

## U.S.-Japan Fishery Trade Talks Conclude on Cooperative Note

The United States Government and the Government of Japan agreed last summer to substantive changes in the Japanese Import Quota System for fishery products which will enable U.S. producers to gain increased access to the large Japanese market for seafoods.

The understanding was reached after a series of meetings in Washington, D.C., between representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan. Richard A. Frank, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and head of the U.S. delegation stated: "The positive approach taken by the Japanese Government to our requests should encourage increased harvesting and processing by the U.S. industry of currently underutilized fish in our 200-mile Fishery Conservation Zone."

Japan will modify the criteria for imports under its quota system, thus expanding the opportunities for U.S. exporters to sell to Japanese firms. Changes in the allotment of quotas for species such as pollock will enable U.S. producers and Japanese buyers to conclude transactions which in the past have been foreclosed. Because of the absence of that market, the U.S. industry has been reluctant to devote efforts to these fisheries.

Frank noted, "Japan will expand the number of Japanese quota holders for herring imports for processing and will establish a new quota for herring to be used directly for food." He added that the Government of Japan will provide information on export opportunities in Japan, assist in resolving problems in specific fisheries trade transactions, and assist U.S. firms with technical cooperation in harvesting and processing.

The previous week, Secretary of Commerce Philip Klutznick met with

Japanese Ambassador Okawara at which time the Secretary informed the Ambassador of the Administrator's determination to develop the U.S. fisheries industry and to increase fisheries exports.

The United States, in recognition of the Japanese offers, released 40,000 t of Alaskan pollock in the eastern Bering Sea which had been withheld from Japan in the 1980 fishery allocation in the U.S. 200-mile zone. The U.S. Government also stated it would release to Japan a substantial portion of other currently unallocated fisheries surpluses.

The U.S. delegation to these discus-

sions included representatives of the Department of State and the United States Trade Representative. The Japanese delegation was headed by Director-General of the Japan Fisheries Agency, Nobuo Imamura.

Japan is the largest market for U.S. seafoods, importing over \$560 million worth in 1979. Most of these purchases were in high-value species such as salmon and crab. The talks, which started earlier last spring in Tokyo, were designed to increase the amounts and to broaden the type of fish exported to Japan from the major U.S. resources within the 200-mile Fishery Conservation Zone, and by so doing to promote the development of U.S. harvesting and processing capacity in the currently underutilized species. Administrator Frank also announced that the Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association was seeking arrangements with U.S. vessels to provide fish at sea off Alaska, as well as with seafood processors willing to sell processed fish to their Association.

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### NMFS Appointments Told

Four appointments to major positions in the National Marine Fisheries Service have been announced.

Robert W. McVey is the regional director, NMFS Alaska Region in Juneau; Alan W. Ford is the regional director, NMFS Southwest Region in Terminal Island, Calif.; William I. Aron is the Director, Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center (NAFAC) in Seattle, Wash.; and Herbert A. Larkins is the regional director, NMFS Northwest Region in Seattle, Wash. The regional directors serve as the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries' regional representatives with recreational interests, State conservation agencies, the fishing industry and other constituencies, and the public within their areas. They are responsible for planning, organizing, and implementing fishery management and conservation programs, fishery development actions, habitat protection, and other services throughout the range of NMFS programs.

Robert W. McVey served as deputy regional director for the Alaska Region for the past 10 years prior to his new position. He began his career as a fisheries biologist in 1955 with the Missouri Conservation Commission. From 1957 to 1966, he served with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Juneau as a fisheries biologist. In 1966, he began a 3-year tour as an assistant fisheries attache in Copenhagen, Denmark; served a short while in Washington upon his return from Denmark; and returned to Juneau in 1970.

Alan W. Ford served as a political advisor to the NATO Commander-in-Chief for the Mediterranean area until appointed to his new position. He has served in various positions of increasing responsibility in the State Department since joining them in 1956.

William I. Aron was serving as the director of NOAA's Office of Marine Mammals and Endangered Species when named to his new position. Aron has served as a research assistant professor for the University of Washing-

ton's Department of Oceanography, as head of the Biological Oceanography Group at the General Motors Defense Branch Laboratories, and as director of the Smithsonian Institution Oceanography and Limnology Program in Washington, D. C. From 1971 to 1978, he was director, Office of Ecology and Environmental Conservation for NOAA. In 1977, he was named as the U.S. Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission.

Herbert A. Larkins was serving as the director of the NWAFC's Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division when named to his new position. He began his fisheries career in 1961 as a research biologist doing high seas salmon and groundfish investigations with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory in Seattle.

