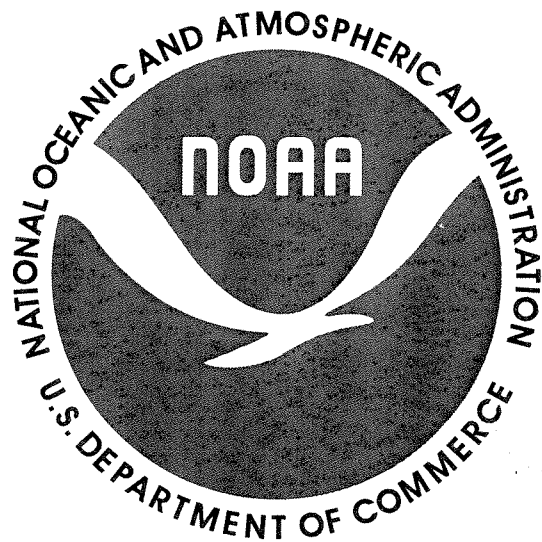


REPORT OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE
CENTRAL BERING SEA



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

**November 6 - 10, 2000
Shanghai, The People's Republic of China**

Final: 10 November 2000, 1140

1. Opening of the Conference.

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China (China) and the Chinese Delegation, the Chairperson, Prof. Zhou Ying Qi, President, Shanghai Fisheries University, 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 Fifth Annual Conference. Prof. Zhou convened the Annual Conference at 1030, Monday, November 6, 2000. One intergovernmental organization observer participated in the Annual Conference and the Scientific and Technical Committee meeting, Mr. Vladimir Fedorenko, the Executive Director of the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission.

2. Opening Statements and Introductions.

- 2.1. Opening statements provided by the Parties are included in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. A complete list of the delegates is provided in Appendix 2.

3. Elections.

3.A. Chairperson.

Mr. Zhou was elected as Chairperson of the Fifth Annual Conference.

3. B. Vice-Chairperson.

Mrs. Lidia Kacalska Bienkowska, Director, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Poland, was elected Vice-Chairperson.

3.C. Rapporteur.

LCDR Dwight Mathers (United States) was appointed as rapporteur to prepare the reports for the Fifth Annual Conference.

4. Adoption of the Agenda.

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

5. Report of the Science and Technical Committee.

5.1. Dr. Richard Marasco (United States), Chair of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee, reported on the results of the S&T Committee Meeting of November 6-8, 2000.

These are detailed in the "Report of the Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee," which was distributed separately to the Parties. The S&T concluded that, despite the extensive research efforts of the Parties in 2000, there were insufficient data to directly estimate the Aleutian Basin pollock (ABP) biomass. As prescribed by the Convention, the S&T agreed to use the indirect method to estimate the ABP biomass. According to Annex Part I C of the Convention, the Bogoslof Island biomass represents 60% of the ABP biomass. Therefore, the Bogoslof Island biomass of 270,000 mt and 257,000 mt determined by the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* and the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1*, respectively, are the most recent estimates that should be used to indirectly estimate of the ABP biomass. **Using these two figures, the S&T Committee agreed that the ABP biomass would be indirectly estimated as 428,333 mt, as determined by the results of the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1* survey, to 450,000 mt as determined by the results of the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* survey.**

5.2. Dr. Marasco concluded by referring the Conference to the "Report of the Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee" for additional specifics of the S&T Meeting. **The Conference agreed to adopt the "Report of the Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee."**

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. Japan requested from the United States and Russia any maps they may have indicating fishing management measures in their exclusive economic zones (EEZ). Japan explained that such maps would help it to better understand the complex measures these countries take to conserve and manage pollock resources within their EEZs. The U.S. delegation responded that much of this information is available on U.S. Internet websites. It agreed to provide the Parties with the pertinent web addresses and to also distribute additional information. Russia responded that it would provide the data requested by Japan for 2000 and the measures for 2001, which are expected to be more stringent, once they are finalized.

6.A.2. The Conference agreed that this item had been thoroughly discussed during the S&T Meeting and agreed that no further discussion was necessary.

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

6.B.1. The United States stated that the comprehensive research plan considered in the S&T Committee meeting is a very important activity for future research efforts to best assess the status of the Pollock stocks in and around the Convention Area. Progress was made by the Parties for tentative plans to conduct research cruises at about the same time and in the same area of the Bering Sea in 2002. The United States reminded the Parties that the S&T Committee agreed to form a working group led by Dr. Neal Williamson (United States) to coordinate work on the comprehensive research plan for 2002. The United States asked each of the other Parties to provide the name of its point of contact. The Parties responded with the following names:

Japan: Dr. Akira Nishimura, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute
Poland: Mr. Jerzy Janusz, Sea Fisheries Institute
China: Mr. Liu Xiaobing, Bureau of Fisheries, Division of International Cooperation
Korea: Dr. Seok-Gwan Choi, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
United States: Dr. Neal Williamson, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center.
Russia: Dr. Vladimir Radchenko, TINRO Center.

6.B.2. The Chair of the S&T Committee summarized the Plan of Work for the Committee for 2001 as (1) a survey by the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* (United States) in the Bogoslof Island area, (2) creation of an historical catch database, (3) planning for a cooperative research vessel survey in 2002, and (4) trial fishing, if authorized, for 2001.

6.C. The Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing in 2001.

6.C.1. The Chair for the S&T Committee stated that the Committee discussed this issue and recommended extending the same terms and conditions adopted for trial fishing in 2000 for 2001, with one change--a two week vice one month notification.

6.C.2. Korea stated that, although there are different views on the definition of the precautionary approach, the common goal of all Parties is to better estimate of the biomass of the pollock stocks in the Convention Area. Korea said it believes the best way to gather data on these stocks is to conduct trial fishing operations. Currently, only two vessels from each Party are allowed to trial fish in the Convention Area at any given time. Korea stated that the number of trial fishing vessels should be increased to better estimate the pollock stocks. Korea suggested that Parties which do not intend to conduct trial fishing should be allowed to transfer their trial fishing rights to Parties that do intend to conduct trial fishing.

6.C.3. Russia stated that when considering the Korean proposal, the Parties must carefully consider the status of the pollock stocks. The S&T Committee estimated the Aleutian Basin pollock biomass at approximately 428,000-450,000 mt. This estimate could be too high. The results of the Bogoslof Island surveys indicate that the Parties may already have overfished the stock in the Convention Area by the time the Convention was signed. Russia said it does not see the utility of increasing the trial fishing effort. China did extensive trial fishing this year and found very few fish. The Korean proposal would allow twelve trial fishing vessels in the Convention Area, but if there are no fish, what will they do? Allowing additional trial fishing could send the wrong message to the fishermen, i.e., that there are fish in the Convention Area when there are actually no fish there. This could cause even greater economic loss for those fishermen. Russia is in favor of waiting until the stocks begin to recover before increasing trial fishing. Until that time, Russia said it opposes the Korean proposal.

6.C.4. The United States supported Russia's comments and cautioned the Parties about thinking that an increase in trial fishing vessels will necessarily result in better biomass estimates of the pollock stocks in the Convention Area. Such research requires well-designed, credible research plans. It also requires much more coordination than currently takes place with trial fishing operations. Trial fishing provides useful data, but not the kind that allows the estimation of biomass. The United States said it does not support deviating from the current policy on trial fishing.

6.C.5. China stated that one of the main purposes of trial fishing is to prove whether or not the scientific data is true. China proposed that the Parties conduct coordinated or joint trial fishing. For example, if each Party sent 2 vessels at the same time, there could be 12 trial fishing vessels in the Convention Area at the same time and that may improve the information obtained from trial fishing.

6.C.6. The United States stated that the China's proposal is worthy of serious consideration by the Parties. In the past, when trial fishing plans have been provided, the information contained in the plans has generally been poor--last minute and incomplete. To make the Chinese proposal work, the Parties would need to coordinate the trial fishing plans of all the Parties to improve the scientific data they would collect.

6.C.7. Japan agreed that scientific information gathered by trial fishing vessels is not as detailed as the information provided by research vessels, but nevertheless, the information that is gathered can be used to show the existence of fish in the CBS. For this reason, trial fishing is valuable for determining if commercial fishing in the Convention Area is feasible. Japan expressed interest in China's proposal for joint or coordinated fishing, but explained that Japanese fishermen are not currently able to participate in trial fishing due to economic reasons. Because of this, Japan said it would be willing to transfer its trial fishing opportunity to another Party that might be interested in conducting additional trial fishing in 2001, per Korea's proposal.

6.C.8. The United States expressed the opinion that if trial fishing is to be for the purpose of providing additional scientific information, a multinational approach is best. This allows the fishermen of all Parties to be involved in the trial fishing efforts and observe first hand the status of the stock within the Convention Area. The United States reminded the other Parties that the S&T Committee agreed to work towards a comprehensive research plan and three of the Parties are planning research cruises in 2002. A working group has been established to coordinate these efforts.

6.C.9. Japan stated that for the purposes of gathering scientific data, it agreed with the concept of a coordinated research plan. However, Japan believes that the first priority of trial fishing should be to predict the feasibility of commercial fishing, not to gather scientific data.

6.C.10. The Russian delegation informed the Parties that, due to the current economic situation in Russia, Russian commercial fishing vessels conduct most scientific research with special scientific instruments installed. This practice provides good scientific data. Expenses to cover these research activities are negligible in comparison to the other expenses for the vessel. Russia suggested that other Parties outfit their trial fishing vessels with similar scientific equipment so that trial fishing can provide much better scientific data and improve our knowledge of the stocks in the Convention Area.

6.C.11. Japan said it could not support this proposal, since trial fishing should be for the purpose of determining the feasibility of commercial fishing and scientific data gathering is a secondary purpose, according to the Convention. Japan had a problem with the Russian proposal that trial fishing be used for scientific purposes because the potential expense of such trial fishing would be imposed on Japanese fishermen and they could not expect any income from trial fishing.

6.C.12. China reiterated that trial fishing has two purposes--to augment and improve results from scientific research and to determine the feasibility of commercial fishing. China stated that a joint effort to coordinate trial fishing plans would need to involve at least eight vessels to get meaningful data. The Parties' goal should be to improve trial fishing efforts.

