

Fishing vessel owners form new group

Owners of fishing vessels delivering their catches to foreign interests in North Pacific and Bering Sea fishing grounds have formed the American High Seas Fisheries Association, according to Trefon Angasan, vice president-Alaska for the organization.

Angasan, also chief executive officer of Great Pacific Fish Co., owner of the F/V *Great Pacific*, said the association was formed to promote:

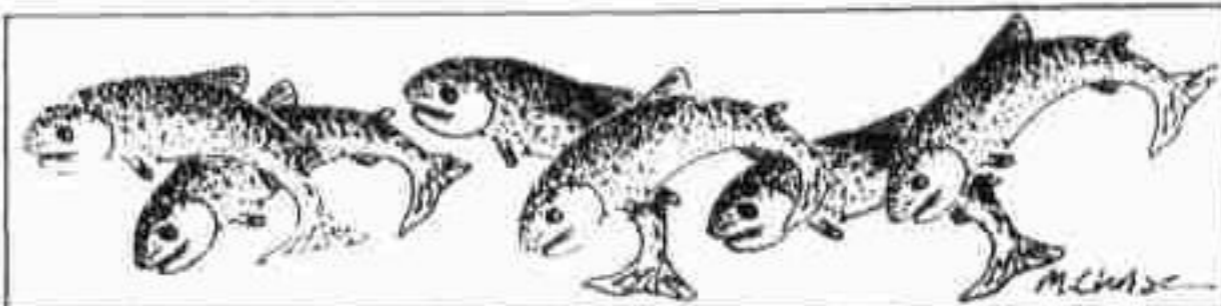
- Americanization of the U.S. bottomfish resource off Alaska.
- Sound conservation and management of the resource within the 200-mile zone.
- Preservation of the American fishermen's freedom to sell their catches, at sea or ashore, wherever they expect the best return.

"The association's charter members

— representing 31 trawlers — fish primarily for Japanese interests, but fishermen and other vessel owners who deliver their catches at sea share our goals, and we welcome their participation," Angasan said.

"From modest beginnings in 1978, these so-called joint ventures now involve some 125 American vessels, worth from \$1 million to \$3 million each, harvesting bottomfish in Alaskan waters," Angasan said. "They will bring some \$225 million in badly needed export earnings to the U.S. economy this year, and the potential for this industry exceeds \$300 million a year."

Angasan also said American vessels are delivering Pacific whiting to Soviet and Polish processing ships off the Washington-Oregon coast in an



\$11-million-a-year industry that is still growing.

"Yet there is a movement afoot to end these ventures, to restrict our access to the resources and to these markets, in the belief that the presence of foreign processing impedes the Americanization of the fisheries," he said.

Angasan called such efforts "short-sighted."

"American harvesting has virtually replaced all direct foreign fishing within the 200-mile zone. Significant

new bottomfish processing capacity has developed in Kodiak, Akutan and Dutch Harbor, and some 20 American factory trawlers are harvesting and processing at sea, with more in the offing," he said.

Officers of the association, in addition to Angasan are Hugh Reilly, president; Frank Bohannon, senior vice president; John Dooley, vice president-California; Fred Yeck, vice president-Oregon; and Cary Swasand, vice president-Washington.