In 1971 Larkins went to Washington, D.C., as a fisheries advisor to the Commerce Department's Law of the Sea Task Force. In 1973 he returned to Seattle, becoming coordinator of international fishery research at the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Deputy Director, and then Director of the Division of Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management.

Larkins has served as a technical advisor to the U.S. delegation to bilateral U.S./U.S.S.R. and U.S./Japan fisheries negotiations, technical advisor to and technical spokesman for the U.S. section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, and fishery advisor to the U.S. Law of the Sea Delegation and delegate to the United Nations Seabed Committee.

Larkins received a B.S. degree in Fisheries and Wildlife in March 1956 from Michigan State University. He pursued a full-time graduate program in Fisheries Biology for a year and a half at the University of Washington.

In other actions, Robert T. B. Iversen has been named fishery attache to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Iversen has more than 25 years of experience in fishery research and administration, beginning with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in 1955 as a fishery aide in Honolulu. He held positions of increasing responsibility until he was named to his previous post of deputy administrator of the National Marine Fisheries

Service's Western Pacific Program office in 1971.

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture (FAO) has tapped NMFS consumer affairs specialist Clarence Cope for a second time to help a Latin American nation develop its fisheries resources. Cope departed for Brazil in mid-summer on a 2-year tour of duty as chief technical advisor and fish marketing economist to that government. In 1971, FAO arranged for Cope to take leave of absence to serve in the same capacity in Peru. Cope, who is working from offices in Brasilia, will advise a counterpart in the Brazilian government on developing marketing information systems, arrange training tours for Brazilians to study the fishery techniques of the United State's industry, organize workshops for Brazil's international and domestic fisheries marketing staff, and advise that country's food and fish technologists.

### **NINETEEN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED**

Eleven people have been appointed to vacancies on the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Eight incumbents also have been reappointed, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Richard A. Frank, administrator of the Commerce Department agency, said all will serve 3-year terms.

The councils, established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, are responsible for preparing fishery management plans for stocks of fish found in their geographical areas. The act requires that council members be selected from lists of qualified individuals submitted by the governors of the states involved. New appointees are listed below.

New England Council: Bernard W. Corson, of Contoocook, N.H.; Joseph M. Brancaleone, executive secretary, Gloucester Fisheries Commission, Gloucester, Mass.; and Alan D. Guimond, president, Storington Seafood, Storington, Conn.

Mid-Atlantic Council: James F.

McHugh, the SEPAC Group, Hampton, Va.; and Alfred J. Hurlock, Jr., president, Hurlock Roofing Company, Wilmington, Del.

South Atlantic Council: J. M. Pendarvis, Pendarvis Chevrolet, Edgefield, S.C.

Caribbean Council: Valdemar A. Hill, Jr., director of industrial relations, Virgin Islands Telephone Co., St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pacific Council: Nicholas Curcione, associate professor, Department of Sociology, Loyola University, Los Angeles, Calif.

North Pacific Council: Joseph Demmert, Jr., commercial fisherman, Ketchikan, Alaska.

Western Pacific Council: Gertrude I. Nishirara, remedial reading and math tutor, Aiea, Hawaii; and Steven S. Amesbury, assistant professor, Marine Laboratory, University of Guam, Agana, Guam.

Incumbents reappointed are, from the Mid-Atlantic Council: Harry M. Keene, DUO-EAST Industrial Equipment, Easton, Md.; and David H. Hart, marine fisheries consultant, Cape May, N.J.

South Atlantic Council: Margaret Stamey of Raleigh, N.C.

Gulf of Mexico Council: Billy J. Putman, Half Hitch Shop, Panama City, Fla.; John Green, president, Miller Vidor Land Co., Beaumont, Tex.; and George A. Brumfield, manager, Mississippi Operations, Zapata-Haynie Corporation, Moss Point, Miss.

Pacific Council: Herman J. McDevitt, attorney, Pocatello, Idaho.

North Pacific Council: Clem Tillion, commercial fisherman, Halibut Cove, Alaska.

In addition to the appointed members, the act allows the governor to appoint a state official with expertise in marine fishery management as a voting member of the council. The Regional Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is also a voting member. Several non-voting members also contribute their expertise. These include the regional or area director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the commander of the Coast Guard district, the executive director of the Marine Fisheries Commission, and a representative from the State Department.

## Modest Whale Protection Gains Seen at IWC Meet

U.S. Whaling Commissioner Richard A. Frank has characterized the 32nd meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Brighton, England, last summer as having achieved "modest but important gains" for whale conservation.

