

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

Resolution 76-~~20~~-FB

REGARDING FOREIGN FISHING ON EASTERN BERING SEA HERRING STOCKS

WHEREAS a substantial decline in the abundance of eastern Bering Sea herring stocks has been cited in the draft management plan for groundfish and herring fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; and

WHEREAS spawning populations of herring that occur along Alaska's coast winter offshore in the Pribilof Island area and are subject to fishing by foreign fleets in both coastal and offshore waters; and

WHEREAS native residents in several Alaskan coastal communities are greatly dependent on these herring stocks as a source of food; and

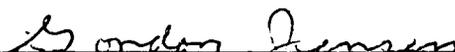
WHEREAS herring represent one of the few marine fishery resources present in many coastal areas having potential for greater domestic commercial fishery development; and

WHEREAS the Japanese gillnet fleet, which operates off the Alaskan coast from Bristol Bay to Norton Sound, is targetting on mature pre-spawning Alaskan stocks which are considerably below former levels of abundance; and

WHEREAS the present foreign gillnet fleet is marketing high quality roe taken from mature pre-spawning Alaskan herring which is in direct competition with the same markets that must be utilized for domestic commercial fishery products,

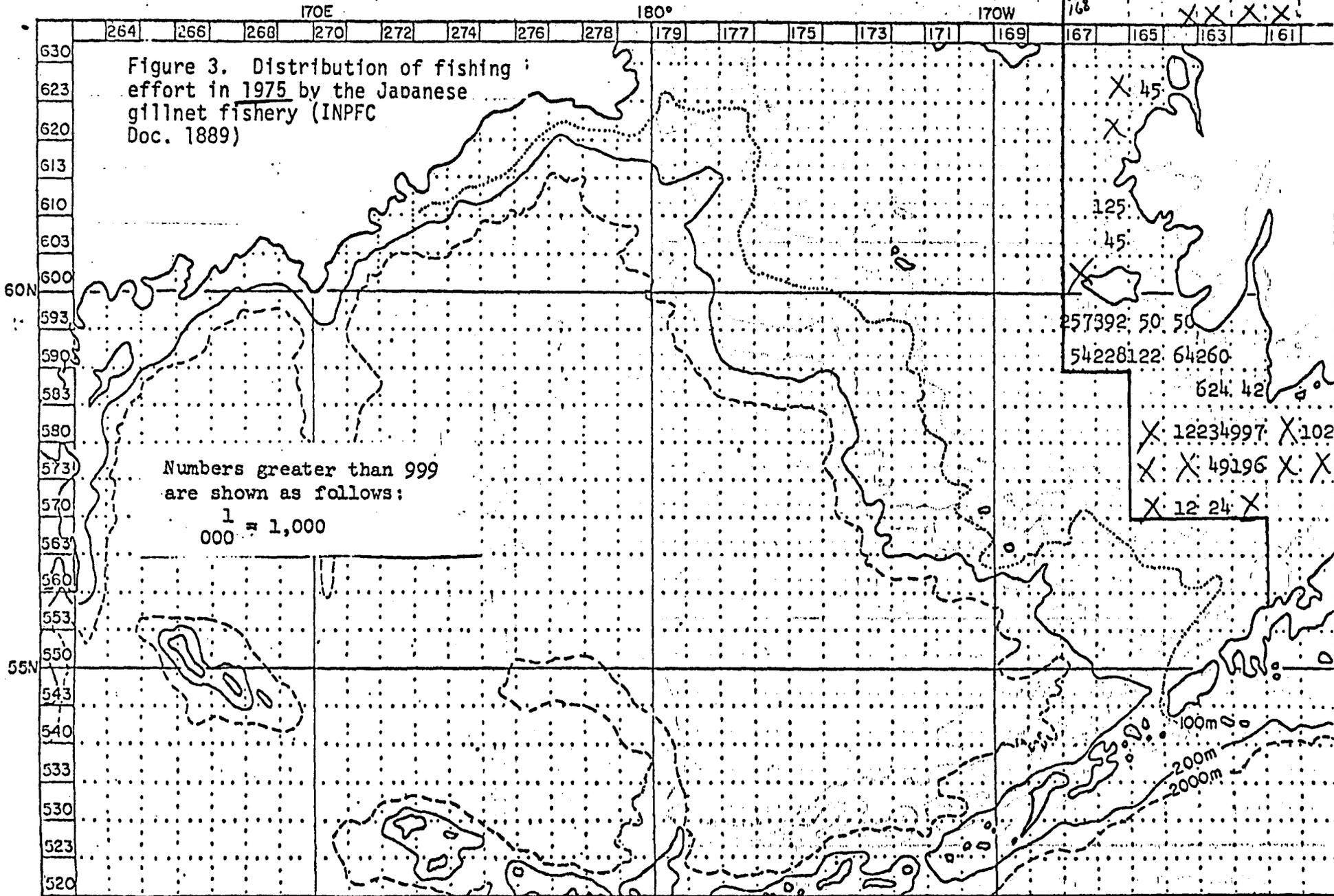
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Fisheries in order to foster conservation of eastern Bering Sea herring stocks and to enrich the quality of life in many coastal communities, hereby recommends that,

1. the proposed foreign nation gillnet allocation of 1,000 metric tons should be eliminated and this amount decreased from the TAC for foreign nations,
2. an area in the eastern Bering Sea adjacent to Alaskan spawning areas should be closed to herring fishing by foreign nations. This area should, in general, represent areas presently fished by the Japanese gillnet fleet to preclude future development of a new foreign nation fishery in this area targetting on herring.



Gordon Jensen, Chairman
Alaska Board of Fisheries

DATED: December 4, 1976



Recommend prohibition of foreign nation fishing east of solid line from March 15-June 15

X - herring catches made 1968 & 1969 (in addition to 1975)