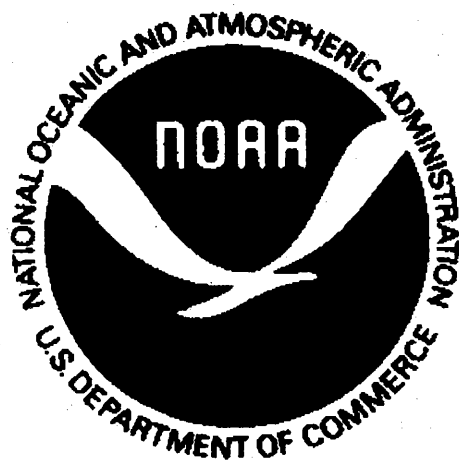


**REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE  
CENTRAL BERING SEA**



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

**5-7 November 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

Final 0900 7 November 1997

## **1. Opening of the Conference**

On behalf of the United States, Mr. Richard Lauber, Chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, welcomed the delegations from the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (the Convention) to the Second Annual Conference. Mr. Lauber convened the Annual Conference at 1000, Wednesday, 5 November 1997.

## **2. Opening Statements and Introductions**

2.1. The opening statements of the Parties are provided in Appendix 1.

2.2. A complete list of the delegates is provided in Appendix 2.

2.3. With the unanimous agreement of the Parties, Mr. Arthur Goddard, Consul-General, Canada, and Dr. Irina Shestakova, Executive Director, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, participated as observers at the Annual Conference.

## **3. Elections**

### **3.A. Chairperson**

Mr. Lauber was elected Chairman at the conclusion of the First Annual Conference.

### **3.B. Vice Chairperson**

Mr. Kyoichi Kawaguchi, Director, Far Seas Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan and head of the Japanese delegation, was elected Vice-Chairperson at the conclusion of the First Annual Conference.

### **3.C. Rapporteur**

Mr. Paul Niemeier and LCDR William Quigley (United States) were appointed rapporteurs for the Annual Conference.

#### 4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Parties adopted the Provisional Agenda (Appendix 3), as modified.

#### 5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee

5.1. Dr. Richard Marasco (United States), Chair of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee, reported on the S&T Committee Meeting of 3-5 November 1997 (report provided to the delegations separately). Dr. Marasco acknowledged that the Parties did not object to the admission of Mr. Robert Steinbock, International Directorate, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, as an observer.

5.2. Dr. Marasco noted that the presence of an observer generated a discussion about the interpretation of Article XII.5 of the Convention concerning observers to S&T Committee meetings. Prior to the meeting, the United States submitted to the other Parties a proposal on rules of procedure for admitting observers to the Annual Conference and S&T Committee meetings. The Procedures Group met to discuss the proposal, as well as the interpretation of Article XII.5. The Group concluded that Article XII.5 does not govern participation by observers other than representatives of non-Party States attending sessions of the Annual Conferences. Based on the discussions, the United States agreed to submit a revised proposal to the Parties in advance of the Third Annual Conference. The S&T Committee recommended that this issue be discussed during the Third Annual Conference.

5.3. Dr. Marasco reviewed the report of the Science Group Intersessional Meeting held in Gdynia, Poland, 3-5 September 1997, and recommended on behalf of the S&T Committee that the Parties approve the report. He also reviewed the report of the Enforcement Group Intersessional Meeting held in Seattle, Washington, 20-22 May 1997, and recommended that the Parties approve this report and the Central Bering Sea Observer Program As Required by Article XI to the Convention.

5.4. Dr. Marasco reviewed the discussion of issues from the S&T Committee Meeting. Regarding the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) in the Convention Area, the S&T Committee concluded that there is insufficient information to estimate the absolute abundance of the Aleutian Basin pollock stock directly. The best available starting point for the estimation of the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass is 342,000 metric tons assessed for the Specific Area.

5.5. Dr. Marasco reviewed the Science Group's Work Plan for 1998. He noted that Poland submitted a written trial fishing plan for 1998, while China and Korea indicated their intention to also conduct trial fishing in 1998. The S&T Committee expressed concern that not all Parties had made written detailed trial fishing plans available for approval by the Annual Conference and suggested that the Annual Conference may desire to establish specific requirements for trial fishing plans if the AHL is determined to be zero.

5.6. Dr. Marasco also reviewed the Parties' 1998 cooperative research plans. The United States noted that it would conduct a survey of the Bogoslof Island area during March 1998, but that the U.S. research vessel MILLER FREEMAN will undergo planned repairs in September 1998 and may not be available to conduct the 1999 survey. The United States indicated that it was still interested in conducting the Bogoslof survey on an every-other-year basis, with assistance from the other Parties in the off-years.

5.7. Dr. Marasco commented that Russia intends to host a pollock symposium during May-June 1998. Russia will provide details on this symposium at a later time.

5.8. Dr. Marasco mentioned several issues of discussion pertaining to enforcement. The United States provided to the Parties a proposal for a management system in the Central Bering Sea, based on a draft list of management plan requirements developed by the Enforcement Group at its May 1997 intersessional meeting. Written comments on the proposal should be submitted to the United States via diplomatic channels by 1 June 1998. Other components of a management system were also discussed. They include the number and priority placement of Article XI Observers, methods to determine catch weight, the number of vessels in an Olympic-style fishery, the starting date for a fishery, and sources for data management. The S&T Committee could not reach consensus on any of these components and expressed the need to continue discussions.

5.9. Dr. Marasco concluded his report by highlighting three meetings the S&T Committee recommends holding in 1998: (1) Age Determination Workshop in Seattle during 17-20 March 1998; (2) the pollock symposium to be hosted by Russia; and (3) an intersessional meeting of the S&T Committee to be held two months in advance of the Third Annual Conference.

5.10. The Annual Conference approved the Report of the S&T Committee and its Work Plan for 1998.

## 6. Action Items

### 6.A. The Review of Scientific Data and Conservation Measures of the Coastal States related to Pollock Fishing in the Central Bering Sea.

6.A.1. The United States reviewed the conservation and management measures employed in its zone. The United States again did not authorize a Bogoslof Island pollock fishery in 1997. Pollock are concentrated in this area during the February-March spawning season. The fact that the United States has foregone a valuable Bogoslof pollock roe fishery is a significant action and illustrates its support of the conservation principles of the Convention.

6.A.2. The United States explained that it annually assesses the Eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Island pollock stocks, utilizing fishery and scientific survey data and population dynamics models. The allowable biological catch (ABC) for the Eastern Bering Sea stock is 1.13 million metric tons and the total allowable catch (TAC) is set at this level. Retrospective analyses show that the

exploitation rate on this stock was 16 percent for 1992-1996. The ABC and TAC for the Aleutian Island pollock stock is 28,000 metric tons. The exploitation rate on this stock was 19 percent for 1992-1996. The United States believes that management of its fish stocks is based on very conservative principles.

6.A.3. The United States noted that it also employs other management measures. Its fisheries are highly monitored, with rigorous at-sea boardings and dockside monitoring. There is 100 percent observer coverage on vessels over 125 feet long, 30 percent observer coverage on vessels between 60 and 125 feet long, and the catches from smaller vessels are sampled dockside. These measures ensure the viability of the stocks.

6.A.4. Russia indicated that it approaches fisheries management from an ecosystem approach. The biological status of the stocks, as well as the food base, hydrological conditions, and species interactions are studied. Russia conducted four trawl hydroacoustic surveys in 1996 and 2 trawl hydroacoustic surveys in 1997. The data from the 1997 surveys is still being processed, but the Russians hope to make a detailed presentation on the results at the pollock symposium in 1998. Russia assesses the current biomass of the Western Bering Sea pollock stock at 500,000 metric tons and the Navarin Basin pollock stock, based on 1997 preliminary estimates, at about 1 million metric tons. Russia said that the niche of pollock in the Western Bering Sea is currently being occupied by herring and squid. Russia believes that the strong increase in herring and squid stocks are the result of an ecosystem change in the Western Bering Sea.

6.A.5. Russia stated that, while the pollock productivity has declined in the Western Bering Sea, waters of the Navarin Basin area are highly productive. Two strong year classes have emerged in the Navarin Basin area in the 1990s. Russia emphasized that this northern stock doesn't migrate to the high seas of the Central Bering Sea.

6.A.6. Russia also reviewed various management measures taken in its zone to ensure the conservation of stocks. It employs the precautionary approach when establishing the AHL and TAC. Based on domestic laws, the TAC is distributed to companies and economic enterprises. Fishing limits are strongly enforced and the bycatch of juveniles and other species is limited to 8 percent of the catch. Areas with juvenile fish are closed to commercial fishing. Fishing vessels are required to submit catch data daily to analytical centers. Fishing vessels are also monitored by fisheries enforcement vessels, at-sea inspectors, and aerial surveillance. In addition, a special body for high seasons is established to monitor catch data and determine when to open and close areas to fishing.

6.A.7. Russia explained that because of the appearance of the two strong year classes in the Navarin Basin stock, additional measures will be taken to protect the stock in 1998. Fish processing vessels will have inspectors embarked, a minimum net mesh size of 110 mm has been established, and transponders will be placed on vessels to improve monitoring of the fishery.

**6.B. The Establishment of a Plan of Work for the Scientific and Technical Committee**

6.B.1. Dr. Marasco presented the S&T Committee Work Plan for 1998. The elements of the Plan consisted of (1) Age Determination Workshop to be held in Seattle during March 1998; (2) pollock symposium in Russia in May-June 1998; (3) the March 1998 U.S. Bogoslof Island area pollock survey; (4) a Russian hydroacoustic and ichthyoplankton survey during summer 1998; and (5) an intersessional S&T Committee meeting approximately two months prior to the Third Annual Conference.

6.B.2. The Annual Conference approved the work plan submitted by the S&T Committee.

**6.C. The Adoption of Appropriate Conservation and Management Measures Based Upon the Advice of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee**

6.C.1 The Annual Conference adopted the "Central Bering Sea Observer Program as required by Article XI to the Convention," dated Final 04 November 1997 and its attachment "Circumstances Related to Interference with an Observer," dated Final 21 May 1997.

6.C.2. The Annual Conference concurred with the S&T Committee that the Parties provide comments on the draft management proposal to the United States by 1 June 1998. Comments should be submitted via diplomatic channels and the United States will distribute the comments to the other Parties.

**6.D. The Review of Trial Fishing During 1996-1997**

6.D.1. Poland reported that one vessel conducted trial fishing in the Central Bering Sea in 1996 and 1997. Detailed information was presented to the Parties on 1996 trial fishing at the Science Group Intersessional Meeting in Poland. However, Poland said that it is not ready to present the results for 1997 yet.

6.D.2. China reported that one vessel conducted trial fishing in 1996 and two in 1997, one in June and one in August. The planned duration of the trial fishing for each vessel in 1997 was one month. However, the two vessels had no success and only fished for four days. A report on the results of China's trial fishing in 1997 is provided in Appendix 4.

**6.E. The Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level**

6.E.1. The United States stated that it was disappointed that pollock stocks in the Central Bering Sea are showing no signs of recovery, despite the sacrifices made by fishers of all Parties. The United States agreed with the S&T Committee's conclusions that there is insufficient data to estimate the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass directly. There is no information clearly available to estimate this biomass better than the U.S. R/V MILLER FREEMAN survey of the Bogoslof Island area. This estimate was 342,000 metric tons for 1997--about 50 percent lower than last

year's estimate when the Parties set the AHL at zero. The 1997 estimate is, in fact, the lowest biomass on record for this area. The United States noted that all test fishing results show little or no fish in the Central Bering Sea. Therefore, the United States, taking a precautionary approach to the conservation and management of this valuable resource, recommended to the other Parties that the AHL be set at zero for 1998.

6.E.2. Russia, noting the views of the S&T Committee and the other Parties at the Annual Conference, stated that it believes that pollock stocks are at a very low level in the Convention Area. It sees no indication that this situation will improve in the near future. Therefore, Russia supported the proposal from the United States that the AHL for 1998 be set at zero.

