

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

15-18 SEPTEMBER 2003 PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

**OPENING STATEMENT
BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Russian Federation delegation I would like to extend our appreciation to the Government of the United States for hosting this meeting. For the eighth time we have gathered to discuss problems connected with the status of pollock high seas resources in the Bering Sea. A number of comprehensive cruises were made during the outgoing year. Their results provide new information on the status of Pollock stocks in the Bering sea. One excellent example of coordinated effort by several nations is the study under the BASIS program. We hope that the discussions in Portland will be productive while its outcome will ensure deeper understanding of the processes of Pollock stock recovery in the Central Bering Sea.

And now let me introduce members of our delegation.

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**CLOSING STATEMENT
BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Russian Federation delegation I would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Government of the United States for arranging and hosting the Eighth annual Conference. We also would like to extend special thanks to Dr. James Balsiger for serving as chairperson of the annual conference. Lastly thanks to all of you for fruitful cooperation and energetic participation in the work of the Conference.

This meeting has demonstrated once again constructive cooperation among the Parties in the pursuit of the objectives of the Convention, that is the recovery and sustaining all the stocks of Pollock in the Bering Sea and cooperation in the effort to collect and study the actual information on pollock and other living marine resources in the Bering Sea. The provisions of the Convention are being implemented by the Parties in the interest of all the member nations of the Convention. We believe that actions taken in the past, as well as those taken at the current annual Conference demonstrate the commitment of Parties to the cause of conservation of the Central Bering Sea pollock resources.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the United States delegation for organizing this Conference, to you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership and thank you all once again for your cooperation at this annual Conference.

Thank you.