6.C.13. Mr. Woo-Kun Lim, Chairman of the North-Pacific Trawl Fisheries Committee (Korea), made a statement on behalf of Korean fishermen (Appendix 4).

6.C.14. The United States stated that if trial fishing is to be used for gathering scientific data, then it must be carefully controlled and coordinated. The Chinese proposal for joint or coordinated fishing represents a responsible and reasonable suggestion. Such a multinational effort would require some cooperation, but that is the whole reason for the Convention--to cooperate to gather information on how to best manage this fishery. The United States believes the Conference has acted very responsibly to manage this fishery. The Parties must continue to look at the long-term health of the pollock resource and not be shortsighted. The ultimate goal is to have a pollock stock that is capable of supporting a sustainable fishery.

6.C.15. Japan pointed out problems regarding trial fishing for the purpose of gathering scientific data. First, the area where data would be gathered is limited, since trial fishing is only conducted in the Convention Area and not in the adjacent EEZs. Japan said it does not agree with the Russian suggestion that scientific data should be gathered by trial fishing vessels, since trial fishing vessels are not research vessels and there is no guarantee that the trial fishing vessels would always be able to collect the scientific data in a competent manner.

6.C.16. Korea stated that trial fishing is important for providing additional data on the CBS pollock biomass that would otherwise be unavailable because of the moratorium.

6.C.17. Poland stated that during the Seattle meeting, the purposes of trial fishing were extensively discussed and the Parties agreed that the gathering of fishing data and limited scientific data is the purpose of trial fishing vessels. Based on this, Poland would support using the same terms and conditions for trial fishing in 2001 as were used in 2000.

6.C.18. The United States supported this proposal and Russia agreed. Korea emphasized that it supports its request that would enable Parties to transfer trial fishing opportunities to other Parties, since the number of trial fishing vessels currently allowed is not sufficient.

6.C.19. Since trial fishing efforts to date have resulted in very few fish being caught in the Convention Area, the United States asked Parties how many trial fishing vessels are necessary to count zero pollock? As stated earlier, the United States said it would need much more detailed trial fishing plans before it could accept the transfer of trial fishing opportunities.

6.C.20. Russia stated it viewed the earlier United States proposal (that the working group for developing the comprehensive research plan for 2002 also examine trial fishing and how efforts could be coordinated to provide better information) as a good compromise. The proposal to increase the number of trial fishing vessels would give the fishermen the wrong impression. The United States proposal would solve the three problems presented by Korea, China and Japan.

6.C.21. The United States recommended that (1) Parties adopt the recommendation of the S&T Committee that the trial fishing terms and conditions for 2001 be the same as 2000; (2) the working group that would be looking at a comprehensive research plan for 2002 would also look at ways to improve coordinated trial fishing efforts in the future and how trial fishing can be improved and factored into the comprehensive research plan; and (3) suggested that the individuals in that working group initiate contact by December 2000 to begin their coordination and determine if an intersessional meeting of the group would be necessary.

6.C.22. Poland supported these recommendations and Japan also supported them under the condition that trial fishing would only be conducted voluntarily.

6.C.23. Korea stated that, in terms of trial fishing, Korea agrees with China's proposal for joint trial fishing efforts to get as much scientific information as possible about the pollock stocks in the Convention Area. Japan commented that the decision to conduct trial fishing by Japanese fishermen is not controlled by the Japanese Government, but the fishing industry. Therefore, although Japan cannot commit its fishermen to a joint trial fishing plan, it does not want to prevent the other Parties from conducting joint trial fishing.

6.C.24. China stated that trial fishing is very important and is a "bridge" that connects the fishermen to the scientists, especially when considering joint trial fishing efforts and a comprehensive research plan. Russia supported the Chinese proposal and stated that when it raised the matter of the usefulness of combining fisheries surveys and trial fishing, it was with the same goal as what China has proposed--to link the fishermen with the scientists and allow fishermen to see what the scientists are doing first hand. This will ensure the fishermen understand the true status of the stocks, since fishermen think that as long as there is water, then there will be fish.

6.C.25. The United States stated it could support joint trial fishing, as long as it was in the context of the terms and conditions previously adopted by the Annual Conference. Joint trial fishing would also need to be voluntary, since it is unlikely the United States would participate in the actual joint trial fishing effort. However, the United States would want to participate in the planning and evaluation of any data that is collected.

6.C.26. **The Parties agreed to the following:**

-- that the Trial Fishing Terms and Conditions for 2001 (Appendix 5) would be the same as those used in 2000 with one change, a two week instead of a one month notification;

-- that Parties should be encouraged to conduct voluntary joint trial fishing and Korea agreed to coordinate the joint trial fishing efforts of the Parties for 2001;

-- that the working group looking at a comprehensive research plan for 2002 would also examine at ways to improve coordinated trial fishing efforts in the future and how trial fishing can be improved and factored into the comprehensive research plan; and

-- that the individuals in that working group initiate contact by December 2000 to begin their coordination and determine if an intersessional meeting of the group would be necessary.

6.D. The Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) for 2001.

6.D.1. The United States recommended a zero AHL for the following reasons. During the S&T Committee's discussion of this issue, a bar chart showing biomass estimates from 1988 to 2000 (Appendix 6) was distributed. It showed a biomass in a state of decline for that period. If the Parties wish to employ the precautionary approach, then AHL should be zero. In light of what is known about recruitment, there can be no other alternative. The United States said it does not understand how setting an AHL of anything other than zero can be consistent with the precautionary approach.

6.D.2. Japan stated that the Aleutian Basin stock is in critical condition as was discussed in the S&T Committee meeting. Japan still understands, in principle, that a scientifically reasonable AHL could be established, calculated on the basis of allowable biological catch (ABC). The Parties need to carefully consider the conservation and management of the stock in light of the discussions in the S&T Committee. There has been the most rigorous moratorium in place on the high seas for many years now and Parties cannot do any additional fishing management measures on the high seas. Taking into account the current status of the stocks in the Aleutian Basin, Japan understand that it is necessary to examine the conservation and management measures in the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) where the Aleutian Basin pollock are migrating. This is in keeping with the precautionary approach suggested earlier by the United States. In order to protect this stock which is at a critical stage and to implement the precautionary approach, Japan willingly accepts a zero AHL for 2001. However, if sufficient conservation and management measures are not imposed in the EBS, Japan would support setting an AHL based on Japan's ABC proposal. Then, if AHL was established, Japan would not fish on that AHL, taking into consideration the ABP stock situation.

6.D.3. Russia stated that the historical data on the Aleutian Basin stock indicates there are two stocks, one originating in the western Bering Sea (WBS) and one in the EBS. Catch statistics for the area west of 174°E show that from 1983 to 1993, the catch varied from 200,000 mt to 410,000 mt. The stock biomass in that area was estimated at 1.5 mmt to 2.5 mmt at that time. Each year Russian fishermen have observed that spawning pollock increasingly moved to deeper depths after spawning. The stocks would then return to that area in the autumn. Russia reported that pelagic stock of WBS pollock were overfished in the Aleutian Basin, which lead to its decline. The shelf part of that stock did remain in the WBS and is still there. There were two components to the WBS stock, shelf pollock and pelagic pollock. The shelf component is all that remains. Over the past few years, Russia has attempted to convince its fishermen not to continue fishing that stock to allow it to recover under the precautionary approach. This is the first year Russia has succeeded in this endeavor and fishing will not be allowed west of 174°E starting in 2001. Fishing habits on the outer edge of the shelf and on the slope and spawning behavior are similar to the Bogoslof Island area. A similar picture is observed with the Bogoslof stock. Most of the pelagic stock there has been liquidated and it is mostly the shelf stock that remains. The S&T Committee estimated that the stock biomass there is 270,000 mt, leading to an indirect estimate of the Aleutian Basin stock of 450,000 mt. If a harvest is allowed, then this fragile stock will be further damaged. Therefore, Russia supported a zero AHL for 2001. Russia agreed that Japanese fishermen are not interested in conducting trial fishing since those fishermen recognize there are no fish, but that concept is not logically consistent with setting an ABC as Japan has proposed.

6.D.4. Poland stated that it should be possible to set an AHL based on the amount of stock available for both biological and political reasons. The biological reasons were discussed during S&T Committee. The political reasons are because the fishermen have been hurt financially by no fishing in the CBS and the Polish Government is under increasing pressure to allow them to resume fishing. Poland said that although the Convention was not established against the fishermen, many fishermen believe it is against them, especially with eight years of moratorium. Opening a fishery with a small AHL would send a positive signal the fishermen that fishery managers are sensitive to their needs.

6.D.5. Korea stated that Korean fishermen are desperate to resume fishing in the Convention Area. Korea proposed setting an AHL following the precautionary approach. Korea commented that the Convention's requirement of a minimum 1.67 mmt biomass to establish a commercial fishery was not based on science. Setting even a small AHL would provide more scientific data. Korea said that such a "cautionary" AHL might be too small for the fishermen to actually resume fishing, but it would give the fishermen hope for the future, when a larger AHL could be established. Korean

fishermen are also willing to use 110mm mesh net in the codend.

6.D.6. China stated that the Chinese Government is also under pressure from Chinese fishing companies to resume fishing. The 1.67 mmt was set eight years ago when data was insufficient, but today there are more data. China does not believe that the 1.67 mmt figure is still valid after eight years and thinks the Parties should change the methods to set AHL in order to provide relief to the fishermen.

6.D.7. The United States said that statements that the 1.67 mmt biomass required by the Convention fishery was not based on science is irresponsible to the Parties that were involved with drafting the Convention. To date, no information has been provided to support the contention that 1.67 mmt is inappropriate.

6.D.8. Japan referenced Article VII of the Convention regarding the setting of AHL. If every effort to achieve consensus has failed, then AHL is set by Part I of the Annex, which requires an Aleutian Basin biomass of 1.67 mmt. Before the Conference can proceed to 1.67 mmt figure, there must be no consensus on AHL. It is not appropriate to discuss 1.67 mmt at this time until it is determined whether there is consensus on AHL.

6.D.9. China referred to the United States statement that there is no information available to say that a 1.67 mmt biomass requirement is inappropriate. That amount was set eight years ago and there have been many environmental changes since then. China commented that it might be necessary to specify another area, in addition to the Specific Area (Area 518), as a more reliable estimator of the ABP biomass. There has been no sign of recovery for eight years. Conservation is important to not only protect the stocks, but also to rationally utilize the stocks.