6.E.3. Japan noted that, at the First Annual Conference in Moscow, it had hoped that an AHL would be established for 1997, but based on the best available information at that time, Japan agreed to establish the AHL at zero. Japan had pointed out to the Parties at that Annual Conference that regardless of the pollock biomass level, it is possible for the Annual Conference to establish an AHL for that level based on Article VII of the Convention. Japan reiterated this position at the Second Annual Conference. Japan explained that the closure of the commercial fishery in the Central Bering Sea since 1993 has greatly affected its commercial fishers and their patience is running short. Japan said it realized that currently, even if the Annual Conference established an AHL, it would be difficult to resume commercial fishing. Such an action would, however, give Japanese fishers some hope. Japan said that it hoped this Annual Conference would accomplish two things: (1) consideration of the situation of the fishers, who have waited through 5 years of moratoria on fishing in the Convention Area, and (2) show the fishers the effectiveness of the Convention. Japan stated that, with the expectation that its position would be taken into full account, and giving due consideration to the status of the pollock stocks and the information provided by the S&T Committee, it would go along with a consensus to establish the AHL at zero for 1998. However, if the AHL is zero, then the coastal States should take equitable measures for the conservation of the pollock stocks, according to the Joint Resolution of 1995.

6.E.4. China noted that the fishing moratoria have also adversely affected its fishers. It acknowledged that trial fishing and the Bogoslof Island survey show that the abundance of pollock is low in the Convention Area. China recalled that if consensus is not reached on an AHL at the Annual Conference, then the default mechanism in Part 1 of the Annex to the Convention would be used to determine the AHL. It stated that it could accept an AHL equal to zero for 1998, but reiterated Japan's statement that the coastal States should also take appropriate conservation measures in their exclusive economic zones.

6.E.5. Korea commented that it is reasonable to establish the AHL at zero for 1998, given the results of the research cruises and trial fishing. It noted that even after five years of moratoria on commercial fishing of pollock in the Convention Area, the pollock stock has not improved. Given the hardship also faced by its fishers, Korea requested that the Parties consider reopening the fishery at next year's Annual Conference.

6.E.6. Poland acknowledged the information provided by the scientists at the S&T Committee Meeting and the results of trial fishing. Poland is also disappointed that there has been no improvement in the Central Bering Sea pollock stocks despite the 5-year sacrifice of the fishers. It noted that it is difficult to explain the lack of recovery of the stocks. Like Japan, Poland explained that despite the biomass level, it can see no reason why the Annual Conference can't establish an AHL. Poland commented that it always acts responsibly and strives to reach a consensus. Therefore, Poland said it would concur with establishing the AHL at zero for 1998, if it was the will of the other Parties. Poland requested that the other Parties reconsider the situation in the future, in light of the problem of the fishers.

6.E.7. In the spirit of consensus, the Annual Conference established the AHL at zero for 1998.

6.F. The Establishment of the Individual National Quotas

Because the Annual Conference established the 1998 AHL at zero, no individual national quotas were established.

6.G. The Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing in 1998

6.G.1. The United States commended the Parties on the reporting of trial fishing in the Central Bering Sea, but stated that standardized reporting is required. It believed that more specific guidelines and rules are needed for trial fishing. The United States recognized that planning trial fishing cruises requires advance notice and often difficult coordination between governments and fishing fleet managers. Therefore, the United States presented a proposal for consideration at the Annual Conference. The United States noted that the Polish Delegation provided a trial fishing plan (Appendix 7 of the S&T Committee Report). It believes that Poland's plan meets the needs of the Convention. The Polish Delegation also submitted a report of trial fishing (Attachment 1 of the report of the September 1977 Science Group Intersessional Meeting in Poland). The United States believes that this report contains the types of information that should be collected and reported for each trial fishing cruise. Finally, the United States said that trial fishing terms and conditions (taken from the First Annual Conference) and monitoring and control measures must be established for 1998 trial fishing. It suggested that the Parties adopt the monitoring and control measures set out in relevant documents approved at the First Annual Conference. The United States circulated a proposal on measures to be taken for trial fishing in 1998.

6.G.2. Poland noted that it had submitted plans and reports for trial fishing. It thanked the United States for its kind words on Poland's efforts. Poland expressed the desire that trial fishing in the future years would not be necessary. Poland also reiterated its position, expressed at the First Annual Conference, that the measures adopted for trial fishing would be observed by Polish vessels. As a matter of principle, the delegation insisted that the report of the Conference contain its opinion that measures elaborated for commercial fishing vessels were not applicable to vessels conducting trial fishing.



6.G.3. With modifications, the Annual Conference adopted the United States proposal on measures for "Trial Fishing for Pollock in 1998." The Annual Conference adopted the measures on "Trial Fishing For Pollock in 1998" (Appendix 5).

**6.H. The Reception of Reports Relating to Measures Taken to Investigate and Penalize Violations of the Convention**

6.H.1. Japan reported that it has deployed one patrol vessel in the Central Bering Sea last year. During 1996, the vessel did not detect any violations.

6.H.2. As there was no commercial fishing for pollock in the Convention Area during 1997, there were no reports of violations from the Parties.

**6.I. The Consideration of Matters Related to the Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources Other Than Pollock in the Convention Area**

The United States requested information from Russia on the expansion of the herring and squid stocks in the Western Bering Sea.

**6.J. The Consideration of Observers at the Annual Conference**

6.J.1. Poland noted the presence of observers from both Canada and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. Poland stated that it is interested in the full and broad participation of observers in the Annual Conference and supported full transparency. Poland explained that it had received an inquiry from officials of the European Union (EU) to participate as an observer at Annual Conferences. Poland enquired as to the best way to receive consideration from the Parties on this request.

6.J.2. China noted that the Procedures Group of the S&T Committee had discussed this issue and will be distributing a revised proposal to the Parties on rules of procedure for admitting observers to the Annual Conference and meetings of the S&T Committee for consideration and discussion at the next Annual Conference.

6.J.3. The United States made the observation that the next Annual Conference might be too late for a decision on admitting the EU as an observer. It observed that the review process of the revised proposal could be expedited through correspondence of the Parties, or that interim arrangements could be made for observers until the Parties have agreed on formal rules of procedure.

6.J.4. Japan cited Article XII.5. of the Convention and noted that this section applies only to non-Party States and does not mention intergovernmental organizations. Japan proposed that, for the next year only, simple interim procedures be adopted to deal with such requests. Specifically, requests should be provided to the Chairperson no later than 90 days prior to the Annual

Conference. The Chairperson will notify each Party of the request and the Parties will respond to the Chairperson with their views no later than 60 days prior to the Annual Conference.

6.J.5. Russia noted that under Article XII.5, the Parties are authorized to invite any non-Party State on the basis of unanimous consent.

6.J.6. Japan reconfirmed that Article XII.5 consensus should be obtained prior to the Annual Conference. Regarding intergovernmental organizations, the Convention makes no provisions for admitting them as observers. Japan said it welcomes the participation of such groups if they can contribute to the goals of the Convention. The Parties should examine previous actions of the international fisheries management organization prior to admission to the Annual Conference. Japan made clear that its earlier proposal would apply to non-Party States and international organizations on a provisional basis only. Regarding non-governmental organizations, the Procedures Group should continue to discuss this issue.

6.J.7. Poland supported the Japanese proposal.

6.J.8. The United States noted that Japan's proposal is only an interim step and that the U.S. revised proposal will be more comprehensive, addressing observer participation by non-governmental organizations as well as non-Party States and intergovernmental organizations.

6.J.9. Russia recommended that the Parties allow the Procedures Working Group to continue its work, and proceed with Japan's interim proposal.

6.J.10. The Annual Conference agreed to Japan's interim proposal for considering requests by non-Party States and intergovernmental organizations for observer status at Annual Conferences, while allowing the Procedures Group to complete work on formal comprehensive rules of procedures for observers.

## 7. Third Annual Conference

7.A. Japan offered to host the Third Annual Conference in Tokyo in October or November 1998. Japan will notify the other Parties of the exact time and place via diplomatic channels.

## 7.B. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

7.B.1 Under the Rules of the Procedure for the Annual Conference, the Parties shall elect as Chairperson a nominee of the Party hosting the next Annual Conference. The Parties shall also elect the Vice Chairperson. Therefore, Japan, as the hosting country for the Third Annual Conference, named Mr. Kyoichi Kawaguchi as Chairperson.

7.B.2. Korea announced that it would host the Fourth Annual Conference in 1999, however, it was not prepared to name the Vice Chairperson at this time. Korea will notify the Parties of its decision at a later date through diplomatic channels.

## 8. Other Business

8.1. Poland announced to the other Parties that it wanted to invite Canada to participate as an observer to the Third Annual Conference in Tokyo.

8.2. Japan responded that it had no objection to Canada participating as an observer, but asked Poland to follow the interim procedures set up by the Annual Conference to request approval for non-Party observers to attend the Third Annual Conference.

8.3. Poland said that it believed that such a decision could be made at this Annual Conference, but agreed to submit a written request to the Chairperson.

8.4. Japan announced that at the S&T Committee Meeting it had indicated that it was considering conducting a Bogoslof Island area survey in 1999. It informed the other Parties that it was still unable to confirm that commitment. Japan also requested that the United States continue to conduct its annual Bogoslof Island pollock spawning stock survey in the future because Japan believes that there was an understanding that the United States would continue such surveys annually based on the understanding that its institutions have a roll in the final determination of the pollock biomass for the Specific Area.

8.5. The Annual Conference agreed on a joint press release (Appendix 6).

## 9. Closing Statements

The Parties closing statements are provided in Appendix 7.

## 10. Adjournment

Chairman Lauber adjourned the Second Annual Conference at 1500 on Thursday, 6 November 1997.

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**November 5 - 7, 1997  
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**OPENING STATEMENTS**

**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
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**OPENING STATEMENT  
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**By Mr. Xin Deli  
Head of Chinese Delegation  
November 5, 1997**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman**

**Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**First of all, I would like on behalf of the Chinese Delegation to extend our gratitude to the government of the United States for hosting the Conference. Mr. Chairman, I believe that under your leadership, the meeting will be able to fulfill its objectives.**

**Mr. Chairman, before the meeting, the experts from six countries part to the Convention made efforts to solve the problems and draft the reports of intercessional enforcement group meeting and meeting of scientists both held in Seattle and in Poland respectively, I would like to thank these experts for their hard-work and we appreciate the work done by the experts.**

**It is the second time we gather together to discuss the measures related to the conservation and management of Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea after the Convention came into force and we have made a lot of achievements although no fishing operation conducted in the Central Bering Sea. We find that all decisions have been made consist with the relevant provisions of the Convention. That is to say, we have common basis for discussing the relevant issues regarding the Pollock resources conservation and management in the Convention Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (the Convention). I wish that the work and results of this conference should be also under the framework of**

the Convention, and we should not make any decision beyond the limitation stipulated by relevant provisions of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman, it is regretful that we cannot use the Convention and the relevant regulations to manage the fishing operation in the Convention area since there are not fishing operation in the area. Are we sure that the detailed regulations we have adopted is good and enough for meeting management requirements? I do not know because the regulations are not proven by the reality. In this connection, I sincerely wish that the fishing operation in the Central Bering Sea can be restarted soon.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Delegation will cooperate with you and other Delegations to discuss and decide the management measures for the next year during the period of the conference.

Thank you.

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**OPENING STATEMENT  
JAPAN**

I am Kawaguchi, Representative of Japan and Director of Far Seas Fisheries Division of Resources Management Department of Fisheries Agency of Japan. It is my pleasure to say a few words at the opening of the 2nd Annual Conference of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea.

As you are all aware, the first Annual Conference was held in the Russian Federation in November of the last year, and with friendly cooperation the Contracting Parties determined on the AHL and deliberated on and adopted various documents necessary to implement the Convention.

The Enforcement Monitoring and Compliance Working Group met in May, and the Science Working Group in September, of this year. The two groups reviewed various issues from their respective perspectives as experts. I would like to pay high tribute to those who participated in those meetings.

For our country the Bering High Sea is a very important fishing ground. Five years have lapsed since the Contracting Parties suspended fishery for Pollock in the Convention area. The fishermen are anxiously waiting for fishing operation to resume.

