishing was already circulated to all Parties in advance of this meeting. Korea conducted trial fishing two times with two fishing vessels in 2000 and 2003 respectively, but failed to collect valuable data. It is because two vessels are not enough to keep track of fish stocks in the vast Central Bering Sea. Therefore, Korea is planning to dispatch four fishing vessels in 2006. Other parties are also kindly requested to join trial fishing with Korea in order to collect wide and valuable data.

I hope that all delegates may reach satisfactory consensus on two major issues proposed by Korea at this meeting. I am sure that these proposals can greatly contribute to conservation and management of fish stocks as well as providing credibility for fishermen.

In closing, I would highly expect fruitful outcomes during this meeting and would like to reiterate Korea's commitment to work closely with all Parties to the Convention.

Thank you.

Let me introduce Korean delegation.

On my right hand

- Chiguk Ahn, Deputy Director, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Oh-Seung Kwon, Assistant Director, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Won-Seok Yang, Senior scientist, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
- Seok-Gwan Choi, Scientist, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute

On my left hand

- Dae-Won Kim, Director, Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association
- Soo-Yong Jeon, President, Han Sung Enterprise Co.
- Seong-Joon Lee, Kwan Sung Co.
- Chang-Soon Lee, Managing Director, Keukdong Fisheries Co.
- Yong-Tae Choi, President, Mambuk Fisheries Co.
- In Yeop Moon, General Manager, Sajo Industries Co.
- Young-Taek Cho, President, Wonil Fisheries Co.
- Goo-Young Kim, Director, Oyang Corporation

Poland Opening Statement

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for the Polish delegation to participate in the Tenth Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea. I would like to express my gratitude to Government of Republic of Korea for organizing and hosting this meeting.

Many things have changed in Poland and in the Polish fishery since the Convention is in force. Ten years ago three fishing companies existed in Poland and about 20 vessels operated on fishing grounds of North Pacific. The condition of long-distance fleet which depends on this fishing grounds were getting worse year by year, to certain extent as a consequence of the closure of the Central Bering Sea fishery. Since 2002 there is no Polish fishing vessels on the fishing grounds of North Pacific.

Many scientific efforts were taken during last years and the many discussions were taken during the meetings of Scientific and Technical Committee and other symposia and workshops. All Parties cooperated in the researches to determine the status of pollock stock and the reason why the pollock stock haven't recovered after many years. Moratorium on fishing pollock in Central Bering Sea has continued over ten years and there is no indication of improving the state of Aleutian Basin pollock stock.

There are no Polish vessels in the area of the Convention now, but we expect that an AHL will be established at a level corresponding to actual Aleutian Basin pollock biomass and precautionary rate of exploitation.

Thank you for your attention.

**TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK
RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

SEPTEMBER 06-09, 2005, BUSAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**OPENING STATEMENT
BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for the Russian Delegation to participate in the Central Bering Sea Pollock Convention Tenth Annual Conference. On behalf of the Russian Federation delegation I would like to extend our appreciation to the Government of Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting.

This is a jubilee conference: it is the tenth one. That is why we should attempt to use the four forthcoming days for summarizing the results of investigations of the last decade. During the ensuing ten year period of the Convention we are to reach the next stage of research so that more ample information on pollock of the Central Bering Sea is obtained. In my view, the CBS workshop on allowable harvest level and stock identification held in Seattle last June was very efficient. It was suggested by the Russian Delegation at the workshop to draw up and fulfil an integrated pollock research program named BAPIS. The experience of implementation of a similar program on salmon showed that it is exactly such a program that all the Convention member nations could join their effort for in order to obtain reliable data on the status of nekton including pollock, in the Central Bering Sea, and forecast the interannual biomass and abundance dynamics of fishing species. I expect that we shall have a constructive discussion of each Party's proposals on further research plans which are to be set on a radically new level in the upcoming decade of the Convention.

Thank you.

May I now introduce members of the Russian Delegation.

**TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

OPENING STATEMENT

UNITED STATES DELEGATION

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen; the United States Party appreciates the expressions of sympathy of the Chair to the people of the United States of America for the calamities that have befallen upon parts of the Gulf Coast region. It has indeed been a sad week for America as Hurricane Katrina has brought in untold miseries to the lives of so many people in the region and the Nation.

As the Gulf Coast region heals, the United States Delegation here has important responsibilities to perform -- to provide wise stewardship of pollock fisheries at this Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea. We are honored here to be guests of the Republic of Korea, and to be meeting in such an important port city, Busan.

It is as important to the United States Party, as it is to all Parties here, to ensure that pollock resources are well managed to achieve high biomass levels. We wish for this Convention to provide speedy recovery of Pollock resources to an abundant state in a healthy ecosystem; but it appears that recovery will take time.

In June this year, the United States Party was honored to conduct two technical workshops to address important questions of the Parties with regard to scientific factors that should be considered in determining Allowable Harvest Levels and advancing stock identification research. We anticipate that advances made at the Workshop will contribute substantially to the deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Committee. We look forward to the advice of the Committee to help us make proper management decisions for the central Bering Sea pollock stock.

Fellow Delegates, the United States delegation is here this week to further the objectives of the Convention. I will now have the United States delegation members introduce themselves.