6.D.10. The United States stated that this highlights the United States' strong support for a comprehensive research plan for all the Parties to study all of this information. Additionally, some scientists have suggested that having the Bogoslof Island biomass represent 60% of the ABP biomass, as required by the Convention, may actually be too high. However, it is possible that the number may be too low.

6.D.11. The United States recalled Japan's reference to Article VII of the Convention, that if there can be no consensus on setting an AHL, then the AHL shall be zero. It was the United States' view that the Parties are far from consensus on setting AHL, so the AHL should be set at zero for 2001.

6.D.12. The Chair noted the Conference failed to reach consensus for 2001 as required by Article VII-1, therefore, in accordance with Article VII-2, **the AHL for 2001 will be set at zero.**

6.E. The Establishment of the Individual National Quotas (INQ) for 2001.

In accordance with Article VII-2, since the AHL for 2001 was set at zero, no individual national quotas (INQ) were established.

6.F. The Adoption of Appropriate Conservation and Management Measures Based Upon the Advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

6.F.1. The Chair for the S&T stated that no recommendations were forwarded from the S&T Committee.

6.F.2. Korea suggested that a single observer should be sufficient to perform the observer duties. Korean vessels only have room for one observer. Korea believes that only the flag State should place observers on its vessels.

6.F.3. Poland supported this proposal.

6.G. Trial Fishing Plans in 2000.

6.G.1. Poland stated it planned to conduct trial fishing in 2001. Poland prepared a plan (Appendix 7) in accordance with what was discussed at the Pollock Workshop in Seattle in July 2000.

6.G.2. Japan distributed its trial fishing plan for 2001 (Appendix 8), but cautioned that the final provisions of this plan are still uncertain at this time.

6.G.3. Korea said it intends to conduct trial fishing in 2001 and will notify the Parties in accordance with the trial fishing terms and conditions.

6.G.4. The United States stated that the trial fishing provisions require a proposal for trial fishing at the Annual Conference and merely stating an intent to conduct trial fishing is not sufficient. At the July Pollock Workshop, the Parties agreed to seek the adoption of the Poland's format for trial fishing plans at this Annual Conference. The United States recommended the Parties adopt the recommendation of the Pollock Workshop with regards to the trial fishing plan format proposal.

6.G.5. China distributed a trial fishing plan for November 20 to December 10, 2000 (Appendix 9)

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

The United States, Russia, and Japan reported that they observed no violations of Convention Area for the preceding year.

6.I. The Consideration of Matters related to the Conservation and Management of Living Marine Resources other than Pollock in the Convention Area.

No comments.

6.J. Meeting Observers.

6.J.1. The United States stated that at last year's Annual Conference some draft proposals for observers was distributed and the Parties asked for additional time to review and comment on those proposals. The United States did not receive any comments on those proposals for the last year and recommended the Conference continue, for another year, the same observer rules for 2001 that were used in 2000. This would allow intergovernmental organization (IGO) observers, like the NPAFC representative that is here now, to observe our meetings.

6.J.2. Korea agreed that it was important to have observers to increase transparency and stated that observers should be limited to IGOs.

6.J.3. Japan agreed with the United States proposal.

6.J.4. China supported the Korean proposal and stated that the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGO) should be carefully considered due to the sensitive nature of discussions at the Annual Conference and the additional expense it would require of the host country. After fishing resumes, China would be in favor of allowing NGOs to participate as observers.

6.J.5. Russia agreed with the United States proposal

6.J.6. **In the interim, the Parties agreed to the same observer rules for 2001 that were used in 1998, 1999, and 2000 (See Report of Second Annual Conference 1997 Part 6.J.10).**

7. Sixth Annual Conference.

7.A. Time and Location.

Poland offered to host the Sixth Annual Conference from September 17-25, 2001, in Gdynia, Poland. Poland will notify the other Parties of any changes to the time and place via diplomatic channels and asked the Parties to provide a contact person for the passing of information.

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. Poland, as the host country for the Sixth Annual Conference, named Dr. Tomasz Linkowski, Director of Sea Fisheries Institute, as Chairperson. Contacts for each Party are included in Appendix 10.

7.B.2. Russia offered to host the Seventh Annual Conference in 2002. In keeping with past practices, Russia will identify a Vice-Chairman for the Seventh Annual Conference at a later date.

8. Other Business.

The Annual Conference **agreed** on a joint press release (Appendix 11) and **adopted** the Report of the Fifth Annual Conference.

9. Closing Statements.

Closing statements provided by the Parties are included in Appendix 12.

10. Adjournment.

The Chairperson, Dr. Zhou, adjourned the Fifth Annual Conference at 1140 on Friday, 10 November 2000.

Appendices:

1. Opening Statements
2. Delegation Lists
3. Plenary Agenda
4. Statement by Korean Fishing Industry Representative
5. Trial Fishing Terms and Conditions for 2001
6. Biomass Estimates for 1988-2000
7. Polish 2001 Trial Fishing Proposal
8. Japan 2001 Trial Fishing Proposal
9. China Nov-Dec 2000 Trial Fishing Proposal
10. Party Points of Contact for Seventh Annual Meeting
11. Joint Press Release
12. Closing Statements

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

**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

<p>Russian Federation Opening Statement</p>
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Dear Mr. Chairman, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it's a great honor for the Russian Delegation to participate at the Central Bering Sea Pollock Convention Fifth Annual Conference. We'd like to express our gratitude to the Government of China for hosting the Conference, providing excellent accommodations, and for the warm hospitality, shown to us in Shanghai.

This year Russia undertook much effort in studying and conserving pollock in its EEZ, including matters related to its commitments to fulfill decisions of the Fourth Annual CBSPC Conference regarding genetic identification of pollock stocks.

We highly value the results of the Workshop, which took place last July in Seattle. Due to this, we understand that our knowledge of reasons related to the absence of recovery of the Aleutian Basin pollock stock, notwithstanding the moratorium, was insufficient. At that meeting, all of us got confirmation of the justifiability of the main provisions of the Convention and of the necessity to join efforts of all our countries for the comprehensive study of pollock stocks.

My delegation hopes that our joint study will enable us to receive answers to why there is no recovery of the stock and when the recovery will take place.

The Russian Delegation will exercise all efforts to fulfill the tasks of our Conference in the Conservation and Management of the Aleutian Basin pollock stock.

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**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

<p>Poland Opening Statement</p>
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Mr. Chairman and distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honor for me to participate in the Fifth Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention of the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea.

On behalf of the Polish Delegation, I would like to express our gratitude to the government of China for organizing and hosting this meeting. Let me say that the economic condition of Polish fishing companies that have fished in the North Pacific area is getting worse year by year. The international waters of the Bering Sea were the main fishing grounds for Polish fishermen. Since 1996, the management of the pollock resources depends on the decisions of this Conference and there has been no commercial fishery in this area. Polish fishermen accuse the Polish government for this condition. The discussions and decisions of this meeting have been observed in Poland as an important and progressive event. For our fishermen, the progress means that their expectations will be satisfied by establishing AHL after eight years of suspended fishery. To make it reality, a constructive deliberation on AHL determination is needed. We hope that the plan of our work will be fulfilled with the satisfaction to all the participants.

Opening Statement of the United States

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Observer from the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, ladies and gentlemen, we are honored to be here in Shanghai for the Fifth Annual Meeting. It is appropriate to hold this meeting, the last of the millennium, in Shanghai, a city which is focused on the future. For many of the U.S. delegation, this is the first visit to the great nation of China. We extend our appreciation to the government of the People's Republic of China and the Shanghai Deep Sea Fishing Company for providing this excellent facility to hold our conference.

We have gathered here to discuss pollock in the central Bering Sea. Despite over seven years of no fishing in the central Bering Sea, pollock are in low abundance. We understand that the lack of pollock causes economic and social disadvantages, but more important, there is much we don't understand about the current situation. The improving collaboration of our respective scientists will play a key role in determining the mechanisms which may responsible for it.

This past summer, all Contracting Parties participated in a workshop to better understand Aleutian Basin pollock abundance. We believe that the workshop was very successful in exchanging information and perspectives about the relationship of pollock in the central Bering Sea with adjacent stocks and the impacts of the moratorium on us all. We believe that it is vitally necessary to continue these discussions to improve our understanding of pollock ecology and develop effective regimes to manage fishing when the Aleutian Basin pollock recovers. Despite current events, the United States remains optimistic that a fishery will once again occur in the central Bering Sea, managed by this body. But, we must remain patient, resolute and optimistic.

Mr. Chairman, we are here to continue our important work to further the objectives of the convention. I would like to introduce the U.S. delegation.

Thank you.

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
JAPANESE DELEGATION AT THE 5-TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
CENTRAL BERING SEA CONVENTION

Thank you Mr.Chairman.

Distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Japanese delegation, I would like to express our pleasure to be here in Shanghai, to participate in the 5-th Annual Conference of Central Bering Sea Convention.

First of all, I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Chinese Government for hosting this meeting, and Chinese staffs for contributed them to make the arrangement of this meeting.

We have experienced the framework under the Convention about 5 years, where we have tried to make the necessary rules for fishing and tried to rebuilt the abundant stock in Aleutian basin by means of taking fishing moratorium for 8 years.

We all the Parties have continued eager efforts for scientific studies and taken necessary measures to rebuilt the stock, however, unfortunately, we have never obtained any fruits from the Donut hole.

Japan much worries about those mysterious situation in Aleutian basin pollock stock, and recognize that we all of the Parties are obliged to do our best to rebuilt the stock.

Japan is expecting that we all the Parties will focus our discussion on all the measures of what we can do for rebuilt the stock.

Mr.Chairman and all participants here, this meeting is the mirenium meeting and also the last meeting in the 20 th century, and Japan strongly hope for this meeting that we can develop the effective measures, which will be enough valid to the coming new century.

Mr.Chairman and all participants here, we finally express our strong desire that we can develop our relationships more closely through this meeting.

Now I would like to introduce our delegation;

Thank you!