At the outset of this 2nd Annual Conference, I hope that the Contracting Parties will deliberate in a constructive manner not only on the primary mandate of this Annual Conference of determining the Allowable Harvest Level and Individual National Quota for next year, but on the various pending issues as well, so that we may come to a fruitful conclusion.

In closing I would like to express out sincere gratitude to the Government of the United States of America and those individuals involved in the participation for having made all the arrangements for the Conference. Thank You.

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**OPENING STATEMENT  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**By: Mr. Yong Soo Lee - Head of Delegation - November 5, 1997**

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**It is a great honor for me to participate in the Second Annual Meeting. On behalf of the Korean Delegation, I would like to thank the United States for organizing and hosting this meeting.**

**As we are aware, many efforts have been made for the conservation and management of the living marine resources of the Central Bering Sea since the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea came into force in December of 1995.**

**The Republic of Korea has positively participated in the relevant meetings including scientific research activities. In particular, Korea has carried out survey on the Bering Sea Pollock resources by research vessel since 1994.**

**The Korean Government will continue to strengthen cooperation with member states. And also Korea will actively participate in the efforts for conservation and management of fish stocks in the region, and will do its best to provide accurate scientific data.**

**I hope that all member states will cooperate very closely so that the promotion of conservation and effective management of fisheries resources can be fully ensured and fishing can be reopened in the Central Bering sea in the near future.**

**I look forward to fully participating in the discussion in the spirit of cooperation, and to obtaining meaningful results over the next few days.**

**Thank you.**



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**OPENING STATEMENT  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**By: Mr. V. Izmailov  
Head of Delegation  
November 6, 1997**

**Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**It has become a tradition to hold Annual Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea in Autumn.**

**At present, the stock of Pollock in the Convention Area are deep in their lows. The results of studies made by Russian vessels this year confirm this conclusion, again.**

**Throughout two days, scientists of our countries discussed the results of scientific research, analyzed the current situation, and are going to present their assessment of the status of Pollock resources in the Convention Area.**

**We have to discuss, and make our decision on the establishment of allowable harvest level for Pollock for 1998. The future of our fishermen, as well as conservation and recovery of pollock stocks in the Convention Area depend on this decision.**

**It seems reasonable to use the time that Nature allotted to us for the development of an effective mechanism for fishery management, for setting up a system of control and interaction of the enforcement bodies and, of course, for continuation of research in the Convention Area which would make it possible to determine the factors affecting the stocks of Pollock and other species.**

**We do hope that through their joint effort our nations will undoubtedly profit in the future.**

**May I express my gratitude to the U.S. Party for the invitation to take part in the Second Conference in Seattle, and for the provision of conditions needed for our work.**

**Thank You.**

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**OPENING STATEMENT  
UNITED STATES**

**By: Mr. Steven Pennoyer  
National Marine Fisheries Service**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the United States, I welcome you to Seattle for the Second Annual Conference. We are here to fulfill one primary purpose, and that purpose is to work cooperatively to ensure the recovery of the Pollock stocks in the Central Bering Sea and their long-term sustainability. A significant amount of time has passed since the process of negotiation and implementation of various provisions of the Convention, unfortunately, we have not observed any signs of recovery of these stocks. We remain concerned that there remain more questions than answers about the potential cause(s) of the Pollock stock decline and, more importantly, the measures necessary to ensure their sustainability.

This situation is further complicated by dramatic marine events unfolding in various areas of the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean. The El Nino, normally manifesting itself during winter months, unfolded along the west coast of North America this past summer. This represents the earliest inception of this marine event in recorded history. In the Eastern Bering Sea, the Alaska salmon fishery in Bristol Bay and other parts of Alaska suffered from extreme declines in salmon returns causing tremendous hardship to many communities. Other living marine resources, such as marine mammals and birds are experiencing similar stress and decreases.

All parties have a vested interest to work cooperatively to ensure the goal of furthering our understanding of the marine ecosystem as it relates to Pollock and their ecologically-related species. It is our view that we proceed cautiously in our approach to develop measures to safeguard the Pollock stocks. As you are all aware, the United States, has not fished the

valuable Pollock roe fishery in the Bogoslof Island area. This decision is a significant sacrifice to further the provisions of the Convention.

We recognize the scientific efforts made so far by all parties. However, increased cooperation is necessary. We are pleased to note the parties have agreed to convene a Pollock symposium next summer in the Russian Federation. It will provide a needed forum to discuss Pollock distribution, migration and other biological factors.

The S & T workgroups have made progress on certain issues regarding observers, compliance and monitoring, as well as scientific exchanges. It is our hope additional progress will be made to develop management measures which would contribute to the rational exploitation of Pollock in the central Bering Sea when the stocks recover.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and may I introduce the United States' delegation.

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

**November 5 - 7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**DELEGATIONS**

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

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**CHAIRMAN**

**Mr. Richard B. Lauber  
Vice-President  
Pacific Seafood Processors' Association**

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

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**DELEGATION  
OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**Xin Deli  
Head of Delegation  
Director of International Corporation Division  
Bureau of Fisheries**

**Chen Jianhua  
Deputy Director of Distant Water Fisheries  
Division  
Bureau of Fisheries**

**Li Ming  
Chief Representative  
Representative Officer of China Fisheries in  
Seattle**

**Da Ehe  
Representative  
Representative Officer of China Fisheries in  
Seattle**

**Liu Xiaobing  
Assistant Consultant  
Division of International Cooperation**

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

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

<b>DELEGATION OF JAPAN</b>
--------------------------------

**Representative**

**Mr. Kyoichi Kawaguchi  
Director  
Far Seas Fisheries Division  
Resources Management Department of  
Fisheries Agency  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries  
Tokyo, Japan**

**Adviser and Experts**

**Dr. Kiyoshi Wakabayashi  
Director  
North Pacific Resources Division  
National Research Institute of Far Seas  
Fisheries  
Fisheries Agency  
Shimizu, Japan**

**Mr. Hiroshi Mitsuya  
Assistant Director  
Fishery Division  
Economic Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
Tokyo, Japan**

**Mr. Kazuhiko Utsumi  
Assistant Director  
Marine Environment and Resources Division  
Fisheries Agency  
Tokyo, Japan**

Mr. Shigeki Hata  
Consul  
Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

Mr. Shoichi Takayama  
Far Seas Fisheries Division  
Fisheries Agency  
Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Shunichi Kuroki  
Executive Director  
National Federation of Medium Trawlers  
Tokyo, Japan

**INTERPRETERS:**

Ms. Mieko Kondo  
Ms. Ikumi Graham



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

**November 5-7, 1997  
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**DELEGATION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**Mr. Yong Soo LEE  
Director  
Deep Sea Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
Seoul, Korea**

**Mr. Won Seok YANG  
Senior Fisheries Scientist  
National Fisheries Research and  
Development Institute  
Pusan, Korea**

**Mr. Chang Hwan SHIN  
Assistant Director  
Trawl Fishery Department  
Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association  
Seoul, Korea**

**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON THE  
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IN CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**DELEGATION OF  
POLAND**

**Head of Delegation**

**Mr. Mirosław Kucharski  
Ministry of Transport and Maritime Economy  
Director of the Deep Sea Fisheries Department**

**Mr. Andrzej Kiedrzyń  
Ministry of Transport, and Maritime Economy  
Deep Sea Fisheries Department**

**Mr. Ireneusz Wojcik  
"DALMOR" Joint Stock Company  
Board Advisor  
Gdynia, Poland**

**Mr. Jerzy Janusz  
Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia  
Department of Biology and Fish Resources  
Conservation**

**Mr. Stanisław Kasperek  
"GRYF" Deep Sea Fishing Company**

**Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski  
Consultant General of the Republic of Poland in  
New York  
Consul for Maritime Matters**

**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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ON THE  
CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES  
IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**DELEGATION OF THE  
RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION**

**Mr. V. Izmailov  
Head of Delegation  
Vice-Chairman, Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian  
Federation**

**Mr. V. Fedorenko  
Fisheries Representative of Russian  
Federation in the USA**

**Dr. B. Kotenev  
Deputy Director of VNIRO  
Representative of the Russian  
Scientific/Technical Committee**

**Mr. I. Mikhno  
Department of Fisheries**

**Mr. M. Travnikov  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Captain O. Kulikov  
Federal Border Guard Service**

**Dr. V. Burkanov  
Head of Kamchatka Fishery Enforcement  
Service (Kamchatrybvod)**

**Mr. Yu. Chensky**  
**Far Eastern Fishery Company (Dalryba)**

**Dr. O. Zolotov**  
**Kamchatka Fisheries Research Institute**

**Dr. M. Stepanenko**  
**Pacific Fisheries Research Centre**

**Mr. Yu. Riazantsev**  
**VNIRO Fisheries Research Institute**

**Mr. M. Grenader**  
**VNIRO Fisheries Research Institute**

**Mr. S. Safronov**  
**Kamchatka Fishery Enforcement Service**  
**(Kamchatrybvod)**

**Dr. V. Parkhomenco**  
**General Consulate of Russian Federation**  
**in Seattle**

**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
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CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES  
IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**DELEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES**

**Mr. Steven Pennoyer  
Administrator  
Alaska Region**

**Dr. Richard Marasco  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

**Captain J. V. O'Shea  
US Coast Guard  
Seventeenth District**

**Dr. Loh-Lee Low  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

**Mr. Jonathan Pollard  
NOAA General Counsel  
Alaska Region**

**Mr. Dennis Austin  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Mr. David Flannagan  
NMFS Office of Enforcement**

**Mr. Paul Niemeier  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service**

**Dr. William Karp  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center Observer  
Program**

**Mr. Galen Tromble  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Juneau, Alaska**

**Mr. William Hines**  
**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
**Juneau, Alaska**

**Mr. Stetson Tinkham**  
**U. S. Department of State**

**Ms. Francine Bennis**  
**Alaska Marine Conservation Council**

**Mr. Richard Lauber**  
**Chairman**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

**Dr. Clarence Pautzke**  
**Executive Director**  
**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

**Lieutenant Commander William Quigley**  
**Coast Guard Liaison Officer**  
**U.S. Department of State**

**Dr. Neal Williamson**  
**Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

**Dr. Vidar Wespestad**  
**Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

**Dr. James Balsiger**  
**Director**  
**Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

**Mr. David Benton**  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Mr. Henry Mitchell**  
**Tyson Seafoods**

**Mr. Paul MacGregor**  
**At-Sea Processors Association**

**Mr. Brent Paine**  
**United Catcher Boats**

**Mr. Al Burch**  
**Alaska Draggers Association**

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
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POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA

**AGENDA**

**PLENARY SESSIONS**

November 5 - 7, 1997

Seattle, Washington, USA

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Opening Statement and Introductions
3. Elections:
  - A. Chairperson
  - B. Vice-Chairperson
  - C. Rapporteur
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Committee
6. Action Items:
  - A. The review of scientific data and conservation measures of the Coastal States related to Pollock fishing in the Bering Sea.
  - B. The establishment of a plan of work for the Scientific and Technical Committee.
  - C. The adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures based upon the advice of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee.
  - D. The review of trial fishing during 1996-1997,
  - E. The establishment of the allowable harvest level,
  - F. The establishment of the individual national quotas,
  - G. The establishment of terms and conditions for trial fishing in 1998,
  - H. The reception of reports relating to measures taken to investigate and penalize violations of the convention,
  - I. The consideration of matters related to the conservation and management of living marine resources other than Pollock in the Convention area.
  - J. Meeting Observers
7. Third Annual Conference
  - A. Time and Location
  - B. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
8. Other Business
9. Closing Statements
10. Adjournment

The Trial Fisheries Report of Chinese Trawlers  
in the Central Bering Sea in 1997

