

# Sheffield announces fisheries agreement

JUNEAU—Governor Bill Sheffield announced today the successful completion of an agreement between All-Alaska Seafoods and the North Pacific Longline Association, representing 18 Japanese longline fishing companies.

Under terms of the agreement, the Japanese companies have agreed to purchase one million pounds of finished Pacific Cod products from All-Alaska Seafoods, a shore-based Kodiak processing company. In return for the purchase, the State of Alaska and the North Pacific Fisheries management Council have agreed to support an allocation to the Japanese longline companies of 4500 metric tons of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea to be harvested during the remainder of 1985.

"This agreement is an example of the use of the state's policy on foreign allocations to achieve our goal of Alaskanizing our groundfish fishery," Sheffield said. As long as surpluses of groundfish are available for allocation to foreign fishermen, those allocations should be tied directly to actions that directly aid in the development of our seafood processing industry here in Alaska.

"In recent years, allocations have been issued largely on the basis of a foreign nation's willingness to purchase raw product in over-the-side joint ventures. These joint ventures have been a valuable contribution and have provided market opportunities for Alaskan groundfish fishermen.

"However, such joint ventures have always been intended as a transition tool, and as a mature commercial operation, should now stand alone from the allocation process as our foreign partners are encouraged to make other contributions toward fisheries development. Finished product purchases from Alaskan companies such as All-Alaskan Seafoods are an ideal contribution toward our

goal of Alaskanization," Sheffield said.

Member companies of the North Pacific Longline Association have been involved in Alaska fisheries development for a number of years, participating in sablefish marketing projects, a herring joint venture in Bristol Bay and a salmon joint venture in Norton Sound. All-Alaskan Seafoods has recently made substantial investments in groundfish processing equipment and is currently processing limited amounts of groundfish products for the domestic market. The agreement with NPF will offer the company access to new markets and

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said.

"I believe that in the next two to five years, the basic structure of Alaska's groundfishery will be established. It is my intention to use this opportunity and the leverage afforded by the allocation process to secure the maximum amount of Alaska participation in shore-based and at-sea processing, secondary processing and in fisheries related trade, finance and support services. Only in this way will this growing industry truly provide maximum benefits for all Alaskans."

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## Fisheries agreement

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the ability to begin increasing its volume of groundfish production.

"The future of Alaska's groundfish industry looks right, but the state has the task of assuring that this development provides maximum benefits for Alaskans. The use of foreign fishing allocations to encourage shore-based groundfish processing is one way to accomplish this task," the Governor