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

NOVEMBER 6 — 10

SHANGHAI, CHINA

DELEGATION

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Kim Jin-Yeong Dr.	Distant-Water Fisheries Resources Division Director National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
Seok Gwan-Choi Mr.	Distant-Water Fisheries Resources Division Vice-Director National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
Lim Woo-Kun Mr.	Chairman North-Pacific Trawl Fishery Committee of Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association
Chung Sung-Ho Mr.	President HaeGil Co., Ltd
Lee Chang-Soon Mr.	Director KeukDong Moolsan Co., Ltd
Kim Tae-Won Mr.	General Manager

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

NOVEMBER 6 — 10

SHANGHAI, CHINA

DELEGATION

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Deli Xin (Head)	Director for the Distant Water Fisheries Bureau of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. Qianfei Liu	Official Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. Yingqi Zhou	President Shanghai Seafood University
Mr. Jinfa Zhang	Permanent Vice General Manager Shanghai Deep Sea Fisheries Company
Mr. Zulian Zhang	Vice General Manager Shanghai Deep Sea Fisheries Company
Mr. Xianbiao Zhou	Vice General Manager CNFC Oversea Fisheries co., Ltd
Mr. Changhong Shi	Manager of the Sales Department CNFC Oversea Fisheries Co., Ltd
Mr. Xianshi Jin	Specialist Yellow Sea Fisheries Research

**FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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IN THE CENTRAL BERING SEA**

NOVEMBER 6 — 10

SHANGHAI, CHINA

DELEGATION

JAPAN

Ichiro Kanto Mr.(Head)	Fisheries Agency of Japan
Nobuya Kaneko Mr.	Fisheries Agency of Japan
Noriaki Takagi Mr.	Japan Deep Sea Trawlers Association
Takashi Yanagimoto Mr.	Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute
Akira Nishimura Mr.	Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute
Akiko Tomita Ms.	Interpreter
Midori Ota Ms.	Interpreter

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

**NOVEMBER 6 — 10
SHANGHAI, CHINA**

**DELEGATION
REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

Lidia Kacalska Bienkowska Mrs. (Head)	Director Fisheries Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Jerzy Janusz Mr.	Sea Fisheries Institute

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

NOVEMBER 6 — 10

SHANGHAI, CHINA

DELEGATION

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Boris N. Kotenev Mr.	Director VNIRO
Vadim L. Minin Mr.	Division Chief Fisheries Committee
Vadim M. Nikolaev Mr.	Representative of the Fisheries Committee in The Republic of Korea
Mikhail A. Stepanenko Mr. ✓	Sector Chief, TINRO-center
Elena V. Stakhanova Mrs.	Division Chief Fisheries Committee

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

November 6-10, 2000
Shanghai, China

DELEGATION

THE UNITED STATES

Dr. Richard Marasco (Head of Delegation)
Director, Resource Ecology and Fishery Management Division
Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Dr. Loh-Lee Low
Resource Ecology and Fishery Management Division
Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS

Dr. Neal Williamson
Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division
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Silver Spring, Maryland

Stetson Tinkham
Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State

Captain Vincent O'Shea
Chief, Planning and Policy
U.S. Coast Guard, 17th District, Juneau, Alaska

CDR Michael Cerne
Chief, Living Marine Resources Division, Office of Law Enforcement
U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, D.C.

LCDR Dwight Mathers
U.S. Coast Guard Liaison Officer
U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

ADVISORS

Dennis Austin - Washington State Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

David Benson - Trident Seafoods

Gordon Blue - Alaska Crab Coalition

Alvin Burch - Alaska Dragers Association

Kevin Duffy - Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Paul MacGregor - At-Sea Processor Association

Brent Paine - United Catcher Boats

Thorton Smith - North Pacific Longline Association

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

**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

<p>Agenda Annual Conference</p>
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1. Opening of the Conference
2. Opening Statements 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 Establishment of the Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing in 2001
 - D. The Establishment of the Allowable Harvest Level
 - E. The Establishment of the Individual National Quotas
 - F. The Adoption of Appropriate Conservation and Management Measures Based upon the Advice of the Scientific and Technical Committee
 - G. Trial Fishing Plans
 - 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. Sixth Annual Conference
 - A. Time and Location
 - B. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
8. Other Business
9. Closing Statements
10. Adjournment

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In 1993, many scientists recommended a temporary moratorium in the Central Bering Sea for 2 years and estimated that pollock stocks would recover gradually. Our fishing communities accepted this moratorium for the conservation and management of living marine resources. Unfortunately, it has been extended for another 6 years since then because the scientists' forecast and estimate proved to be wrong. But now, 8 years later, we face the unsatisfactory fact that we still have no sign for pollock stocks in this area to recover gradually, in spite of the long term and most strict management in this area.

As moratorium goes on, our fishing industries that used to operate in the Central Bering Sea, were exiled from those waters and confronted with bankruptcy and ruin, what is more, deepening their financial crisis and management difficulties day by day. So I, as one of the delegation representing Korean Fishing Industry, have come here in this meeting to remind all the delegates of the current urgency in our fishing industries and fishermen's lives. There is no time to let hundreds of thousands of our fishermen, who love ocean so much and live their precious life on it, be depressed and discouraged with their life, ending up losing their livelihood. What is more, there is no time to let our fishing industry be abandoned by the power logics of the Great Nations.

Difficult though the last **8 years of moratorium on fishing** was to accept, I earnestly believe that Korean government as well as Korean fishermen have made every effort to observe the Convention with patience. The main reason why we made that choice is to shape our fishing environment and industries into better and more stable one to which our next generations fall heir. The present Convention, to our great disappointment, is not designed to deal with these kinds of our contributions.

We, therefore, refuse to accept no more extension of moratorium, inspired by the scientists, irresponsible for their remarks because it will continue to shake the very foundation of our fishing industries. It would be fatal for this meeting to overlook the voice of our fishermen and underestimate their rights to survive.

I ask a question of you, who can assume responsibilities for our fishermen's vanishing dreams and hope and who can predict how many more years our fishing industry should endure this kind of suffering not to be quaranteed? No one can make a responsible answer such a question. I would like to suggest all the parties for regaining our fishing rights and the right for survival as follows:

To begin with, I would like to request the coastal states to allocate Quota to the fishing nations such as Poland, China and Korea. The coastal states allowed just their own

vessels to fish in their EEZ, to the contrary, prohibiting foreign vessels from operating in their EEZ at the same period. Now is the time, I believe, to open the doors of fishing opportunity to us fishing countries. We can never be satisfied as long as our fishing industries cannot regain Quota from this convention in reward for Moratorium.

Secondly, I would like to suggest that Parties reassess the use of Area 518 in the current management approach and consider expanding the area surveyed and increasing the number of vessels upto 10 at a minimum because the present surveys by trial fishing in this area is too low to research broader and to get sufficient data. If these earnest proposals of our fishing communities fail to reach consensus at this session again, we have no reasons to participate in this meeting any more and have no choice but to consider revising the Convention or withdrawing from it through governmental channel.

In our country, today, at least tens of thousands of fishermen are ending up losing their job, and their family is suffering from severe financial crisis and despair. Beyond that, Pollock resources in Korea have always been recognized as one of the major sources of animal protein. In consideration of those above, we strongly believe that it is altogether timely and proper that we should review Pollock Resources on the basis of not only protection of marine resource but also food security of human beings.

THANK YOU

WOO-KUN LIM

CHAIRMAN
NORTH-PACIFIC TRAWL FISHERIES COMMITTEE

KOREA DEEP SEA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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

TRIAL FISHING FOR POLLOCK IN 2001

9 November 2000

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

1.1. To establish the 2001 Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) at zero; and

1.2. To authorize trial fishing in the Convention Area.

2. The Annual Conference establishes for 2001 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 two weeks 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 Observer of other Parties to the Convention, with the cost being paid by the requesting Party 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 Conference 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 Sixth Annual Conference, Parties conducting trial fishing in 2001 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.