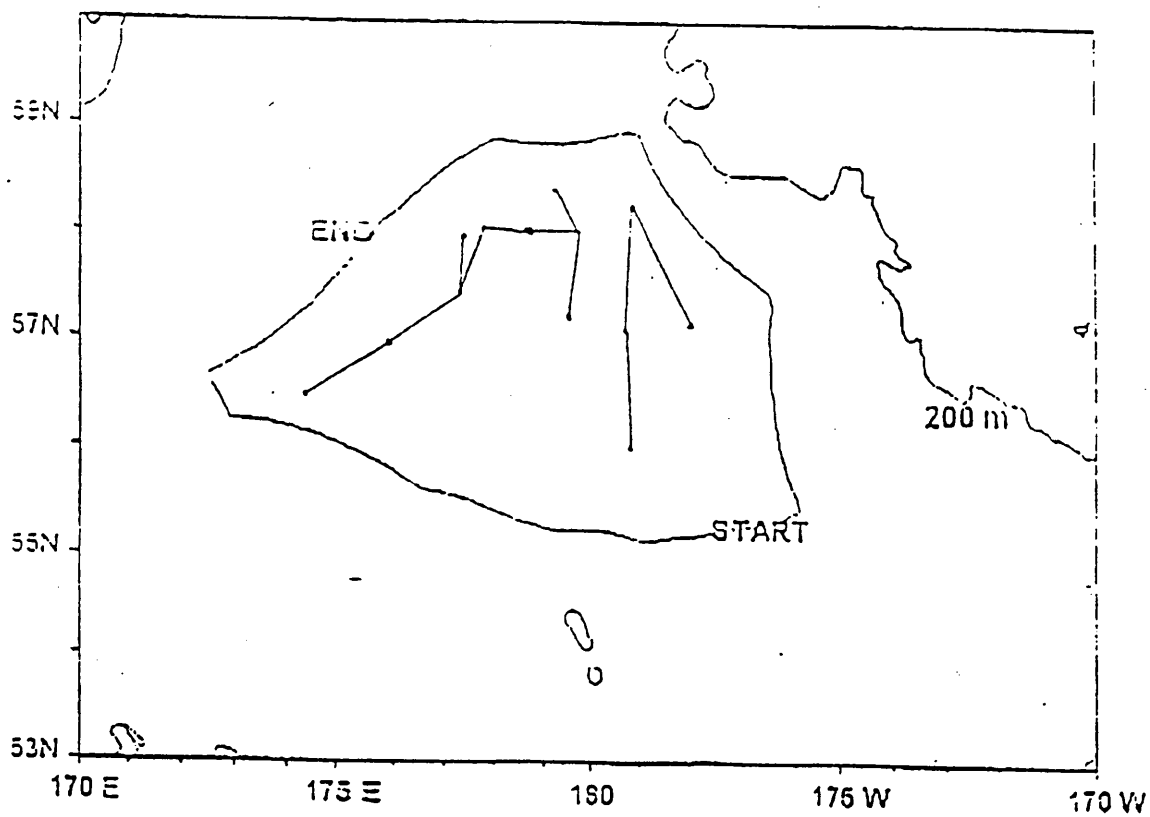
According to the understanding reached at the First Annual Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea held in Moscow in November 1996, two Chinese trawlers conducted trial fishing operation in June and August 1997 respectively. Two scientific observers from Shanghai Fisheries University were on board the two vessels undertaken scientific investigations, including the record of the fishing log in details, collecting pollock samples for biological measurements as well as monitoring any by-catch.

Before the trial fishing started, the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture of China informed the other Nations party to the Convention the detailed information related to the trial fishing vessels through diplomatic channels.

During the trial fishing in the Central Bering Sea, the two trawlers used their fish finders with maximum gain setting to search for fish while sailing. The searching region was at the northern part of Central Bering Sea and only a few echo signs were found within the days of searching. Midwater trawls were placed in water once the echo signs were found. However, the yield per haul were very low. For instance, one of these two vessels placed the net in water at the point of 57°48' N, 177°02' E, towed for 4 and half hours to 57°48' N, 177°30' E, only caught 40 pollock with the size ranging from 45 to 60 cm. The weather conditions during this tow were cloudy with southeast wind of force 4, the wave force was 2. For another example, one tow started at 58°30' N, 179°28' W and ended at 57°35' N, 179°46' W with the towing duration of 6 hours, the catch was only 25 pollock with the length ranging from 50 to 60 cm. No other species were caught in these two tows. In later trial tows, the catches were very low with only several to 60 pollock in each haul. The length of pollock caught during the fishing trial ranged from 45 to 60 cm, with a mean length of about 52.5 cm. The sex composition of the pollock in the hauls was about 42.8% females and 57.2 % males.



The report from the two trial fishing vessels indicated the pollock resources in northern part of the Central Bering Sea is still in a low situation in June and August. However, the trail fishing area covered by these two vessels was only at the northern part of the Central Bering Sea, the condition of pollock resources reflected by the two vessels may not represent the complete picture of pollock resources in the entire Central Bering Sea. More efforts are required to have a better understanding of the pollock resources in the area.



**MEASURES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK  
RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**TRIAL FISHING FOR POLLOCK IN 1998**

**Final 6 November 1997**

1. Taking into account the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the status of pollock resources in the Aleutian Basin, the Second Annual Conference decided, as follows:

1.1. To establish the 1998 Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) at zero; and

1.2. To authorize trial fishing in the Convention Area.

2. The Annual Conference establishes for 1998 the following terms and conditions for such operations:

No more than two vessels from each Party to the Convention at any time may conduct trial fishing for pollock in the Convention Area. Information on the vessels that will engage in the trial fishing will be provided to all Parties at least one month prior to commencement of trial fishing. Such information will include vessel name, vessel type, vessel's international radio call sign (IRCS), vessel's satellite transmitter number, and the area and time of the trial fishing. Parties conducting trial fishing will notify the other Parties regarding the schedule of such trial fishing with sufficient notice to facilitate the embarkation and disembarkation of observers. Vessels engaged in trial fishing will have Scientific Observers of the flag-State on board and will accept at least one Scientific Observers of other Parties to the Convention in accordance with arrangements to be made between the flag-State of the vessel and the other Parties. All provisions of the Convention and all measures adopted by the Annual Conferences regarding boardings and inspections, vessel monitoring systems, entry and transshipment notifications, safe boarding ladder standards, and shipboard logs and records will govern such trial fishing. Prior to the Third Annual Conference, Parties conducting trial fishing will submit to the other Parties a report of the trial fishing which provides the type of catch and distribution data as specified in the Central Bering Sea Observer Program Manual.

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

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

*JOINT PRESS RELEASE*

Representatives from the six Parties to the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea met in Seattle, Washington, USA, and continued their cooperative efforts to conserve and manage pollock stocks in the Convention Area.

The Second Annual Conference held under terms of the Convention took place November 5-7, 1997. It was chaired by Mr. Richard Lauber of the United States. The six countries who are members of the Convention -- the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America -- agreed on conservation and management measures and reviewed scientific information on the status of pollock stocks. The Scientific and Technical Committee agreed on a plan of work, including intersessional meetings, for 1998.

Based on the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee, the Parties agreed that data was insufficient to determine the biomass of the pollock stocks. The Parties agreed that, despite no commercial fishing in the Central Bering Sea for the past five years, the pollock stocks have not increased. After a thorough discussion by the Parties, the Annual Conference agreed by consensus to set the Allowable Harvest Level for the commercial fishery for pollock in the Central Bering Sea during 1998 at zero. Under terms of the Convention, trial fishing by vessels of the Parties to the Convention will be permitted in 1998, under terms and conditions that were established by the Annual Conference.

The Parties adopted a Central Bering Sea Observer Program. All fishing vessels will carry observers when fishing is resumed in the Convention Area. Management measures will be further developed by correspondence through diplomatic channels for discussion at the next Annual Conference.

There was also considerable discussion on accepting requests for observer status by non-Party States and other International Organizations. Interim measures for such requests were agreed. The Parties will continue their work on transparency issues through a working group on procedures.

Japan invited the Parties to convene the Third Annual Conference in October or November 1998, in Tokyo. The Republic of Korea extended a preliminary invitation to host the Fourth Annual Conference in 1999.

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

**November 5 - 7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**CLOSING STATEMENTS**

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

**November 5 - 7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**CLOSING STATEMENT  
JAPAN**

**By: Kyoichi Kawaguchi  
Head of Delegation  
November 6, 1997**

At the close of the Second Annual Conference, I would first like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Lauber, 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. Niemeier and Lt. Commander Quigley as our Rapporteurs for their difficult task of putting together the records of the meetings in such a short time. And I would like to thank the Government of the United States of America and those people involved in the running of the Conference for their hard work.

We have just concluded the Second Annual Conference held since the Convention went into effect. We have made progress in putting in place various rules necessary to implement the Convention. However, the most important aspect of the Convention, I believe, is for the Allowable Harvest Level to be set and commercial fishery to be resumed as early as possible. We cannot say the Convention has truly achieved its objective until such day arrives. The objective of the Convention should not be to set up a sanctuary for Pollock in the Central Bering Sea. We intend to work together with the other parties so that through deepening of mutual understanding and cooperation among the parties, we may be able to reopen fishery in the Convention area one day.

A magnificent platter on the table, which is empty of food, can serve no purpose; we humans cannot survive by simply looking at beautiful plates.

The Third Annual Conference next year is now decided to be held in Japan. As Hosting Party and as Chairperson, my country and I intend to put our utmost efforts in carrying out our duties.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you good health, and look forward to seeing you all again, next year.

Thank you.

**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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ON THE  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES  
IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**November 5-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**CLOSING STATEMENT  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**By: Mr. Yong Soo Lee  
Head of the Delegation  
November 5, 1997**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**

**On behalf of Korean Delegation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for your leadership which enabled this meeting to conclude with the fruitful results.**

**I am confident that the results of the Second Annual Conference will contribute to the conservation and rational management of fish stocks in the Convention area.**

**I also would like to express thanks to the member states for the acceptance of the Korea's offer to host the 4th Annual Conference in 1999. Korea will make every possible effort for preparation of the meeting.**

**Once again, I would like to thank the Government of the United States for hosting this Conference and it's hospitality.**

**Thank you.**

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

**November 5 - 7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**CLOSING STATEMENT  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**By: Mr. V. Izmailov  
Head of Delegation  
November 6, 1997**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman;**

**The Russian Delegation would like to note that the discussions that have taken place in the course of the Conference show that the Parties of the Convention exercise precautionary approach to the utilization of marine living resources.**

**Although, the allowable level of Pollock harvest in the Convention area for 1998 remains zero our Delegations have agreed to fish for Pollock only on the basis of scientific data.**

**It should be pointed out that our Conference has envisaged ways to resolve the problem of rehabilitation of Pollock stocks.**

**We also lay hopes on the results of the scientific symposium which is scheduled for summer next year, to be held in Russia. It will allow us to find right methods for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.**

**May I thank Chairman of the Conference for his skillful leadership of our work.**

**We are thankful to the United States party for hospitality, and for good working conditions for our Conference. I would like to thank the Japanese Delegation for the invitation to the 3rd Conference of Parties to the Convention.**

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

**November 5 - 7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**CLOSING STATEMENT  
UNITED STATES**

**By: Mr. Steven Pennoyer  
National Marine Fisheries Service**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as we conclude our business today, I wish to reiterate our great pleasure in hosting this important meeting. As we depart Seattle for our respective homes, it is our hope that each one of you take with you the importance and utility of the convention despite the continued state of low abundance of Pollock in the central Bering Sea. Under this Convention, we have established procedures for cooperation and the eventual exploitation of the Pollock resources when the stocks recover. All parties have made significant sacrifices in the hope that the Pollock stocks will recover and fishing opportunities will once again resume.

As we are all aware, progress in defining measures for rational exploitation of Pollock in the Central Bering Sea takes time. Nevertheless, we must continue to work toward consensus on matters such as observer placement, development of a fishery management process, methods to determine catch weight and defining the parameters of trial fishing. This will only be accomplished through compromise and the continued effort of all parties.

The importance of cooperation between all parties cannot be overstated, this convention will not operate effectively without such intent. The United States acknowledges that progress has been made on some issues and all parties are attempting to resolve differences on other matters of importance. However, we remain steadfast that the determination of the AHL must be based on sound scientific information. The S & T Committee was established to examine all scientific data and make recommendations



to the Annual Conference. We hope that decisions related to the AHL will be based on science principles and not political ones. We must maintain our obligation and responsibility to resolve our differences through compromise and use the best scientific evidence available in making management decisions.

