CLOSING STATEMENT BY JAPAN

Mr.Chairman, distinguished Representatives, fellow delegations, ladies and gentlemen, I want to express, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, our satisfaction with the success of the Forth Annual Conference.

First of all, we want to thank from the bottom of our heart the Government of Korea, who have hosted this meeting in this beautiful city of Pusan.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Lim , as Chairperson of the Annual Conference, and Dr.Marasco as Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Committee for their effective leadership in conducting our business at these meetings.

Also, thank and express our respect to Mr. and as our Rapporteurs for their difficult task of putting together the records of the meetings in such a short time.

We have been rying to establish the framework for the cooperation and exploitation of the Pollock resources under this Convention in the Central Bering Sea.

We understand that the progress to establish the measures for rational exploitation of Pollock in the Central Bering Sea is not always easy.

However, it's much depend on our efforts for making consensus on the matters of scientific and management fields. We heartly believe that the effort for mutual understanding among us will be the most important factor in this work.

Japan acknowledges that progress has been made on some issues and all parties are still attempting to resolve differences on another issues.

With refer to still existing issues, Japan much expects that the determination of the AHL based on the best available scientific information, even though it is small amount, will be achieved in near future.

In principle, the S&T Committee was established to examine all scientific data and make recommendations to the Annual Conference. We understand that we have discussed many problems in accordance with this principle also in this meeting.

Therefore, decisions of the S&T related to the AHL should be based on pure scientific principles and not political ones. We should maintain our close discussions to the future to resolve our differences through the best scientific evidence.

Mr.Cairman, we again thanks the Korean delegation for its sincere hospitality and for the provision of excellent facilities in hosting this meeting. We extend our appreciation to you for your good chairmanship during this week.

We also look forward to the Chairmanship of Mr. at the Fifth Annual Meeting next year in .

We thank the Poland for agreeing to host the Sixth Annual Meeting. Finally, we are much looking forward to see you also in the next year meeting again.

Thank you.

CLOSING STATEMENT
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Chairman and distinguished participants!

First of all, on behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you Mr. Chairman for your excellent leadership to guide this meeting to a successful closure.

I also would like to thank the delegations for their cooperation and active participation in the Conference. My thanks also extends to Dr. Marasco, Chair of the S&T Committee, Lieutenant Commander Mathers, the Rapporteur and the interpreters.

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollack Resources in the Central Bering Sea discussed various pending issues including those concerning assessment of pollack resources and action plan. However we were not able to make any advancement in the issue of optimum utilization.

It is with regret that the Parties have yet to reach a consensus on setting of the AHL which stands as the central agenda of this Conference.

Therefore, I would like to ask the coastal nations to suggest a detailed plan to set the AHL at the next Annual Conference based on the principles of consensus as stipulated in Article 7.1 of the Convention and international cooperation.

Closing Statememt - Poland

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The works of the Fourth Annual Conference are close to completion now. We would like to express our sincere thanks, to all participants, and especially to you, Mr. Chairman, for your experienced leadership, which was necessary, considering that solution in our convention are mostly based on consensus principle. We also thank to the Republic of Korea Government for the excellent preparation of the conference.

A lot of in internationally held work was sacrificed for the issues of conservation and research of the CBS pollock and of future management of its fishing during the pre-convention years, and then since the Convention entered into force. The more time is spent, the more difficulties occur in reaching the consensus on various items. Poland however still hopes that joint efforts of all Parties to the Convention will lead to successful solutions in the future. One of factors which are giving us that hope is the strong will of intersessional work. We look forward with the hope to the next Annual Conference in China. Thank you for the attention.

UNITED STATES CLOSING STATEMENT

Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, on behalf of the United States, I wish to extend our appreciation to the Republic of Korea for their warm hospitality hosting this Fourth Annual Conference. I also wish to recognize the hard work performed by the staff to make the Conference run smoothly and ensured that our stay here in Pusan was a pleasant one. Thank you once again for the outstanding reception the Korean government sponsored earlier this week.

All Contracting Parties to the Convention comprise the premier fishing nations in the world. As such, we carry the tremendous responsibility of taking into account the needs of our respective peoples and the necessity to fish prudently and cautiously to ensure those needs are met.

The Central Bering Sea Pollock Convention was developed with the objectives to: rebuild the depressed Aleutian Basin pollock stock; establish a rational pollock fisheries management and conservation system; and provide a forum for scientific cooperation among the Contracting Parties. We have made significant progress in achieving many of these objectives, with the principal exception of rebuilding the pollock stocks.

Having said that, we must recognize that much uncertainty exists when determining the AHL for pollock in the Central Bering Sea. Changes in fish populations, whether influenced by human and natural causes are inevitable. These fluctuations vary in duration, intensity, and frequency. In light of what I have just said, one principal is obviously clear - one must resist the temptation to fish on a severely depressed stock for fear of further exacerbating its decline or depressed state.

Fishermen from the United States and the other Contracting Parties have made major sacrifices in order to stimulate recovery of the Aleutian Basin pollock stocks. We are fully aware that seven years of no fishing is a very long time and imposes hardships on our respective industries, but to deviate from the path we are now following may further jeopardize recovery and will require even more time to rebuild. In Alaska, we say that decisions we make today should benefit the seventh generation. We are hopeful the other Contracting Parties will see the wisdom of this statement.

Fellow delegates, let us not lose confidence in this process. There will be, in our view, recovery of the Aleutian Basin pollock stock and fishing will once again occur in the Central Bering Sea and the coastal states' zone on this stock. We cannot now predict when this will occur. However, we are encouraged that a workshop will occur in 2000 to discuss: the effectiveness of conservation measures already undertaken such as the moratorium; alternative methods to determine harvest levels, and impacts of ecosystem changes on pollock stock structure and abundance. Hopefully, results of the workshop will elucidate the factors that limit the recovery of the pollock resource.

Throughout the discussions, great emphasis was placed on the importance of our fishermen's desire to resume fishing as soon as possible. We agree with this goal, but think viable fisheries will only be feasible when stocks have rebuilt from their present very depressed state. Hopefully, that will be soon. I would like to recognize Dr. Yang Won-Seok, LCDR Dwight Mathers and Mr. Paul Niemeier for their hard work as the rapporteurs.

I would also like to thank the interpreters for their hard work as well

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your effective stewardship of this conference. I wish all delegations a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you next year in China.

Thank you.