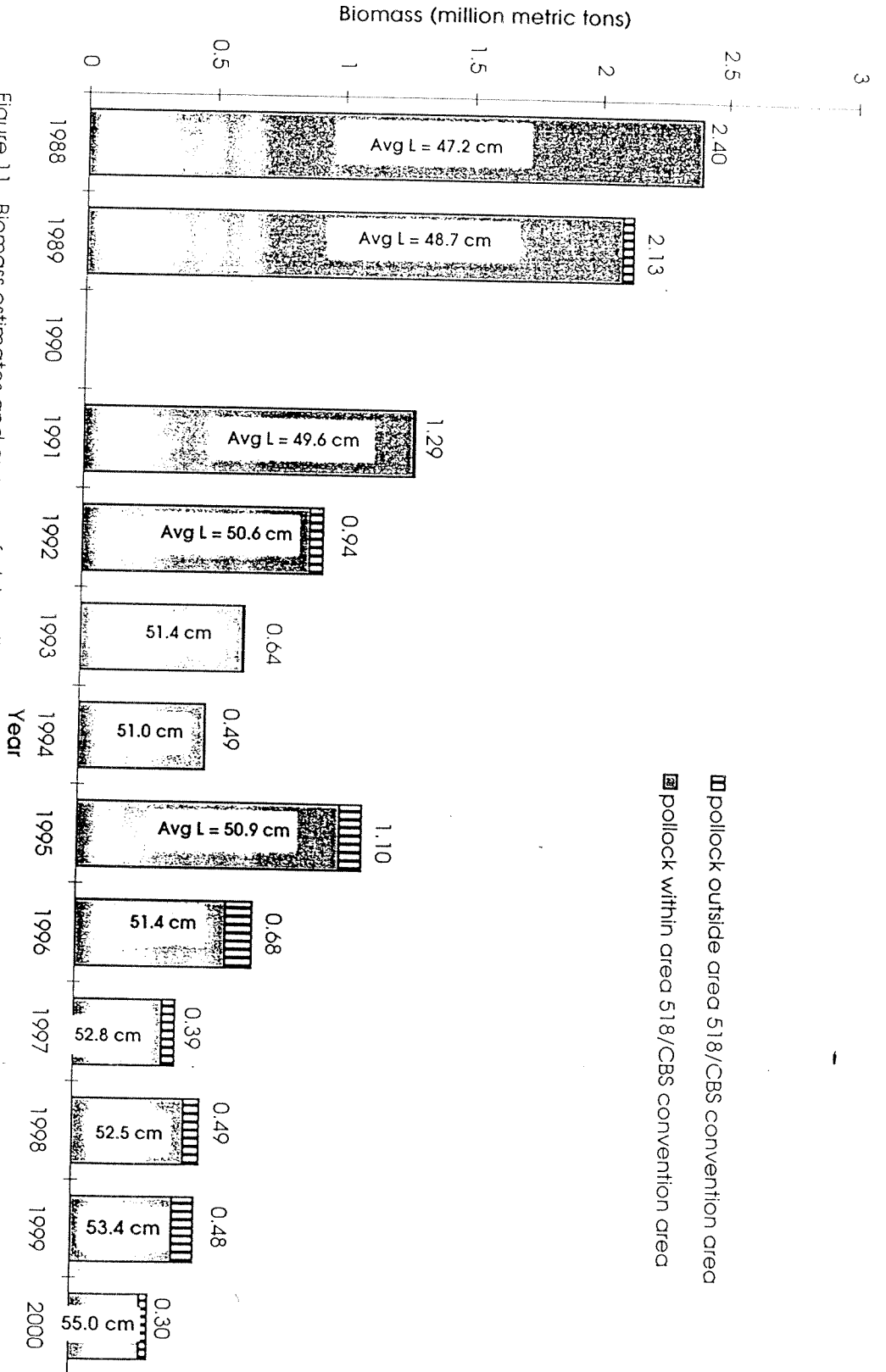


Figure 11. Biomass estimates and average fork lengths obtained during winter echo integration-trawl surveys for spawning walleye pollock near Bogoslof Island, 1988-2000. U.S. surveyed '88-'98, and '00. Japan surveyed in '99. There was no survey in 1990. Total pollock biomass for each survey year is indicated.

Cruise Plan for Trial Fishing in International Waters of the Central Bering Sea in 2001

1. Institution

Polish Deep Sea Fishing Companies – to be determined later

2. Number and Identification of Vessels

2 Number of vessels - to be determined at the Annual Conference

Name of Vessel - to be determined later

Type, Length, Tonnage, Radio call sign, Immarsat number - to be provided later

3. Notification

a. All details on identity of vessels and fishing plans will be provided to the Parties at least one month prior to commencement of trial fishing.

b. Any change to the plans of the trial fishing vessels will be provided to the Parties at least two weeks prior to commencement of fishing.

4. Trial Fishing Area

International waters of the central Bering Sea. The detailed trial fishing and research tracklines will depend on availability of vessels and will be determined before the cruise.

5. Time of Trial Fishing

To be determined later

6. Purpose - The main purposes of trial fishing operations are to:

a. determine geographic distribution of pollock in the international waters of the central Bering Sea

b. estimate fish density (collect CPUE data)

c. determine feasibility of commercial fishing operations

d. determine species composition of catches

e. collect biological data on pollock (length, sex, body weight, maturity, etc.)

7. Data Collection

Data will be collected in the format according to the "Observer Manual for Sampling of Central Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries" as agreed to by the Parties in March 1997. The forms are:

- Haul Summary Form
- Species Composition Form
- Length Frequency Form
- Biological Samples Form

8. Scientific Observers

Observers will be trained and certified in accordance with guideline procedures for training observers as conducted for the Parties in March 1997 in Seattle.

The training institution for the observers will be Sea Fisheries Institute, Gdynia, Poland

9. Report of Results

The reports and data collected will be made available to the Science and Technical Committee at the Annual Conference.

**Japanese Cruise Plan for Trial Fishing in International Waters
of Central Bering Sea**

1. Institution
Names of Fishing Companies - to be provided later
2. Number and Identification of Vessels
Number of Vessels - to be determined at the Annual Meeting
Name of Vessels - to be determined later
Type, Length, Tonnage, Radio call sign, Immarsat number - to be provided later.
3. Notification
 - a. All details on identity of vessels and fishing plans will be provided to the Parties at least one month prior to commencement of TF.
 - b. Any change to the plans of trial fishing vessels will be provided to the Parties at least two weeks prior to commencement of fishing.
4. Trial Fishing Area
International waters of the Central Bering Sea. The detailed trial fishing tracklines will depend on availability of vessels and will be determined before the cruise.
5. Time of Trial Fishing
To be determined later.
6. Purpose
The main purposes of trial fishing operations are to:
 - a. determine feasibility of commercial fishing operation.
 - b. collect data on geographic distribution and fish density of pollock in CBS.
 - c. collect biological data on pollock (length, sex, body, weight, maturity, etc.) and catch data (species composition, etc.).
7. Data Collection
Data will be collected in the format according to the "Observer Manual for Sampling of Central Bering Sea Pollock Fisheries" as agreed to by the Parties in March 1997.
8. Scientific Observers
Japanese Scientific Observers will be on board to the trial fishing vessels and those vessels will accept at least one Scientific Observer of other Parties to the Convention, with the cost being paid by the requesting Party in accordance with arrangements to be made between Japan and the other Parties.
9. Report of Trial Fishing Results
A report of the trial fishing which provides the type of catch and distribution data as specified in the CBS Observer Program Manual will be submitted to the other Parties prior to the Sixth Annual Meeting.

Trial Fishing Plan in Nov. ~ Dec., 2000

Shanghai Deep Sea Fisheries Company, Shanghai, China

1. General description of the trial fishing vessel

Vessel Name	Kai Chuang
Register No.	D69800101
Place of Registration	Shanghai, China
Call Sign	BIEL
Ship Owner	Shanghai Deep Sea Fisheries Co.
Address	10 Jiang Pu Road, Shanghai, China
G.T./T	3180
N.T./T	1361.39
L.O.A/M.	92
Breadth/M	15
Depth/M	9.55
Main Engine H.P. (KW)	1764.5 X 2
Shipyard	Built in Likeman, Bremen, Germany
Date of Building	In August, 1973
Sat Auto Tracing System	No. 15462, Type MAR-90

2. Period of the trial fishing

Nov. 20th ~ Dec. 10th, 2000

3. Survey area and method

Eastward from the west of Bering high sea and gradually enlarge the survey area;
Fish detecting, harvesting and processing;

Multi-water level, stern trawling mid-water trawl net

4. Object of trial fishing

Pollock

5. Relevant remark

The trial fishing is subject to the relative fishery regulations on the management of the Bering high sea

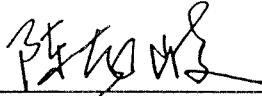
Date

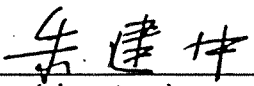
Company Name
Address
Contact numbers

To Whom It May Concern,

1. This letter hereby authorizes government officials from People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Poland, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America to obtain real time satellite position information by polling the Inmarsat C terminal(s) listed below. This authorization is only for the period of time our vessels are involved in Trial Fishing for Pollock in the Central Bering Sea as designated below or by the government agency responsible for managing fishing in the Central Bering Sea:

Vessel Name	Call Sign/ Official Number	Terminal Number (9 digit IMN)	Terminal Manufacturer	Primary Reporting Ocean Area	Start Date	Stop Date
KAI CHUANG	BIEL	441288610	FURUNO	Bering SEA	2000.11.20	2000.12.10

Terminal Owner  Date 2000.11.07.
(signature)

Vessel Owner  Date 2000.11.07.
(signature)

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

**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

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

6-10 November 2000, Shanghai, China

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Final, 10 November 2000

Representatives from the six Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea met in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, and continued their cooperative efforts to conserve and manage pollock stocks in the Convention Area.

The Fifth Annual Conference held under terms of the Convention took place 6-10 November 2000. It was chaired by Mr. Zhou Ying Qi of the People's Republic of China. The members of the Convention -- 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 for 2001.

Based on the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee, the Parties agreed that data was insufficient to directly determine the biomass of the pollock stocks in the entire Aleutian Basin. Several of the Parties, including Korea, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Poland, proposed the establishment of an Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) for 2001, in consideration of the difficulties faced by their fishermen. Following a thorough discussion, the Parties, noted that after eight years the moratorium has not achieved pollock stock recovery in the Central Bering Sea. The Annual Conference could not reach consensus to set an Allowable Harvest Level for a commercial fishery for pollock in the Central Bering Sea during 2001. In such a situation, under the procedure set out in Article VII-2 and Annex Part 1 of this Convention, the Allowable Harvest Level for 2001 was set at zero.

Trial fishing by vessels of the Parties to the Convention will be permitted in 2001, under the terms and conditions established by the Annual Conference. The Parties agreed to plan a future joint trial fishing effort in the Convention Area.

In 2002, member States plan to conduct an extensive, coordinated research effort in the Central Bering Sea and the Aleutian Basin. This provides a unique opportunity to study pollock distribution and migration patterns in the Bering Sea. Comprehensive scientific information such as this will allow the Parties to make better informed decisions on the conservation and management of the pollock resource.

The Parties agreed on the value of participation by observers to the Annual Conference and to continue for one more year the interim measures for the admission of observers.

The Republic of Poland invited the Parties to convene the Sixth Annual Conference in September 2001 in Gdynia.

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

**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

<p>Republic of Korea Closing Statement</p>

Mr. Chairman and distinguished participants:

First of all, on behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to express my gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman for your able guidance of this meeting. I would also like to thank the delegations for their cooperation and active participation in the Conference.

The Fifth Annual Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea discussed various pending issues including the assessment of pollock resources and an action plan. However, we were not able to make any progress on the issue of optimum utilization. It is with regret that the Parties have yet to reach consensus on setting AHL, which stands as the central agenda item of this Conference. So we must remind all the Parties here that the distant water fishing countries' fishing industries and fishermen's lives are significantly influenced by insufficient scientific results.

It is my earnest hope that through the positive support and participation by the Parties, we may achieve fruitful progress at the next Annual Conference. Finally, we thank the Chinese delegation for its sincere hospitality and for the provision of such excellent facilities in hosting this meeting. Thank you.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY JAPAN

Mr.Chairman, distinguished Representatives, fellow delegations, ladies and gentlemen, I want to express, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, our satisfaction with the success of the 5 th Annual Conference.

First of all, we want to thank from the bottom of our heart the Government of China, who have hosted this meeting in this interesting city of Shunghai.