In this regard, we look forward to the planned efforts of the parties to continue the important work still pending before us and activities such as the Pollock symposium to be hosted by the Russian Federation next summer, as well as other activities such as the otolith ageing workshop and the intersessional meeting of the S & T will assist in making more progress.

Mr. Chairman, we extend our appreciation to you for your leadership during this meeting and look forward to the Chairmanship of Mr. Kawaguchi at the Third Annual Meeting next year in Tokyo. I wish to thank the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for their outstanding contributions in ensuring the smooth operation of the conference and would like to recognize Ms. Sharon Hittle for her hard work beyond the call of duty. We also thank the Republic of Korea for agreeing to host the Fourth Annual Meeting. Finally, as all of you have traveled far to be here, we wish you a safe journey home and look to see you next year if not sooner.

Thank you.



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

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**3-5 NOVEMBER 1997  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA**

Final 1000 5 November 1997

1.0. Opening Remarks

1.1. Dr. Richard Marasco (United States), Chair of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee, opened the meeting at 1000, Monday, 03 November 1997. Without objection of the Parties, Mr. Robert Steinbock of Canada was admitted as an observer. The Parties were given an opportunity to present opening statements and to introduce their delegations. A complete list of participants is provided in Appendix 1.

1.2. Japan commented that the Convention has been in force for a short time and that there are still several issues to finalize. The Japanese delegation expressed concern that at the Meeting of the Science Group this year in Poland, the U.S. delegation informed the Parties that, for several reasons, it may not be possible for U.S. vessels to survey the pollock spawning biomass of the Bogoslof Island area specified by the Convention annually. The Japanese delegation said it understood the reasons for this action, but that it could not accept such a move and asked the United States to reconsider.

1.3. The People's Republic of China (China) thanked the Parties for their hard work at the Enforcement and Science Group intersessional meetings. It said it shared Japan's concern with U.S. surveys being conducted every two years, particularly when the Annual Conference is charged with determining the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) annually, based on an assessment of the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass.

1.4. The Chair referred the survey issue to agenda item 7 for further discussion.

1.5. The United States welcomed the delegates to Seattle. It, too, noted the hard work accomplished during the Enforcement and Science Group intersessional meetings. The United States commented that the U.S. research vessel currently used for the Bogoslof Island surveys, the MILLER FREEMAN, is old and must undergo extensive repairs and seeks the cooperation and participation of other Parties to conduct the survey.

5.3. The Enforcement Group also discussed how the catch weight on board vessels will be calculated. Some Parties felt there should be more than one method to calculate the catch weight, while others expressed that only one method should be used. The Enforcement Group referred this matter to the S&T Committee.

5.4. The Enforcement Group also discussed various management issues. The Parties established a list of Draft Management Requirements for a management scheme. Based on these requirements, the United States distributed a proposal for a management system in the Central Bering Sea, to be discussed by the S&T Committee.

5.5. During the May meeting, there was considerable discussions on limiting the number of vessels or fishing effort if the Annual Conference did not reach consensus on Individual National Quotas (INQs). Poland felt that the Parties should limit the number of vessels from each Party in the event of an Olympic-style fishery. Meanwhile, Japan indicated that there should be no limit. Japan also indicated that the S&T Committee should discuss the "Starting Date for a Fishery" during this meeting.

5.6. Finally, the Parties discussed which data, either the vessel's or the observer's data, should be used to manage the fishery. This matter was also referred to the S&T Committee.

5.7. Poland commented that it opposed an Olympic-style fishery.

5.8. Japan commented on the draft Central Bering Sea Observer Program. Japan said it had no objection to the program but that the program should not have the nature of an international agreement. Japan proposed to amend the wording of the program, such as changing "shall" to "will," to allow it to avoid the lengthy process of Diet approval. Japan provided a draft to the Parties showing the proposed wording amendments.

5.9. The United States, noting the provisions of the Central Bering Sea Observer Program would still be mandatory and that most of the wording is already in the Convention, supported the Japanese recommendations.

5.10. Poland questioned Japan's need to change wording already provided for in the Convention.

5.11. Japan responded that, although some of the items came directly from Article XII of the Convention, the use of "shall" elevates the Central Bering Sea Observer Program to the level of an international agreement, thereby causing a possibility of requiring the Diet ratification.

5.12. China noted that previously approved measures contained the term "shall."

5.13. Japan explained that this is an idea of the Japanese legal office.

## 7.0. Discussion of Issues from the Science Group

### 7.1. Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)

7.1.1. The United States reviewed the procedures for establishing the AHL under the Convention. Last year, the decision on the AHL was based on the consensus of the Parties. The Science Group reported that U.S. estimate of the pollock spawning stock biomass in the Bogoslof Island area in 1997 is 342,000 metric tons, about a fifty percent reduction from 1996. The United States stated that if the Parties are not able to reach consensus on the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass, Part 1(b) of the Annex to the Convention states that the Bogoslof Island area biomass will represent 60 percent of the total Aleutian Basin biomass. It is the U.S. view that the best estimate of biomass is based on the MILLER FREEMAN survey of the Bogoslof Island biomass last March, and the United States calculates the biomass in the entire Aleutian Basin to be 572,000 metric tons. This number is far below the 1.67 million metric-ton threshold (Part 1(c) of the Annex) that would trigger a fishery. Therefore, the United States recommended that the AHL be established at zero. The United States believes that the results of trial fishing and research cruises show that the Aleutian Basin stock remains low.

7.1.2. Russia supported the position of the United States regarding the establishment of an AHL. Russia reported that, based on historical data and the May-October 1997 EIMWT surveys, the pollock stocks in the Western Bering Sea have significantly declined during the 1980s and 1990s. Since 1991, there have been no strong year classes. At the same time this period, the Western Bering Sea herring and some squid stocks have increased reflecting some significant change in the eco-system. The Navarin Basin area pollock stock, as noted from fishing catch distribution maps of the 1980s, does not migrate into the Central Bering Sea. According to the Russian delegation, these pollock have a secure food base in the Navarin Basin area and therefore do not need to migrate. About 1.0 million metric tons of pollock are available there.

7.1.3. The Parties requested copies of the Russian report. The Russian delegation said at this meeting that, in the 1980s, post-spawning pollock did reach the Convention Area. However, due to overfishing in the Convention Area, decreasing Bering Sea stock, and a change in hydrological conditions, the situation changed in the 1990s. As a result, the Russian side does not expect any appreciable migration of the Western Bering pollock stocks to the Convention area during the coming years. Japan and Poland expressed interest in receiving the data used in Russia's analysis of the status of Western Bering Sea stocks and concern about the relationship between Western Bering Sea and Central Bering Sea pollock stocks.

7.1.4. Poland commented that the task of the S&T Committee is to collaborate on an Aleutian Basin pollock biomass estimate for use by the Parties at the Annual Conference in determining the AHL. The United States replied that the MILLER FREEMAN Bogoslof Island area biomass estimate is 342,000 metric tons and, per the Convention, the Aleutian Basin biomass would be 572,000 metric tons. Poland commented that,

of the stock condition, an AHL should be established and properly managed. Japan recommended that this issue be deferred to the Annual Conference.

7.1.13. Russia stated that in view of the results of trial fishing by Poland (186 individual fish in eleven trawls) AHL should be set at zero.

7.1.14. Japan countered that the estimate of the biomass exceeds 342,000 metric tons and considerable part of this amount of pollock may be available on the high seas.

7.1.15. Poland supported the comments of Japan. It noted that the results of Poland's trial fishing can not serve as the basis for establishing an AHL.

7.1.16. The United States acknowledged the practical problems with establishing an AHL. Taking into account the best scientific information, and based on the low abundance of the stock, the U.S. recommends the AHL be established at zero.

7.1.17. Russia recommends that the AHL be established at zero.

7.1.18. The S&T **concludes** that there is insufficient information to estimate the absolute abundance of the Aleutian Basin pollock stock directly. The best available starting point for the estimation of the Aleutian Basin Biomass is 342,000 metric tons assessed for the Specific Area. The Parties could not reach consensus on a recommendation of an AHL.

## 7.2. Work Plan for 1998

### 7.2.1. Data Exchanges

7.2.1.1. The United States noted that it is custodian of the pollock catch data and requested that the Parties submit any corrections to the data submitted during the Science Group intersessional meeting in Poland.

7.2.1.2. Japan questioned the background of this data exchange and asked if this data exchange is voluntary. The United States replied that the data is a compilation of historical catch information for the Central Bering Sea area and adjacent areas. The Chair added that he was unsure of the nature of the data exchange, but would determine whether it was voluntary or a requirement.

7.2.1.3. The Chair researched the issue and commented that the exchange of data is currently voluntary, but would be mandatory when commercial fishing for pollock in the Central Bering Sea again was conducted.

### 7.2.3. Cooperative Research Plans

7.2.3.1. The United States distributed the MILLER FREEMAN Cruise Plan for 1998 (Appendix 8). Although the United States earlier proposed that the survey be conducted on a biennial basis, it changed its plans. The March 1998 survey will be conducted, as the MILLER FREEMAN will not enter the repair yard until September 1998. The vessel may not be available for the 1999 survey, however. The United States extended an invitation to the scientists of all Parties to participate in the 1998 survey.

7.2.3.2. Korea, China, and Russia all accepted the U.S. invitation to place a scientist on the vessel. Poland and Japan will also consider the possibility of embarking a scientist on the MILLER FREEMAN. The United States noted that it could accommodate up to five non-U.S. scientists during this cruise.

7.2.3.3. The Chair noted that during the Science Group meeting in Poland, Korea had not finalized its cruise plans for 1998. Korea replied that its research vessel was also in need of repairs, but that it would notify the other Parties of its research plans by the end of January 1998.

7.2.3.4. Russia will conduct hydroacoustic and ichthyoplankton surveys during 1998, but plans are still preliminary.

7.2.3.5. The United States expressed a desire to conduct inter-ship survey calibrations any time another Party's research vessel and a U.S. research vessel are in the same area at the same time. Russia indicated that this may be possible during late February 1998.

7.2.3.6. The Chair noted that the MILLER FREEMAN may not be available for a Bogoslof survey during 1999 and requested the Parties comment on the availability of their vessels to conduct a 1999 survey. Japan commented that it was currently studying this issue. Information on Japan's final decision may be available during the Annual Conference session.

### 7.2.4. Symposium

7.2.4.1. Russia indicated that it planned to host a pollock symposium during May-June 1998. The symposium would focus on the status of pollock stocks in the Bering Sea and recent changes to the Bering Sea ecosystem and their effect on fish stocks. The time and place of the meeting should be finalized in the very near future, and notification will be made accordingly.

7.2.4.2. The United States volunteered to assist the Russian side in preparing for the symposium and the post-symposium reporting.

7.2.4.3. Japan noted in the report of the Science Group Intersessional Meeting that the United States proposed to host a workshop to standardize aging techniques. Korea suggested, in order to save travel funds, that the workshop be consolidated with next

8.1.9. Poland commented that it needed additional time to discuss such a sensitive issue. It expressed concern with the fishing season and a start date, it also expressed its general reservation as to the issue of an olympic-style fishery.

8.1.10. The United States expressed the desire to receive comments six months in advance of the annual meeting so that a revised plan could be disseminated to the Parties.

8.1.11. Japan supported the U.S. proposal.

8.1.12. Russia supported the U.S. comments.

8.1.13. Russia expressed concern with travel funding for an intersessional meeting.

8.1.14. The Chair discussed the aging techniques workshop and expressed his opinion that the participants of the aging workshop will not be the same participants of an S&T Committee intersessional meeting. Aging may be a subject to be discussed during the scientific symposium.

8.1.15. The United States discussed the aging techniques workshop. The three components of the workshop include (1) a pre-meeting otolith sample exchange (2) discussion on aging techniques, and (3) practical laboratory techniques.

8.1.16. The S&T **recommends** the United States host an Age Determination Workshop in Seattle during 17-20 March 1998 (Appendix 10). Details will be disseminated during December 1997.

