



"Wave at the camera." A newborn bearded seal pup appears to be waving in this picture with Ed Muktoyuk of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration pilot Bill Harrigan. Muktoyuk and Harrigan were part of a team studying the biology of seals and seal movements in the Bering Sea. The information from this and similar studies will be used to minimize the effect of offshore development on marine mammals. Alaskan and federal biologists are cooperating in the study. ADF&G photo by John J. Burns

Hearings on 200-Mile Fishing Limit Plans to Be Held in Sandpoint, Kodiak, Anchorage and Petersburg

Public hearings are scheduled in August in four Alaskan cities and Seattle, Washington, to obtain comments on possible joint U.S./foreign fishing transactions within the 200-mile fishery conservation zone. Harry Rietze, Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Alaska Region has announced the hearings are being held jointly with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council who will conduct hearings on two fishery management plans—Gulf of Alaska Trawl Fisheries and Alaska Tanner Crab at the same time.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has received several applications requesting permission for foreign vessels to process and transport to foreign countries fish caught

by U.S. fishermen. Other applications request permission for foreign vessels to catch part of the fish designated for U.S. fishermen; this catch then would be transported by American vessels to U.S. on-shore processing plants.

National Marine Fisheries Service is concerned that such transactions may result in overfishing and disrupt the management system established under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

Some of the foreign processing vessels hold permits that entitle them to operate in the U.S. conservation zone. At present, foreign processing vessels with permits to operate within the zone are not restricted as to whose fish they process as long as they comply with the provisions of the permits.

The Service is actively seeking, on a nationwide basis, public comments of these potential problems before any policy decisions are made.

The hearings on joint U.S./foreign fishing ventures and fisheries management plans are scheduled as follows:

Petersburg, AK, August 3 - City Council Chambers, 9:00 a.m.

Seattle, WA, August 5 and 6 - SEATAC Hilton, 17620 Pacific Highway S., 9:00 a.m.

Anchorage, AK, August 22 - Supreme Court Chambers, New State Bldg., 3rd and K, 9:00 a.m.

Sand Point, AK, August 23 - City Hall, 9:00 a.m.

Kodiak, AK, August 24 - Elks Club, 9:00 a.m.