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

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

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

We understand that the achivement of rational exploitation of Pollock resources in the Central Bering Sea is not always easy.

However, we heartly believe that the effort for mutual understanding among us will be the most important factor in this work.

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

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

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

We understand that decisions of the S&T should be based on pure scientific principles and not be political ones and we should maintain our close communications after that, in order to bridge our existing gaps through the best scientific evidence.

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

We also look forward to the Chairmanship by Mr.Tomasz Linkowski at the Sixth Annual Meeting next year in Porland.

We thank ~~Russia~~^{Russia} for agreeing to host the Seventh Annual Meeting. Finally, we are much looking forward to see you also in the next year meeting again.

Thank you.

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

**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Russian Federation Closing Statement

The Russian Delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Chinese government for its warm hospitality in arranging and hosting the Fifth Annual Conference. We are also grateful to the Secretariat who provided first-class service for our work.

Words of special gratitude go to the Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Zhou Ying Qi, to the Chairman of the S&T Committee, Dr. Richard Marasco, and the rapporteur, Lieutenant Commander Dwight Mathers, whose responsible approach to work, high professionalism and deep knowledge of problems under consideration enabled all of us to fulfill the Fifth Conference tasks.

The success of the Conference was facilitated by lengthy discussions last July in Seattle of the problem, which was of concern to all of us, that is, why there was no recovery of the Aleutian Basin stock, notwithstanding the moratorium on fishing during the past eight years.

This is of particular concern to Russia. A major portion of the western pollock stock was comprised of a pelagic group, which, after spawning in Olyntorsky Bay and off the Korjah coast, was feeding in the Central Bering Sea. Since 1994 it disappeared. Since 1994 the Russian catch in this area declined by 200,000 to 300,000 metric tons so the summary loss by Russia during seven years equals 1.4 to 2.1 million metric tons. Starting in 2001, there will be a prohibition on directed fishing for this stock and its yield will be limited to an incidental by-catch of 5,000 to 10,000 metric tons.

Russia is sympathetic to the economic and social losses incurred by other Parties in the Central Bering Sea because of the absence in the area of the pelagic groups of pollock from the eastern and western parts of the Sea. However, we are not losing hope for the recovery of these groups and we are optimistic that the prohibitions we are introducing on fishing for shelf pollock will facilitate the recovery of pelagic pollock.

In Seattle, Russia initiated the idea of a comprehensive program of the Bering Sea and pollock studies by all the Parties in order to understand when this will take place. In our opinion, this task should be solved by the joint efforts of both scientists and fishermen of our countries, in order, on the basis of mutual understanding and interest of scientists, that fishermen and managers, obtain an understanding of the great responsibility of each of these parties for the recovery of the Aleutian Basin pelagic pollock and for its rational long-term utilization on the scientific basis, taking into account the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.

Our gratitude to the Chairman and to all the participants in the Conference for the joint work. We believe that our hope will grow at our meeting in Poland.

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

**NOVEMBER 6 – 10, 2000
SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**United States
Closing Statement**

Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the United States, I wish to extend our deep appreciation to the People's Republic of China for their warm hospitality hosting this Fifth Annual Conference. I also wish to thank the Contracting Parties for their spirit of cooperation to make this conference a success.

We are fully aware of the hardships imposed on all Parties because of the lack of pollock in the central Bering Sea. None of us is immune from this situation. The reason for the lack of pollock in the central Bering Sea remains a mystery, however, it is only through our cooperative efforts that we will be better able to understand what is responsible for the lack of recovery of central Bering Sea pollock. If anything, the moratorium has shown us that the Aleutian Basin pollock stock has not recovered and that we all need to focus our research on why.

Let us not lose sight of the "big picture", which is to rebuild and ensure the sustainability of the Aleutian Basin pollock stock for the benefit of us all. During this week's discussions, all Parties agreed that more research is necessary to determine stock structures of pollock, distribution and migration, and the influence of the marine environment on pollock stocks in the Bering Sea. We are pleased to note that cooperative research cruises are being planned for the near future to help us understand pollock dynamics.

We must not deviate from the path we are presently following as this may further jeopardize recovery and require even more time to rebuild pollock stocks. Throughout the discussions, much emphasis was placed on the importance of our fishermen's desire to resume fishing as soon as possible. We agree with this goal, but think viable fisheries will only be feasible when stocks have rebuilt from their present depressed state. Hopefully, that will be soon.

I would like to recognize the hard work of our rapporteur, LCDR Dwight Mathers. After three years of faithful service, we are sorry to announce that he will be leaving for another assignment. We wish him well and thank LCDR Mathers for his contributions to this collective body.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you for your leadership of this conference. Fellow delegates, have a safe journey home and we look forward to seeing you next year in Poland.

Thank you.

FIFTH 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

November 6 - November 8, 2000
Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Final: 8 November 2000, 1500

Delegations from the People's Republic of China (China), Japan, the Republic of Korea (Korea), the Republic of Poland (Poland), the Russian Federation (Russia), and the United States participated in a meeting of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee in Shanghai, People's Republic of China.

1. Opening Remarks.

Dr. Richard Marasco (United States), Chair of the Scientific and Technical (S&T) Committee, opened the meeting at 1400, Monday, 6 November 2000. The meeting agenda and a list of the participants are provided in Attachments 1 and 2.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur.

LCDR Dwight Mathers (United States) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda.

The Parties adopted the Provisional Agenda (Attachment 1), as modified.

4. Discussion of Science Issues.

4.1. Update Catch and Effort Statistics.

4.1.1. For the record, the pollock catch history in the Central Bering Sea (CBS) – Donut Hole area is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Catch (mt)</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Catch (mt)</u>
1984	181,200	1993	1,957
1985	363,400	1994	N.A.
1986	1,039,800	1995	Trace
1987	1,326,300	1996	Trace
1988	1,395,900	1997	Trace

1989	1,447,600	1998	Trace
1990	917,400	1999	Trace
1991	293,400	2000	Trace
1992	10,000		

4.1.2. The United States reported that since 1994 there have only been trace amounts of pollock harvested from the Bogoslof Island area (BIA). In 2000 only 28 mt of pollock was taken as incidental catch and 29 mt was taken as incidental catch in 1999. The U.S. did not conduct any fishing in the Donut Hole in 2000, but provided the catch in the U.S. EEZ for the last three years as follows:

	<u>Gulf of Alaska (GOA)</u>	<u>Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Area</u>	<u>Bogoslof Area</u>
1998	125,100 mt	1,1251 mmt	8 mt
1999	95,600 mt	9909 mmt	29 mt
2000	69,800 mt	1,1125 mmt	28 mt

4.1.3. Russia reported its pollock catch data for the Russia EEZ for the past four years:

	<u>East of 176°E</u>	<u>West of 176°E</u>
1997	680,000 mt	72,000 mt
1998	644,000 mt	86,000 mt
1999	632,000 mt	85,000 mt
2000	317,000 mt*	51,700 mt*

* - Preliminary data as of November 1, 2000.

Additional biomass estimates for pollock in the WBS for 1996-2000 are provided in Attachment 3.

4.1.4. Japan stated it had no catch in the area.

4.2. Year 2000 Results of Trial Fishing.

4.2.1. Korea provided the results of its 2000 trial fishing efforts (Attachment 4). Trial fishing operations were conducted by two commercial fishing vessels, the *F/V ORIENTAL DISCOVERER*, which operated in the Convention Area from 12 January- 3 February 2000, and the *F/V ORIENTAL ANGEL*, which operated in the area from 11-20 May 2000. The main purpose of the trial fishing was to determine the geographical distribution of pollock in the Convention Area and to collect biological data. Neither vessel caught any pollock in the Convention Area.

4.2.2. Poland reported that it conducted trial fishing with a total of two vessels in the Convention Area in 1999, one vessel in spring 1999 and one in August 1999. Poland reported on the spring trial fishing operations at the Fourth Annual Conference in Pusan. The Polish delegation provided the Parties with a report on the results of the August 1999 effort (Attachment 5). Poland employed a 95-meter stern trawler from 17-30 August 1999 for trial fishing survey. Only two pollock were caught in the Convention Area. Poland did not conduct any trial fishing in 2000.

4.2.3. The Russian delegation stated that in the 1980's, when pollock stocks were in better condition, it recorded echosoundings on the pollock prey. Russia suggested that when these trawls are conducted that plankton samples also be gathered for comparison purposes. Poland responded that it might be difficult to fulfill such a request since the commercial fishing vessels that are

conducting the trial fishing have no equipment to collect such data.

4.2.4. China reported on the results of its trial fishing efforts for May 20 to June 28, 2000 (Attachment 6) with the *FV KAI CHUANG*. China caught a total of 4 pollock in 4 trawl hauls. China said that the poor results could be attributed to the timing of the operations (too early in the fishing season) and the relative inexperience of the vessel's captain. China believes that after eight years of moratorium that there should be much pollock in the CBS. In the future, China will conduct trial fishing in August or September. The United States noted that the charts in the report indicate the *FV KAI CHUANG* covered a considerable portion of the Convention Area.

4.2.5. The S&T Committee agreed that Parties conducting trial fishing should attempt to gather all possible data. However, the collection of scientific data will not be a condition for trial fishing.

4.3. Review Results of the 1999/2000 Research Cruises.

4.3.1. The United States reported on two echo integration trawl-survey cruises (Attachment 7) with the *RV MILLER FREEMAN* in the winter of 2000. The first was a 4-day (February 27-March 2) survey in the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) shelf and the second was an 11-day (March 2-12) survey of the BIA. For the EBS, there was an estimate of 816,000 mt of pollock with a mean length of 44 cm. In the BIA, there was 301,000 mt of pollock with a mean length of 55 cm. Spawning is thought to occur later in the EBS than in the BIA, which is consistent with past survey results. Since 1988, the BIA biomass has decreased from 2.4 mmt to 0.301 mmt in 2000. The United States reported on the preliminary results of the EBS survey by the *RV MILLER FREEMAN* in June-July and a bottom-trawl survey by two chartered commercial fishing vessels in May and July 2000. Fish were found in the Unimak area all the way up to the U.S.-Russia maritime boundary. East of 170°W, 0.89 mmt of pollock was found, and west of 170°W, 2.16 mmt of pollock was found. The mid-water hydroacoustic trawl estimate was 3.05 mmt, down from 3.29 mmt in 1999. The bottom-trawl survey estimate increased from 3.57 mmt in 1999 to 5.14 mmt in 2000. Therefore, the total biomass estimate increased from 6.86 mmt in 1999 to 8.19 mmt in 2000.