8.1.17. The S&T **recommends** the Parties provide comments on the draft management proposal to the United States prior to an intersessional meeting or by 1 June 1998, if there is no intersessional meeting. Comments should be submitted via diplomatic channels.

## 8.2. Number and Priority Placement of Article XI Observers

8.2.1. The United States introduced this item, noting inconclusive discussions at the May 1997 Enforcement Group Intersessional Meeting. Article XI of the Convention requires a vessel to accept an observer of another Party, upon the request of that Party. Some Parties had expressed concern with accepting observers from more than one Party. Other Parties expressed concern that they might be precluded from placing an observer on a vessel if there were limitations on the number of observers, which would be inconsistent with the Convention. The United States stated that this concern may be only be theoretical in nature, although there should be some criteria to follow in the case that more than one Party applies to have an observer placed on the same vessel.

8.2.2. Poland indicated that it would support the placement of observers, consistent with the Convention. It might not be practical for one vessel to accommodate six observers. Poland, therefore, would accept one observer from the other Parties. It proposed that the



8.2.14. The Chair noted that perhaps the Parties could agree on the following principles: (1) the fishing nation needs prior notification of requests to place observers; (2) equitable access to ensure that the proportion of observer opportunities is equal for all Parties; and (3) priority placement of the observers should be given to coastal States.

8.2.15. Poland noted that the placement of the observer should not interfere with fishing operations. Poland also expressed concern with a coastal State preference, because the Convention does not provide for this. All nations are equal Parties to the Convention.

8.2.16. The United States noted the apparent imbalance, in that, there are four fishing nations and only two coastal states.

8.2.17. Poland table a proposal on the number and priority placement of Article XI observers (Appendix 11).

### 8.3. Methods to Determine Catch Weight

8.3.1. Japan noted that this item may also answer the question of whose data is used for management purposes.

8.3.2. The United States noted that this item addresses a concern to account for all removals from the sea. There are four methods: (1) scales, (2) bins, (3) volumetrics, and (4) product recovery rate interpolations. The subsequent issue was whose data would be used for management. If volumetrics are used, the follow-on question is whose data is used. Subsequently, if there are differences between the master's and observer's data, how does one resolve the issue?

8.3.3. The Chair commented that, from a biological standpoint, there is a desire to account for fishing mortalities.

8.3.4. Russia related that, from its experience, volume estimates of the fishing haul using bins are the most accurate. Final product weight produced too high an error.

8.3.5. Poland recalled the two questions, how and who provides the catch data. Poland felt it was clear the Convention calls for each Party to provide the catch data. The observer can provide information on his concurrence with the master's data. In practice, it will be difficult to apply one method to all vessels. Therefore, the Parties should accept the method used by each Party, because each Party is responsible for providing the data as determined by the master.

8.3.6. The United States noted that the requirement for observers is to provide confidence for any management scheme. This confidence is the foundation of the Convention.

8.3.7. Russia indicated that the method of determining catch weight is the most important principle in a management plan and that bin volume is the most accurate.

must be available data on determining catch weight. Japan proposed using this data to compare the varying degrees of accuracy of the various methodologies.

8.3.17. The United States recounted a proposal to hold a symposium on this issue.

8.3.18. The Chair concurred with the statements by Japan and the United States.

8.3.19. The S&T **recommends** the “Methodology to Determine Catch Weights” be included in the planned symposium.

#### 8.4. Number of Vessels in an Olympic-style Fishery

8.4.1. The United States reviewed the issue as it was discussed during the Enforcement Group. It acknowledged that an Olympic-style fishing would be a default mechanism in a situation where the Parties could not reach consensus on INQ’s. There were strong feelings by some of the Parties that there should be no limit on vessels. There were equally strong feelings by some Parties that it would be necessary to limit the number of vessels for management and surveillance of the fishery. The United States feels that, depending on the size of the AHL, it is necessary to limit the number of vessels involved in the fishery to properly manage the fishing and avoid over-harvesting.

8.4.2. The United States reviewed an earlier proposal by Russia to limit the number of vessels based on the AHL. The United States recommended that Russia develop a paper for review by the Parties.

8.4.3. Japan supports an olympic-style fishery by default but opposes any limit on the number of vessels. It justified the position that a limit should be based on fishing capacity. A proper management system should be able to account for any number of vessels.

8.4.4. China concurred with the United States that the number should be linked to the AHL.

8.4.5. The United States questioned the Japanese position.

8.4.6. Japan replied that if we determined each fishing season, then all Parties could participate. With the proper management plan, the olympic-style fishery could be properly managed.

8.4.7. Japan expressed that it was up to the flag-State to limit the number of vessels involved and it was important that Japan allow all vessels equal access.

8.4.8. The S&T considered several approaches including limiting the number of vessels based on the AHL and having an olympic style fishery. The S&T **recommends** the Annual Conference discuss this issue if an AHL is authorized.

## **APPENDIX 1**

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

**November 3-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

### **S & T COMMITTEE**

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**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
ON THE  
CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES I  
N THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**November 3-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**S & T COMMITTEE**

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**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES  
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**November 3-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

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**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
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CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES  
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**November 3-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**S & T COMMITTEE**

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**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION  
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CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES  
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**November 3-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

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

**November 3-7, 1997  
Seattle, Washington, USA**

**S & T COMMITTEE**

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

**SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA  
3-4 NOVEMBER 1997**

*Agenda*

1. Opening Remarks
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Report from the Science Group
5. Report from the Enforcement Group
6. Report from the Procedures Group
7. Discussion of Issues from the Science Group
  - 7.1. Allowable Harvest Level (AHL)
  - 7.2. Work Plan for 1998
    - 7.2.1. Data Exchanges
    - 7.2.2. Trial Fishing Plans
    - 7.2.3. Cooperative Research Plans
    - 7.2.4. Symposium
    - 7.2.5. Other Issues
8. Discussion of Issues from the Enforcement group
  - 8.1. Management Plan
  - 8.2. Number and Priority Placement of Article XI Observers
  - 8.3. Methods to Determine Catch Weight
  - 8.4. Number of Vessels in an Olympic-style Fishery
  - 8.5. Starting Date for a Fishery
  - 8.6. Source of Data for Management
9. Other Matters and Recommendations
  - 9.1. Meeting Schedule
  - 9.2. Other Matters
10. Report to the Annual Conference
11. Closing Comments

**Meeting of the Science Group of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the  
Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central  
Bering Sea**

September 3-5, 1997  
Gdynia, Poland

Delegations from the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Poland, and the United States participated in an intersessional meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea, Scientific and Technical Committee's Science Group. The Russian Federation did not participate in the meeting.

**1. Welcome Address**

**2. Election of Chairman and Rapporteur**

The group elected Dr. Richard Marasco (USA) as chairman of the meeting. Messrs. Stetson Tinkham and Bill Hines (USA) were appointed as rapporteurs.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Attached to this report are: (1) the revised agenda of the meeting; (2) a list of participants; and (3) a list of reports distributed at the meeting.

**4. Opening Statements**

**5. Pollock Stock Assessment**

**5.1 Update catch and effort statistics**

The data manager (Dr. Wespestad) provided a list and disk file of all the data submitted to him by the Parties. The Parties are asked to review them and submit corrections directly to him.

**5.2 Present Results of Trial Fishing**

Poland presented their trial fishing results which took place during September 1-11, 1996 in the central Bering Sea (Attachment 1). Pollock was caught only in the northeastern and eastern part of the donut hole. During the cruise, 11 hauls were made of which only six hauls contained pollock. A total of 184 individual fish were caught during the trial fishing operations of which 116 individual fish were taken in one haul. Older pollock dominated the catch (1978-1980 year classes). 1986 and 1989 year classes were also represented in the sample. During the 1995 trial fishing, no 1986 and 1989 year classes were observed. Ages were determined for 50 individual fish from otoliths.

Korea did not conduct trial fishing during 1996.

The United States did not conduct trial fishing during 1996.

Japan did not conduct trial fishing during 1996.

During the cruise 11 hauls were made of which 6 hauls pollock appeared. All together 184 individuals of pollock were caught". The Russian F/V *Vigo* conducted trial fishing in the Donut Hole area in 1997 (from August 16-19) and indicated that "no fish ...was..detected in the layer from 0 to 500 meters". China also conducted trial fishing in 1997 and will report its final results at the next meeting. The group agreed that more information should be obtained about pollock abundance in the Aleutian Basin.

#### 5.4.b Biomass in the area identified in Annex 1(b).

Only two estimates of absolute abundance of pollock in the Annex 1(b) area were made in 1997 (Table 2). These direct estimates were made from data collected during echo integration-trawl surveys in the Bogoslof Island area by the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. The ROK estimate was for an area slightly larger than that defined in Annex 1(b). Documents presented by the delegations with details on results and methodology are attached to this report.

Table 1. Aleutian Basin pollock biomass estimates

<u>Absolute Abundance estimates:</u>	insufficient information to estimate biomass directly
<u>Relative Abundance estimates:</u>	Bogoslof survey series (U.S. in 1997) -- low abundance
	Aleutian Basin survey series (Korea in 1997) -- low abundance in eastern and central part of the Aleutian Basin
	Donut Hole survey (Japan in 1996) -- low abundance
	Donut Hole trial fishing (Poland in 1996) -- low abundance
	Donut Hole trial fishing (Russia in 1997) -- low abundance

Table 2. Annex 1(b) Area pollock biomass estimates

<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
by U.S.	Mar 1-Mar 10, 1997	spawning	342,000 t
by ROK	May 17 - June 12, 1997	after spawning	13,274 t (for area larger than Annex 1(b) area )

5.4.c. The status of pollock stocks forming foraging accumulations in the central Bering Sea and fishery prospects.

This agenda item was proposed by the Russian delegation. Discussion was deferred.

#### 5.4.d. Coordination of age determination methods for pollock

The Japanese delegation submitted a paper, *False ring observed in the otolith of age 1 walleye pollock collected in the Bering Sea* (Attachment 8), which highlighted the possibility for misinterpreting the first annual ring in relation to false ring formation and suggested a way of avoiding the problem.

**8. Observer Plans**

All parties participated in an Observer Training Program hosted by the U.S. during March 24-29, 1997.

**9. Other Business**

Deferred discussion of the Russian Federation proposal to host a Pollock Symposium in Magadan during February 1998.

The United States informed all parties that logistical information regarding the Second Annual Conference is available.

The issue of future meetings of the Science Group was discussed. Each Party was asked to consider the issue before the Second Annual Conference. The issue will be referred to the S & T Meeting for decision.

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

**ENFORCEMENT GROUP INTERSESSIONAL**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA  
20-22 MAY 1997**

*Joint Statement*

Final 22 May 97

Delegations from the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America participated in an intersessional meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea, Scientific and Technical Committee's Enforcement Group. This meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, USA, May 20-22, 1997. The Group elected Captain J.V. O'Shea, U.S. Coast Guard, to chair the meeting.

The Enforcement Group continued to develop measures and programs to ensure the effective management of pollock fishing in the Convention Area, when the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) is other than zero. The group reached consensus on a draft Central Bering Sea Observer Program. They also discussed a framework of essential elements for a management scheme. The U.S. submitted a list of "Draft Management Requirements," upon which the Parties will expand, for further discussion at the Second Annual Conference.

The Enforcement Group will provide its recommendations to the Scientific and Technical Committee at the Second Annual Conference of the Parties, to be hosted by the United States of America this fall.

**ENFORCEMENT GROUP INTERSESSIONAL  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
USA 20-22 MAY 1997**

*Report*

Delegations from the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America participated in an intersessional meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea, Scientific and Technical Committee's Enforcement Group. This meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, USA, May 20-22, 1997. Captain J.V. O'Shea, U.S. Coast Guard, was elected Chair.

The Enforcement Group continued to develop measures and programs to ensure the proper management of pollock fishing in the Convention Area, when the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) is other than zero. The Group reached consensus on a draft Central Bering Sea Observer Program (Attachment 4). An English language "Observer Report" template will be developed by the United States and submitted to the S&T Committee for review and approval. The Group could not reach consensus on the number of Article XI Observers to be employed on each vessel and the priority for their placement. The S&T Committee needs to decide this issue. The Group discussed how the catch weight on board the vessel will be calculated. Some Parties felt there should be more than one method to calculate the catch weight, while others expressed that only one method should be used. The Group requests the S&T Committee to consider this issue. A decision must be made on the method or methods to be used to determine the catch weight. Additionally, the delegations received copies of the draft Central Bering Sea Observer Manual, although the contents of the manual were not discussed.