Frank, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, expressed disappointment that the IWC had not adopted a moratorium on all commercial whaling, and pledged that the United States will continue to press for that goal, a hallmark of U.S. policy in the 24-nation body.

"Even without achieving an out-and-out worldwide whaling ban," Frank said, "we have taken steps in that direction, agreeing to additional restrictions on whaling of certain stocks that slice away at whaling operations bit by bit." The U.S. Whaling Commissioner predicted that within the next few years commercial whaling will come to an end worldwide.

"The decisions reached this year," Frank said, "follow a pattern that will make it uneconomical for the whaling nations to continue their operations. More and more, they will feel the pinch from limited whaling in a fuel-short world, and this will lead them to a continuing cutback on whaling activity."

Frank pointed to the following gains attained at the IWC meeting:

1) A significant reduction in the take of great whales. In the last 5 years, conservation-minded efforts in the IWC have produced a reduction from 34,000 to 14,500, the number permitted to be taken next year.

2) The Commission's agreement, of major importance, to a total ban on the taking of killer whales by factory ships, a decision assuring that tightened restrictions on hunting large whales will not leave whalers free to decimate this smaller species.

3) The reduction of the take of whales in the Southern Hemisphere from 20,000 in 1975 to something over 8,000 this year.

4) A decision that 1,419 whales may be taken this year in the North Pacific as opposed to 9,663 5 years ago.

5) An agreement by the Government of Spain, a whaling nation that joined the IWC last year, to cease all hunting of sperm whales.

6) An agreement to ban the use of the cold harpoon in the taking of large whales, assuring that the catch of these great creatures will be more humane by reducing the time between harpooning and death.

In addition, Frank hailed as a significant step IWC willingness to permit the U.S. to be responsible for a substantial portion of the regulation of the subsistence hunt of bowhead whales by Alaskan Eskimos. The IWC agreed this year to set a 3-year quota on the take of bowhead whales, 45 landed or 65 struck, whichever comes first. The highest take in any year would be limited to 17 whales landed.

"The 3-year regulation period provides for partial domestic management and gives the U.S. substantial flexibility in protecting the bowhead whale as an endangered species, while accommodating cultural and subsistence needs of the Eskimo," Frank said.

To carry out this decision, Frank said, the U.S. will start to allocate the quota over the 3-year period from 1981 to 1983, and to set other rules, such as whale sizes.

"During this time," he pledged, "I will work with the Eskimos and the scientific community to improve our knowledge of the bowhead and to make certain that our regulation is based on the best available information."

The bowhead is considered one of the most endangered species. The size of the herd is estimated at 2,300, compared with 15,000 to 20,000 in the 19th century, when commercial whaling began to destroy it.

The Eskimos of Alaska, some 5,000 in number, live in eight small villages on the north and west coasts. They have hunted the bowhead for 4,000 years, and have traditionally lived in harmony with these creatures. Today, they still hunt in 15-foot open boats made of animal skin and wood.

"The bowhead whale is an essential part of the Eskimo culture, and constitutes a spiritual and nutritional source which the IWC may not help to maintain," Frank said. "This new agreement

points a way to manage an endangered species of whale, and also to conserve an endangered Eskimo culture."

## Foreign Fishing Off West Coast Declines

The number of foreign fishing vessels off the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts has plummeted since passage of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act, reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Information obtained by the Seattle regional office of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, indicates there were only 11 foreign vessels in the area in mid-1980 compared with more than 100 vessels which fished annually off the coast prior to the establishment of the 200-mile fishery conservation zone.

The present fishery is directed toward Pacific whiting, *Merluccius productus*. Foreign fishermen are not allowed to keep any salmon caught incidentally with the Pacific whiting, the Commerce Department agency said. Five of the foreign vessels were Soviet joint-venture processing vessels receiving whiting from U.S. trawlers.

Consistent with President Carter's policy to deny the Soviet Union fishing privileges in U.S. waters, the Soviet vessels are not allowed to fish as they did last season, but may only receive the catches delivered to them by the U.S. vessels under the agreement. The Soviet Union received no direct whiting allocation in 1980.

In addition to the five joint-venture processing vessels, there were six Polish vessels in the area. This number could increase as the season progressed, but the total number of foreign vessels off the West Coast at any one time was not expected to exceed last year's high.