4.3.2. Korea asked what the peak spawning time is. The United States responded that its surveys were designed to begin before spawning, when the pollock were the most concentrated. Because of this, the peak spawning time is not precisely known, but the United States believes that there has been no significant change in the time of spawning over the last several years.

4.3.3. Russia reported that its 2000 surveys in the western Bering Sea (WBS) have not yet been completed, but distributed a detailed preliminary report to the S&T (Attachment 8). Three vessels were employed the *RV TINRO*, the Russian trawler *NOVOKIEVKA* and the Japanese *FV KAIYO MARU 28*. Russia told the Parties that the biomass of the pollock stocks in the Russian EEZ are at the lowest level since surveys began. The echo-integration trawl survey preliminary pollock biomass estimation for the Navarin Area is 118,000 mt. The final stock biomass will be determined once the survey vessels have returned.

4.3.4. Japan reported on a survey in progress during the Annual Conference. It conducted a survey in the CBS from 28 October-6 November 2000 (Attachment 9) with the *RV DAITOKU MARU NO. 11*. The objectives of the cruise were to conduct a hydroacoustic survey to determine

the pollock distribution in the CBS, as well as a mid-water trawl survey to collect pollock samples in the CBS. Preliminary results show no significant echosounding findings deeper than 200 m. Some echo-signs were found at 100-150 m, however no pollock were collected during the midwater trawl survey.

4.3.5. Korea reported on its echo integration and midwater trawl survey by the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1* from February to April 2000 (Attachment 10). The survey was conducted from the BIA to the CBS. Seven mid-water trawls were made. The estimated biomass for the BIA is 455,000 mt; for the Specific Area (Area 518), 257,000 mt, and the middle continental shelf area, 32,000 mt. These results are similar to the results of the U.S. survey.

4.3.6. The United States pointed out that the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1* conducted its survey a few days after the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN*. A comparison of the maturity stages of pollock observed during each survey showed that pollock spawning started just after the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* went through the area and before the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1* finished its survey. Also, the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN*'s biomass estimate of 270,000 mt for the Specific Area (Area 518) compares very favorably to the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1*'s estimate of 257,000 mt.

4.4. Review the Status of Aleutian Basin Pollock Stocks

4.4.1. The S&T concluded that, despite the extensive research efforts of the Parties in 2000, there were insufficient data to directly estimate the Aleutian Basin pollock (ABP) biomass. The S&T Parties agreed to use the indirect method to estimate the ABP biomass as prescribed by the Convention. According to the Convention Annex Part I C, the Bogoslof Island biomass represents 60% of the ABP biomass. Therefore, the Bogoslof Island biomass of 270,000 mt and 257,000 mt determined by the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* and the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1*, respectively, are the most recent estimates that should be used to indirectly estimate the ABP biomass.

4.4.2. Using these two figures, the S&T Committee agreed that the ABP biomass would be indirectly estimated as 428,333 mt as determined by the results of the *R/V TAMGU NO. 1* survey to 450,000 mt as determined by the results of the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* survey.

4.4.3. Russia observed that the Parties may be overstating the abundance of the ABP biomass by using the indirect method. Russia believes that less pollock may actually migrate from the BIA into the deeper waters of the Aleutian Basin.

4.5. Factors Affecting the Recovery of the Stock

4.5.1. The United States referred the S&T Committee to pages 4-5 of the Report of the CBS Pollock Workshop held in Seattle, Washington, in July 2000. At the Workshop, participants discussed a number of factors that may be affecting the recovery of the ABP stock, including overfishing in the CBS and neighboring areas, natural population declines, environmental changes, ecological changes, and predation. Workshop participants concluded that a combination of all of these factors may have affected the recovery of the ABP stock.

4.5.2. Russia pointed out that the ABP stock is considerably different from the continental shelf stocks in the observed rate of growth and weight increases. This led Workshop participants to conclude that the pelagic ABP stock had been greatly affected by overfishing.

4.5.3. Korea stated that despite eight years of the moratorium, the CBS pollock stock biomass has been fluctuating at around 600,000 mt due to all the factors discussed at the July Workshop. Korea suggested that the S&T should focus on recovery methods and stressed that no progress has been made in showing migration routes. Korea added that additional conservation and enforcement measures consistent with what has been done in the CBS may be necessary within the areas adjacent to the CBS to allow for recovery of the CBS pollock stocks. Korea pointed out that the United States increased the total allowable catch (TAC) in the U.S. EEZ by 147,000 mt in 2000. Korea believes that as long as the fishing capacity is increased in the areas adjacent to the CBS, there will be no recovery of the pollock stocks in the CBS.

4.5.4. The United States disagreed with Korea that fishing in the U.S. EEZ has contributed to the decline of the CBS pollock stocks. The United States stressed that it had not fished in the CBS since the moratorium was established and, since 1994, it has refrained from fishing on the Bogoslof Island stocks, the stocks that are most directly linked to the CBS stocks. There was a 28 mt pollock bycatch in the BIA in 2000, but this represents only a tiny fraction of the estimated 270,000 mt biomass. The United States has also implemented a very conservative approach to setting the TAC for pollock the U.S. EEZ via the regional North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) and exploits less than 16% of the estimated 7 mmt pollock biomass. Setting the TAC in the U.S. EEZ is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, yet the United States has ceased fishing in many areas of its EEZ, often to the economic detriment of its fishing industry, in an attempt to rebuild the CBS pollock stocks. The United States has not allowed a direct quota for 2 years in the Aleutian Island area. The United States has not observed any correlation between fishing in the U.S. EEZ and the slow recovery of the CBS stocks. The United States has studied the pollock biomass for many years and it is well known that the EBS stock has always been large. The U.S. delegation stated that if all fishing in the U.S. EEZ ceased, there is no data to indicate that the pollock would migrate to the high seas.

4.5.5. Japan stated that it understood the management measures the United States had taken within its EEZ, that the United States has the sovereign right to control its fisheries there and that the management measures on ABPS should in principle be decided by consensus of all the Parties, although it might be difficult for U.S. fishermen to catch only EBS pollock in a mixed stock. The situation of mixed stock in EBS pollock is similar to the situation of salmon stocks NPAFC convention area and all the Parties of the NPAFC have been taking moratorium for salmon fishing in that area in order to conserve mixed salmon stocks. Japan believes that the S&T Committee should consider other management measures to improve Aleutian Basin stocks. Japan stated that one reason for the lack of recovery in the stocks could be other activities outside the Donut Hole, as mentioned by Korea. Japan agreed with the United States' comment that the relationship between ABP and EBS stocks is uncertain. Japan observed that the moratorium on fishing in the CBS has been in place for 8 years and there are no more stricter management methods that can be taken there to conserve the stocks. The only alternative appears to be improvement of the conservation and management measures in the adjacent areas.

4.5.6. Based on the differences in the CBS and EBS stocks and what Russia is currently observing in the WBS, Russia stated that it did not agree with the conclusions of Korea and Japan that the fishing activity on the continental shelf is affecting the recovery of the ABP stock. Russia referred the other Parties to page 4 of the Russian report. Page 4 shows that the low stock abundance since 1994 is the result of weak year classes, although stronger year classes of herring

have begun to emerge since 1992. Russia believes that oceanic conditions have been the main cause of the weak year classes of pollock and strong year classes of herring. Russia is confident that even a cessation of fishing will not affect the recovery of the stocks in the WBS.

4.5.7. China stated that human activity was one of the main factors affecting recovery, especially in the adjacent areas, so this factor should be seriously considered in the future. The recovery of the CBS stock should be the responsibility of all the countries, not just the distant water fishing nations. Even though the moratorium has been in place for 8 years, it is unclear to China how it has affected the CBS stocks.

4.5.8. Poland stated there are many factors that influence the ABP stock and it is difficult to point to one factor that affects the stocks. This was discussed extensively at the July Workshop with no conclusions.

4.6. The Effects of the Moratorium and its Continuation

4.6.1. Japan stated that this topic was discussed extensively at the July Workshop. The moratorium has had not only an economic impact, but also a spiritual impact on the fishermen of Japan. The moratorium has been a management measure for ABP stock, but Japan has seen no positive effect of the moratorium on the recovery of that stock. Japan believes that the S&T Committee should consider some other management measures.

4.6.2. Korea agreed with Japan and stated that there needs to be an AHL or a token AHL to give the fishermen hope.

4.6.3. Russia agreed with Japan that an extensive discussion of the effects of the moratorium was held at the July Workshop. One of the conclusions of the Workshop was that it is necessary to find out clearly what happened to the CBS pollock stocks. The Workshop was the first step in that process. Russia is hopeful that the joint efforts of all the Parties will solve this complex problem. One of the positive effects of the moratorium is that it resulted in the Seattle meeting. On the basis of what was discussed in Seattle and the exchange of opinions at the Fifth Annual Conference, Russia concluded that, at least for the next 5-7 years, there is no hope for the reestablishment of a fishery. When the fishery is resumed, it should be managed very carefully. There is no indication that when the fishery resumes it will be at the levels that were seen in the late 1980s. Russia agreed with the Korean research data that there is no pollock or pollock prey in the CBS.

4.6.4. The Parties agreed to reference the report of the CBS Pollock Workshop (Attachment 11), rather than repeat the discussion at the S&T Committee meeting, unless the Parties had additional comments.

4.6.5. Poland and Korea stated that there is no reason to continue the fishing moratorium in 2001, since it has been ineffective in rebuilding CBS pollock stocks. China suggested that, as a precautionary measure, a partial year moratorium should be considered by the Parties.

4.6.6. The United States agreed that the moratorium has had a negative impact on all the Parties' fishermen. However, the United States did not agree that lifting the moratorium would have a positive effect on the pollock stock recovery.

4.6.7. Korea agreed with China that the precautionary approach should be applied to fishing in the CBS area.

4.6.8. In relation to the proposal to end the moratorium, Russia asked if the United States would resume the Bogoslof Island fishery? Otherwise, it would be difficult to explain to U.S. fishermen why they could not fish in the Bogoslof area if there was fishing in the CBS. Russia reiterated the need for the moratorium to remain in place as long as there is no pollock.