The Enforcement Group also discussed various management issues. The delegations from Japan and the United States presented proposals for a management scheme. The Parties established a list of Draft Management Requirements and Comments (Attachment 5). There was considerable discussion on limiting the number of vessels or fishing effort if the Annual Conference did not reach consensus for Individual National Quota's (INQs). Poland felt that the Parties should limit the number of vessels from each Party in an Olympic-style fishery. Meanwhile, Japan indicated that there should be no limit. Japan also indicated that the S&T Committee should discuss the "Starting Date for a Fishery" during its next meeting. The Parties also discussed which data, either the vessel's or observer's data, should be used to manage the fishery and require the S&T to decide the source of the data and methods to resolve conflicts between the two.

The Enforcement Group recommends that the Plenary adopt the draft Central Bering Sea Observer Program and allocate time during the Second Annual Conference to finalize the consolidated Management Plan.

- Attachments:
- 1 - Meeting Agenda
  - 2 - Meeting Schedule
  - 3 - Delegation Lists
  - 4 - Central Bering Sea Observer Program
  - 5 - Central Bering Sea Pollock Fishery "Draft" Management Requirements and Comments

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

**ENFORCEMENT GROUP INTERSESSIONAL**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA  
20-22 MAY 1997**

*Schedule*

NMFS, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Building 4, Room 2079

Tuesday 20 May 1997

0900 - 1200	Central Bering Sea Observer Program
1400 - 1700	Central Bering Sea Observer Program

Wednesday 21 May 1997

0900 - 1200	Central Bering Sea Observer Program
1400 - 1700	Management Issues

Thursday 22 May 1997

0900 - 1200	Management Issues
1400 - 1700	Management Issues



**ENFORCEMENT GROUP  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE  
CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**May 20-22, 1997 - Seattle, Washington, USA**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Mr. LIU Xiaobing  
Head of Delegation  
Assistant Consultant, Divisions of International Cooperation  
Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. ZHOU Maoliang  
Manager-General  
Shanghai Deep Sea Fisheries Corporation

Mr. CHEN Jianfeng  
Official, Division of Distant Water Fisheries  
Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. LIU Yonghai  
Director, China Fisheries Representative Office, Seattle, Washington

**ENFORCEMENT GROUP  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE  
CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**May 20-22, 1997 - Seattle, Washington, USA**

**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

Dr. Jerzy JANUSZ  
Scientist  
Sea Fisheries Institute, Gdynia

Mr. Stanislaw KASPEREK  
Advisor  
"GRYF" Fishing Company, Szczecin

**ENFORCEMENT GROUP  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE  
CENTRAL BERING SEA**

**May 20-22, 1997 - Seattle, Washington, USA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

National Marine Fisheries Service

Mr. William HINES  
Office of the Regional Administrator, Juneau, Alaska

Mr. David FLANNAGAN  
Office of Enforcement, Juneau, Alaska

Dr. LOW Lee-Loh  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington

Dr. Bill KARP  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington

Mr. Galen TROMBLE  
Alaska Region, Juneau, Alaska

Mr. Paul NIEMEIER  
Sustainable Fisheries, Silver Spring, Maryland

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Captain J.V. O'SHEA  
Chief, Maritime Plans, Policy, and Operations  
17<sup>th</sup> District, Juneau, Alaska

CDR Mark THOMAS  
Chief, Fisheries Law Enforcement Division  
Office of Law Enforcement, Washington, D.C.

LCDR William J. QUIGLEY  
Liaison Officer  
Department of State, Washington D.C.

3.0 To facilitate compliance with the provisions of the Convention, the observers should cooperate with the masters of the fishing vessels when performing their duties and shall:

- 3.1 Monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted pursuant to this Convention;
- 3.2 Monitor the vessel's fishing activities including its position;
- 3.3 Monitor annotations in the Daily Fishing/Production Log and other ship's logs;
- 3.4 Monitor the level of catch and incidental catch;
- 3.5 Monitor the use of fishing gear;
- 3.6 Monitor compliance with required notifications; and
- 3.7 Report findings to the master of the fishing vessel, the flag-State Party of the fishing vessel, and flag-State Party of the observer.

4.0 Observers *shall* minimize disruption *or other interference* to a vessel's operations, provided that the *observers are not precluded from performing their duties*.

5.0 For the collection of data necessary to support conservation and management measures pursuant to the Convention, vessels must provide:

5.1 Access to and use of communications equipment and personnel, upon request, for entry, transmission, and receipt of work related data or information;

5.2 Access to and use of the navigation equipment and personnel, upon request, to determine the vessel's position;

5.3 Free and unobstructed access to the bridge, working decks, holding and processing facilities, and any space used to hold, process, weigh, or store fish and fish product *after notification by the observer*. The master *or his representative* may, at his discretion, assign a crewmember to accompany the observer when the observer is carrying out duties in hazardous areas;

5.4. Access, upon request, to review and transcribe the Daily Fishing/Production Log;

5.5. Notice, at least fifteen minutes before fish are brought on board, unless the observer specifically requests not to be notified;

## 7.0 Reporting

7.1 Observers must prepare daily or weekly reports in a format agreed upon by the Parties for the collection of data to ensure effective management for the pollock fishery in the Convention Area;

7.2 Within thirty days of completion of an assignment on a vessel, the flag-State Party of the observer will provide a copy of all data and the observer report to the flag-State Party of the vessel. The flag-State Party of the observer will keep a copy of all data and the observer report;

7.3 The flag-State of the vessel shall make the report available to other Parties that request it. Copies of the report sent to the other Parties shall not include location of catch in latitude and longitude, but will include daily totals of catch by species; and

7.4 For database management purposes, within thirty days following completion of an assignment on a vessel, the flag-State Party of the observer will provide to a designated institution of the United States:

7.4.1 Copies of the observer's forms;

7.4.2 A copies of the observer's logbook; and

7.4.3 A copy of the observer report.

Attachment: Circumstances Related to Interference with an Observer

**Central Bering Sea Pollock Fishery Management Requirements**  
**DRAFT**  
May 22, 1997

**Information Requirements**

1. Harvesting and processing capacity and relative efficiency of each fishing vessel.
2. Check-in (fishing start date) for each vessel.
3. Regular reporting of observed pollock catch by vessel and day.
4. Check-out (fishing end date) for each vessel which leaves the fishery before it closes.

**Inseason Process Requirements**

1. Vessels will check in and out of the fishery.
2. Observers will collect and report data in accordance with provisions of the Central Bering Sea Observer Program.
3. Parties will collect data from observers and report to the U.S. NMFS using a standard format.
4. The U.S. NMFS will consolidate all data and produce regular, accessible reports on the progress and status of the fishery.
5. The U.S. NMFS will notify the managing agency of each Party of the date the fishery will close, if the AHL will be reached before the end of the season.

**Pre-fishery Requirements**

1. Establish standard procedures for observer estimation of total catch and species composition sampling.
2. Establish standard form for observer reporting.
3. Establish standard form for Parties' reports to the U.S. NMFS.
4. Establish a season for the fishery.
5. Each Party will assign a managing agency point of contact for fishery reporting and closure notification and provide contact information to the U.S. NMFS.

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

**ENFORCEMENT GROUP INTERSESSIONAL**

**SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA  
20-22 MAY 1997**

*Joint Statement*

Final 22 May 97

Delegations from the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America participated in an intersessional meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea, Scientific and Technical Committee's Enforcement Group. This meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, USA, May 20-22, 1997. The Group elected Captain J.V. O'Shea, U.S. Coast Guard, to chair the meeting.

The Enforcement Group continued to develop measures and programs to ensure the effective management of pollock fishing in the Convention Area, when the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) is other than zero. The group reached consensus on a draft Central Bering Sea Observer Program. They also discussed a framework of essential elements for a management scheme. The U.S. submitted a list of "Draft Management Requirements," upon which the Parties will expand, for further discussion at the Second Annual Conference.

The Enforcement Group will provide its recommendations to the Scientific and Technical Committee at the Second Annual Conference of the Parties, to be hosted by the United States of America this fall.

**CENTRAL BERING SEA OBSERVER PROGRAM  
AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE XI  
TO THE CONVENTION**

**Final 04 November 1997**

1.0 Consistent with Article XI to the Convention, each Party will require all its fishing vessels that fish for pollock in the Convention Area to accept observers on the basis of the following:

1.1 Each fishing vessel will accept one observer of a Party other than its flag-Party, upon request of such Party, under conditions agreed sufficiently in advance by the Parties concerned;

1.2 If such an observer is not available, the fishing vessel will have on board one observer from its flag-State Party;

1.3 Observers will be trained and certified in accordance with the procedures established by the flag-State and consistent with relevant aspects of the training for observer trainers provided by the United States in March 1997; and

1.4 Matters related to costs, except those related to meals and accommodations of such observers, will be arranged between the Parties concerned.

2.0 In order to facilitate the embarkation of observers, each Party will provide to the other Parties a list of vessels intending to fish for pollock in the Convention Area at least six weeks prior to the vessels' commencement of fishing in the Convention Area. The Parties will coordinate bilaterally sufficiently in advance to ensure equitable distribution of other Party observers. All Parties will, prior to the commencement of fishing, provide a list of all certified observers and a sample of the flag-State observer credentials to the other Parties. The minimum standard for credentials will include a photographic identification, name, and date of expiration of the credentials. The list of certified observers will consist of the following:

2.1 The observers names,

2.2 Sex,

2.3 Name of employers,

2.4 Passport numbers, and countries of issue, and

2.5 Vessel assignments.



- 5.6. Accommodations and food that are equivalent to officer level personnel employed on board the vessel; and
- 5.7. All necessary cooperation with observers in order for them to carry out their duties. Vessels will avoid circumstances which constitute interference with an observer. (Attachment 1)
- 5.8. Familiarization with the safety alarms, equipment, procedures of the vessel, and an orientation to the safety hazards of their working areas.
- 6.0 For the collection of data necessary to support conservation and management measures pursuant to the Convention, observers will:
- 6.1. Collect data necessary to determine fishing effort and to verify the time and area of fishing operations. For each haul observers will record the following from the Daily Fishing/Production Log:
- 6.1.1 The time, day, and location of the set, and the time, day and location of the retrieval.
- 6.1.2. The gear type, performance, and fishing depth; and
- 6.1.3. The vessel's estimate of total catch.
- 6.2 Make independent estimates of haul weight from as many hauls as possible using methods established by the Parties.
- 6.3. Collect data necessary to determine catch of pollock and incidental catch of other species.
- 6.4 Collect other biological and technical data as determined by the Annual Conference.
- 6.5. Evaluate and report on the method and accuracy of catch weight estimates logged by vessel personnel in the Daily Fishing/Production Log. If there are significant differences between the observer estimate and the vessel estimate, comment in the observer logbook on the probable causes of the discrepancies.
- 6.6. Monitor for retention of anadromous species and herring. In the case of retention, the observer must record in their daily log the date and haul number, vessel position, and species and quantity retained. Such instances are to be summarized in the observer's report.

**CENTRAL BERING SEA OBSERVER PROGRAM AS REQUIRED  
BY ARTICLE XI TO THE CONVENTION**

**CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO INTERFERENCE WITH AN OBSERVER**

**Final 21 May 1997**

1. Depending on its severity, interference with an observer could be considered the same as operating in the Convention Area without an observer. The flag-State Party shall take appropriate measures in accordance with its national laws and regulations, including prompt investigation, of all acts of interference once notification is received. The flag-State Party shall order the fishing vessel to cease the actions of interference and, in appropriate cases, shall order the fishing vessel to leave the Convention Area immediately. The following acts, among others, shall constitute interference:

- a. Assault;
- b. Interfere with or bias the sampling procedures employed by an observer, including sorting or discarding any catch before sampling; or tamper with, destroy, or discard an observer's collection samples, equipment, records, photographic film, papers, or personal effects without the express consent of the observer;
- c. Prohibit or bar by command, impediment, threat, coercion, or by refusal of reasonable assistance, an observer from collecting samples, conducting product recovery rate determinations, making observations, or otherwise performing the observer's duties; and
- d. Harass an observer by conduct that has the purpose or effect of interfering with the observer's work performance, or otherwise creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment;

2. Nothing in this measure shall prohibit the master of a fishing vessel from taking any action necessary for any legitimate reason, such as the safe operation of the vessel and the safety of persons. In any instance where such action results in interference with an observer, the master and the observer shall promptly report the matter to the vessel's flag-State and the observer's flag-State.