The 175,000 metric tons optimum yield (total allowable catch) of Pacific whiting in 1980 has been distributed as follows: 40,000 metric tons (t) were reserved for the domestic fishery, of which 12,000 t may be processed by shore-based processors and 28,000 t by the foreign processing vessels under the joint venture arrangement. Of the remaining 135,000 t, 35,000 t have been put in a reserve to be released later for

foreign fishing if not needed by U.S. fishermen. Of the 100,000 t available to the foreign fishery, approximately 40,000 t were allocated to Poland and 30,000 t to Mexico. Ninety percent of the Mexican allocation is held in reserve, however, pending clarification of Mexico's intent to enter the fishery and use the allocation.

The remaining 30,000 t were "still in the bank," NMFS officials reported, and it was not clear at mid-year how much of it would be allocated during the season.

### Foreign Fishing Vessels Settle for \$1.8 Million

Three foreign fishing vessels seized last year for violating regulations permitting them to fish within the U.S. 200-mile fishery conservation zone have agreed to pay more than \$1.1 million in settlement of these violations, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced.

The *Tsuda Maru*, a Japanese stern trawler, was seized in the Bering Sea in January 1979 after special agents of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service discovered more than 54 tons of fish that had not been recorded in compliance with the fishing regulations. A settlement of \$700,000 was paid in lieu of the government pursuing its complaint for forfeiture of the vessel.

Two Korean stern trawlers, *Seo Yang* and the *Pung Yang Ho*, were seized off Alaska for discrepancies in their fishing logs. The two cases were settled for a total amount of \$400,000.

Altogether, eight of 14 foreign vessels seized last year have paid more than \$1.8 million in settlements, with five cases yet to be decided. One ship taken into custody was released as a result of the U.S. Attorney's decision not to prosecute. Any further action will be handled through the administrative penalty procedure. By mid-year, six ships had been seized during 1980, but no final decision had been reached regarding penalties.

The number of foreign fishing vessels seized for violations within the 200-mile fishery conservation zone has

increased yearly since the zone was created in 1977. That year, three vessels taken into custody paid a total of

\$589,000 in settlement of the cases. In 1978, 11 vessels paid \$680,000 in FCMA violation actions.

## Skipjack Tuna Spawn in Captivity

Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, called aku in Hawaii, spawned in captivity last summer for the first time anywhere in the world. The event took place in the experimental tanks at the Kewalo Research Facility of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center's Honolulu Laboratory, according to Richard S. Shomura, Director of the Laboratory. The Kewalo Research Facility has been gearing up for last summer's experiments to artificially induce tunas to spawn in captivity, Shomura said.

The skipjack tuna, 13 in all, were delivered to the Kewalo Research Facility at about 11 p.m. on 28 June by Albert Grace, skipper of the FV *Bluefin*, said fishery biologist Thomas K. Kazama who has overall supervision of the project. The following morning, about 6 a.m., evidence of spawning was observed by the scientists monitoring the fish. They found approximately 110,000 "ripe" eggs in the water strainer from the tank the tuna were swimming in.

Following this discovery of the spawning, a sexually ripe male and female were taken from the holding tank and stripped of their eggs and sperm. The eggs were artificially fertilized by mixing them with the sperm and the thousands of fertilized eggs were placed in special aquaria for careful observation. The tiny skipjack tuna larvae hatched after 30 hours and Kazama and his team began attempts to rear the larvae by feeding them with marine plankton from cultures established for this purpose.

According to Calvin M. Kaya, a visiting scientist from the faculty of Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont., who is participating in the experiments, this successful spawning is another breakthrough in attempts to routinely induce captive tunas to spawn in shoreside tanks. Last summer another species of tuna, the kawakawa, *Euthynnus affinis*, was induced to

spawn in captivity through hormone treatments at the Kewalo Research Facility. The only other instance of a tuna spawning in captivity is that of bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus*, spawning in large netted enclosures in Japan.

These two "firsts" of artificially inducing captive tunas to spawn constitute a significant development in tuna research, said Shomura. Scientists at the Honolulu Laboratory hope that these initial successes will lead to the development of techniques to routinely induce tunas to spawn and to rear their young in captivity. Shomura added that such research is made possible by the cooperation of fishermen of the likes of Captain Grace who have been bringing back live fish for these experiments.

### Tuna Energetics Study

Andrew R. Dizon, fishery biologist and leader of the Experimental Ecology of Tunas program at the Southwest Fisheries Center's Honolulu Laboratory has had a proposal on tuna energetics approved by the National Science Foundation for 2 years of funding. The study submitted jointly to NSF by the Southwest Fisheries Center, the California Institute of Technology, University of Wisconsin, and the University of Michigan, is titled, "Tuna energetics and hydrodynamics: An interdisciplinary study of energy transfers." The research will be conducted at the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory which supports the only facility in the world devoted to the maintenance and culture of tunas for experimental studies under controlled conditions.