4.6.9. The United States answered that resumption of the Bogoslof fishery would be at the discretion of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), which would consider a number of factors in whether to resume the Bogoslof fishery. The United States is currently undergoing a review of the impacts of U.S. fisheries on Steller sea lions

4.6.10. Japan stated that it was not necessarily speaking to lift the moratorium, but that the moratorium is not the only management measure available. Japan wants to consider all possible management measures when considering recovery of the Aleutian Basin Stocks.

4.7. Methodologies to Determine Allowable Harvest Level

4.7.1. Japan circulated a proposal for setting an ABC for the Convention Area for 2001 (Attachment 12). The methodology used is the same as in previous proposals by Japan. The estimated values of ABC in the Specific Area were from 3,768 mt to 33,150 mt using the data from the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* and a mortality rate of 0.2.

4.7.2. Russia stated that while the Japanese ABC proposal is interesting, when this Convention was signed, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) had not yet been signed. Today we must take into account not only our Convention, but also the UNFSA using the precautionary approach when setting AHL. In 1988, the Bogoslof biomass was about 2.4 mmt and the catch taken from the CBS was 1.4 mmt. In the last fishing year (1993), the Bogoslof biomass was 0.68 mmt and the catch from the CBS was 0.002 mmt. These figures illustrate that judging from the provisions of the Convention and the UNFSA, and the Bogoslof estimates this year, the catch from the CBS would only be a few kgs. This was confirmed by recent trial fishing efforts by the Parties that yielded very little pollock.

4.7.3. The United States recognized that Japan used the same methodology as the U.S. NPFMC to determine ABC. The United States stated that the Japanese proposal fails to consider a further step taken by the NPFMC—the setting of a minimum biomass level below which the United States will not fish. Such a minimum level is specified by the Convention. The Convention is very clear on what AHL could be based on varying levels of biomass. The Japanese proposal did not consider all the factors that should be considered when setting an AHL.

4.7.4. Japan responded that its proposal was only a forecast based on available data. It is for ABC and not AHL.

4.7.5. Russia pointed out that at the July Workshop there was a similar agenda item and considerable time was spent discussing this subject. Russia referred the S&T Committee to page

14 of the report on the CBS Pollock Workshop. Japan pointed out that China did not participate in this discussion at the meeting in July and also asked that its ABC proposal also be included in the S&T Committee report.

4.7.6. The Parties agreed to include the summary from that report here:

“Parties agreed that there are still differences in opinions relative to the procedures and approaches that should be used to establish pollock AHLs. There is support among some Parties to the Convention to establish pollock quotas at pollock biomass levels below the 1.67 million t threshold. Other Parties are of the opinion that the methods outlined in the Convention are appropriate, given the current condition of the pollock stocks. In light of the fact that these differences exist, the Parties believe that the best approach to narrowing these differences is to institute a research plan that begins to address some of the important questions that they have about pollock stocks in the Aleutian Basin. Parties recognize that this is a large undertaking that would require many years and a lot of money, staff, and research resources. Therefore, instead of coming up with a comprehensive list of questions to focus attention on, Parties decided to narrow the scope down to two questions to initiate such a research program:

(1) What are the pollock spawning locations in the Aleutian Basin?

(2) What are the migration patterns and geographical distribution of pollock stocks?”

4.7.7. Korea stressed the need to apply the precautionary approach in setting AHL and distributed a paper to that effect (Attachment 13). China stated that it viewed the application of the precautionary approach to AHL as a new concept. The United States disagreed with the premise of Korea’s paper and suggested that the Parties might be using different definitions of the precautionary approach since it did not see how setting an AHL in the case of the CBS would be more in line with the precautionary approach than setting an AHL of zero.

4.7.8. Russia submitted a document on the precautionary approach that is included in Attachment 14.

4.7.9. Poland suggested that an AHL could be established taking into account the precautionary approach. The reduction of the Aleutian Basin stock biomass from 1998-1999 was 9% and from 1999 to 2000, it was 31%. This fish was lost to the fishermen. Setting a low level AHL should not affect the CBS stocks. At the July Workshop, Russia presented a scenario in which up to 12 vessels could conduct trial fishing for 100 days catching 100 tons a day. This would be more dangerous to the recovery of the stocks than setting a low level AHL.

4.7.10. Russia stated that over the past 10 years, there has been a herring “epoch” in the Bering Sea and that this herring epoch could last another 10 years. At the same time, the WBS pollock stock has declined to a minimum level. Most stocks, including juvenile fish, are concentrated over the continental shelf and move only during migration periods. The climatic conditions have changed considerably from when the stocks were estimated at 2.5 mmt. There is nothing to

indicate that environmental conditions will change significantly in the near future to cause the CBS pollock stocks to increase significantly. Therefore, trial fishing by 12 vessels would have no harmful effect now.

4.7.11. The United States responded that if the Parties are concerned with trial fishing vessels catching too much fish, then limits can be placed on trial fishing regardless of whether there is an AHL or not. Many of the Parties have emphasized that 8 years of the moratorium have not resulted in the stocks rebounding. The stocks take time to recover. If Parties look at the 13 years for which there is catch and biomass data for the CBS under the terms of the Convention, there would only have been a fishery in 4 of those 13 years. The United States said it could not see how setting an AHL greater than zero will speed up stock recovery.

4.8. Comprehensive Research Plan for 2001

4.8.1. The United States presented its research plans for 2001, which are included in Attachment 7. The *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* will be in the Bering Sea to do an echo integration-trawl survey in the winter of 2001 and the U.S. intends to make a modification to the survey plan it has used in recent years. The *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* will survey the EBS in February 2001 and the Bogoslof Island survey in March 2001. The United States invited scientists from the other Parties to participate in the Bogoslof Island portion of the survey. The United States' survey design is still undecided.

4.8.2. Japan indicated it had no plans to conduct a research cruise in 2001, but presented its preliminary plans for a March 2002 survey (Attachment 15). Japan will use the *R/V KAIYO MARU*, which last surveyed this area in 1999. The 2002 plan is very similar to the 1999 plan with an acoustic survey, midwater trawl surveys, biological sampling, and oceanographic observation.

4.8.3. Korea stated it has no plans to conduct research in the Bering Sea in 2001, but also intends to conduct research in 2002. Korea will present its plan for 2002 at the next Annual Conference. Korea expressed interest in sending a scientist to participate in the *R/V MILLER FREEMAN* 2001 Bogoslof Island survey.

4.8.4. The United States noted that since the research vessels of the United States, Japan, and Korea intend to conduct research operations in 2002, those countries should coordinate their plans prior to the next Annual Conference so that those plans can be presented at that Conference.

4.8.5. The United States presented a paper (Attachment 16 entitled "Comprehensive Survey Planning for Central Bering Sea Pollock Resource Assessments" developed by a subgroup of the July CBS Pollock Workshop participants). One concern of the group is that it may not be practical, given the current low pollock biomass, to conduct a comprehensive research survey now. However, the potential of having three research vessels available at the same time in 2002 provides an excellent opportunity to increase our knowledge base for Aleutian Basin Pollock. There are three areas of concern, the U.S. EEZ, the Russian EEZ, and Donut Hole. If Parties intend to use trial fishing vessels to do research, they will need to secure special permission to fish in the EEZ areas. As noted above, three Parties have indicated they intend to do research cruises in 2002 with the potential for two other Parties to do research, which would result in considerable data sampling for 2002. Intercalibration between the research vessels would be necessary.

4.8.6. Japan commented on the plan for future comprehensive surveys. The continuous research on the status of pollock spawning areas in the Aleutian Basin and migration patterns is indispensable, because of the dynamic fluctuations in stock abundance and oceanic environmental conditions. Japan stated that it is not acceptable if the Parties can only conduct this kind of cooperative research in 2002 and not in later years, since one year's worth of data is not sufficient for reasonable estimation.

4.8.7. Russia reported that it conducted an open spawning pollock survey in the Western Bering Sea in 2000, which typically begins in May. The icy conditions prevented it from gathering sufficient data to estimate the spawning biomass. However the survey registered active pollock spawning at some stations in the Navarin area. Russia intends to conduct a similar survey in 2002.

4.8.8. Korea suggested that a way to increase the amount of scientific data gathered is for the Parties to increase the number of trial fishing vessels in the Convention Area.

4.8.9. The S&T Committee agreed to form a working group led by Dr. Neal Williamson (United States) to coordinate work on a comprehensive research plan for 2002.

5. Discussion of Enforcement and Management Issues.

5.1. Terms and Conditions for Trial Fishing for 2001

5.1.1. The Chair of the Enforcement/Management Group, Captain J.V. O'Shea (U.S.) stated that he had reported at the July Workshop that the INMARSAT service provider now requires that the fishing vessel owner provide permission for third Parties to receive transponder data. Therefore, if Parties submit notification to enter the Convention Area, they should fax a copy of the INMARSAT permission letter to each of the Parties. Then, if the Parties want to receive transponder data, they can submit the fishing state permission letter to INMARSAT and receive the data. The report of the July meeting includes a sample permission letter (Attachment 17).

5.1.2. Captain O'Shea further noted that the issue of trial fishing will be decided at the Annual Meeting, but only if the Parties decide to set the AHL at zero. Japan stated that they have discussed the INMARSAT permission letter within the Japanese government and reached the conclusion that Japan will submit transponder data in accordance with the provision of Article XI, 4 (a) of the Convention.

5.1.3. The S&T reviewed the Trial Fishing Terms and Conditions for Pollock Fishing for 2000.

5.1.4. Korea recommended:

--that the number of trial fishing vessels be increased to improve safety and increase scientific data gathering; allow Parties to transfer their trial fishing privileges to other Parties, but only allow 12 trial fishing vessels in the Convention Area at any given time;

--that a TAC of 10,000 or 20,000 mt could be imposed on these vessels and

--that the notification period for trial fishing be reduced from one month to two weeks.

5.1.5. The United States responded that it could accept a two-week notification period prior to the vessel entering the Convention Area. Regarding increasing the number of trial fishing vessels, the United States noted that the Convention already provides for two trial fishing vessels per Party,