**U.S. Proposal**

**TRANSPARENCY**

**AT MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO**

**THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND**

**MANAGEMENT OF POLLOCK STOCKS IN THE**

**CENTRAL BERING SEA**

Admission of Observers to Plenary Meetings of the Annual Conference and Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (the Convention)

**Rules of Procedure**

1. The Party hosting a meeting of an Annual Conference or the Scientific and Technical Committee shall grant observer status to:
  - a. intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with any Party to the Convention as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to any Party or vice versa; and
  - b. non-Member governments or entities identified as harvesting species to which the Convention is applicable in the Convention Area.
2. All non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of the Convention shall be eligible to participate as observers in plenary meetings of the Annual Conference and meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee, and, with permission of the presiding officer, any subsidiary body thereof, except extraordinary meetings held in executive session or meetings of Heads of Delegation.
3. Any eligible NGO desiring to participate as an observer in such a meeting described in 2., shall notify the Party hosting that meeting of its desire to participate at least 50 days in advance of the meeting. The host Party shall notify the other Parties to the Convention of the names of NGOs desiring to participate as observers in a specified meeting at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the meeting.
4. Any eligible NGO expressing a desire to participate as an observer may do so unless a majority of the Parties to the Convention formally objects for cause in writing at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the meeting.

*AMENDED*  
CRUISE PLAN FOR POLISH FISHING TRIAL OPERATIONS  
ON POLLOCK IN THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS  
OF THE BERING SEA IN 1998

**1. Institution**

Deep Sea Fishing, Processing and Trading Enterprise  
"DALMOR" Joint - Stock Company.  
81-340 Gdynia  
Hryniewickiego 10 Str,  
P.O. Box 145. POLAND  
Phone:(058) 27 65 64, Fax:(058) 20 28 86 Tlx:054 225

**2. Vessel**

Name: ACAMAR, Side no. GDY 309  
Type: Stern trawler  
Length: 95.0 m  
Tonnage: 3708 GRT  
Radio call sign: SQRJ  
Immarsat no. 1703140

**3. Research area**

International waters of the Bering Sea (See attached map).

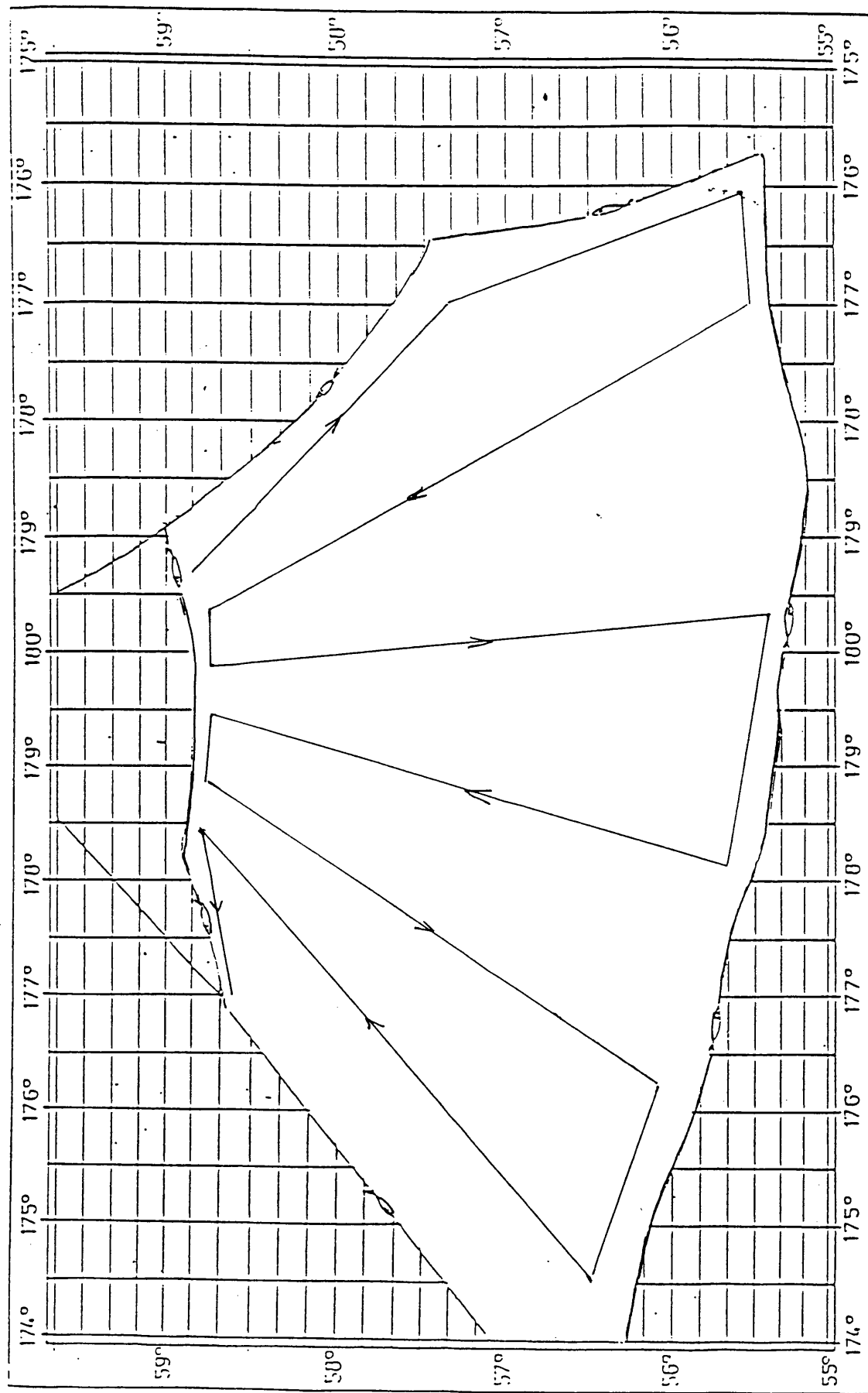
**4. Time of trial fishing operation**

Autumn 1998 (approx. time)

**5. Purpose**

The purpose of trial fishing operation is:

- a/ to determine the geographical distribution of pollock in the international waters of the Bering Sea;
- b/ to estimate total catch weight for as many hauls as possible;
- c/ to calculate the CPUE data;
- d/ to determine species composition of catches;
- e/ to collect biological data of pollock (length, sex, body weight, maturity);
- f/ to complete forms as recommended in "Observer Program Manual for Sampling of Central Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries" March 1997 that is:
  - Haul Summary Form,
  - Length Frequency Form,
  - Biological Samples Form.



Planned hydroacoustic trackline during trial fishing of Polish vessel in Autumn 1998



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
 Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
 Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division  
 7600 Sand Point Way Northeast  
 BIN C15700, Building 4  
 Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

November 3, 1997

### **Cruise Announcement**

**Cruise MF-98-02 NOAA Ship *Miller Freeman***

**Echo Integration-Trawl Survey of Walleye Pollock  
 in the southeastern Aleutian Basin**

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) will conduct an echo integration-trawl (EIT) survey of walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) in the southeastern Aleutian Basin near Bogoslof Island aboard the NOAA ship *Miller Freeman* from March 1-11, 1998 (11 sea days). The cruise will begin and end in Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

### **VESSEL ITINERARY**

Feb 28	Embark scientists in Dutch Harbor
Mar 1-10	Echo integration-trawl survey of the Bogoslof Island region
Mar 10	Sphere calibration in Makushin Bay
Mar 11	Arrive Dutch Harbor; end of cruise

### **OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives of the cruise are to:

1. Collect echo integration data and midwater and demersal trawl data necessary to determine the distribution, biomass, and biological composition of walleye pollock in the southeastern Aleutian Basin.
2. Collect pollock target strength data for use in scaling echo integration data to estimates of absolute abundance.
3. Calibrate the 38 kHz and 120 kHz scientific acoustic systems using standard sphere techniques.
4. Collect physical oceanographic data including temperature and salinity profiles at selected sites, and conduct continuous monitoring of sea surface parameters (e.g. temperature, salinity, light level, and productivity) and water current profiles.



United States Proposal for  
A MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE  
CENTRAL BERING SEA

I. Background

If the consensus of the Parties is to proceed with a fishery in the central Bering Sea, the Convention requires the Annual Conference to establish an effective management system for the fishery (Annex, Part 2). The system must be based upon the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Committee; must take full account of the applicable fishing effort of each Party, the harvesting and processing capacity of the fishing vessels that may be involved, and their relative efficiency; shall not prejudice the opportunity for fishing vessels of all Parties to participate; and must include a starting date for the fishery, a program for effectively monitoring catch, procedures for closing the fishery, and, where appropriate, other specific conservation and management measures.

At the Enforcement Group Intersessional, in Seattle, Washington, May 20-22, 1997, the delegations discussed management proposals from Japan and the United States, and established a list of Draft Management Requirements and Comments (Attachment 1). This document is a revised proposal from the United States based on those discussions.

II. Conservation and Management Measures

1. Fishing Season

Prior to the commencement of a fishery for pollock, other than authorized trial fishing, all Parties shall agree to establish a fishing season. Establishment of a season will allow enforcement officials to coordinate their efforts and to deploy enforcement vessels in an efficient manner.

harvest for the fishery according to the established fishery monitoring procedures, transmit a consolidated weekly report to each Party, and determine the fishery closure date. The CMA will notify each Party's managing agency of the fax number to which reports must be submitted. If designated, the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service is prepared to act as the Central Managing Agency for the first year of the fishery.

c. Required Information. The following information must be submitted by each party to the CMA:

1. A check-in report for each vessel at least 48 hours before the vessel enters the Central Bering Sea. The check-in report will contain the name and identifying number of the vessel, expected date and time of entry, transponder number, and its daily harvesting and/or processing capacity.
2. A weekly report detailing harvesting activity by vessel and day. The data will include: name and transponder number of the vessel; date of harvest being reported; the amount of pollock caught as well as other species; catch-per-unit-effort of pollock (metric tons per hour); and all bycatch and discards. The weekly reporting period begins at midnight Alaska local time (A.l.t.) on Saturday (Sunday morning) and ends at midnight A.l.t. the following Saturday. Weekly reports must be submitted to the CMA by noon A.l.t. on Tuesday following the reporting week.
3. A check-out report for each vessel which ceases harvest of pollock and leaves the Central Bering Sea before closure of the fishery. The check-out report will contain the name and identifying number of the vessel, date and time of exit. The purpose of this requirement is to



will be conservative. A large amount of missing data could result in the fishery closing sooner than necessary. This approach also helps ensure that missing data does not contribute to a quota overage.

2. A projected closure date for the fishery will be determined each week and communicated along with the consolidated fishery data to each Party by the CMA. The projected closure date will be determined based on the average daily catch rate for the most recent week, weighted by the number of vessels currently checked in.

3. Fishery closure announcement. When the projected closure date is 14 days or less from the end of the last weekly reporting period, the CMA will notify the Parties that the fishery will close at 1200 hours, A.l.t., on that date. This should ensure adequate time for the Parties to relay the fishery closure date to their fishing vessels.

4. After the date a fishery closure is announced, no additional vessels can enter the Central Bering Sea and harvest pollock. This provision is necessary to prevent an increase in effort after the closure is announced, which could result in overharvest.

### III. Compliance Mechanisms

#### 1. Observers/Quota Monitoring

- a. The United States is prepared to provide training for the observer trainers from each country. A one-week training program has been developed and will be provided at the National Marine Fisheries