

Egan Rebuts Japanese: Conservation Resulted in Big Salmon Run

Governor William A. Egan said the restraint of Americans in allowing a large escapement of red salmon into Bristol Bay spawning streams in 1960 and the active U.S. Coast Guard patrol of the International North Pacific Fisheries Treaty abstention line this year "were responsible for the heavy re-

turn of red salmon to Bristol Bay" this past season.

The Governor was replying to a statement by the United States-Japan Trade Council that the large run of red salmon to Bristol Bay "refuted" charges that the Japanese high seas salmon net fishery endangers this rich resource.

This year's run indicates that "the fears of salmon depletion were groundless," the Council said in a news release. It also said Japanese and American fishermen "share mutual objectives—effective conservation and rational utilization of fishery resources."

Governor Egan said:

"The State of Alaska takes welcome note of the statement made by

the United States-Japan Trade Council that the fishermen of Japan and the United States share mutual objectives — effective conservation and rational utilization of fishery resources. Alaskans hope the above statement of the United States-Japan Trade Council is indicative of enlightened Japanese understanding as to management and conservation procedures necessary to perpetuate the great salmon fishery resources. Alaskans hope, too, that the statement by the United States-Japan Trade Council means that there will be greater flexibility on the part of Japanese negotiators at future International North Pacific Fisheries Treaty meetings.

"I note that yesterday's statement by the United States-Japan Trade Council fails to refer to the fact that a United States Coast Guard patrol was, in 1965, initiated along the 175 degree west longitude salmon treaty abstention line. The statement also made no reference to the fact that several violations by private Japanese fisheries companies' catcher boats were fully documented and that one of these viola-

tions occurred approximately 70 miles east of the treaty abstention line. No mention was made of the fact that because of U.S. Coast Guard patrols the Japanese net salmon fishery effort was moved far west of the abstention line.

"I think it an appropriate reminder to recollect that in 1960, the cycle year for this year's Bristol Bay red salmon fishery, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game forced American fishermen to forego a good share of the red salmon run in that year so that millions of red salmon could escape to the spawning lakes and streams in the Bristol Bay season."

"The 1960 action by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, together with the 1965 season's U.S. Coast Guard patrol, was responsible for the heavy return of red salmon to Bristol Bay this year.

"Proper management, conservation, and utilization practices prompted the United States years ago to prohibit commercial fishing with nets for salmon on the high seas.

"I say again, as I have said before, if the Japanese will follow proven conservation practices and join the United States in prohibiting high seas fishing for salmon with nets, the State of Alaska will be happy to help the Japanese with a program designed to rebuild the once great Asiatic salmon resources."