

# Emberg Says Marketing Association Has Decided to Sell Fish to Koreans

In spite of consistent opposition from Governor Keith Miller, the Bristol Bay fishermen have signed an agreement with a Korean fishery and planned to make their first sale Tuesday, Truman Emberg, business manager for the Western Alaska Co-operative Marketing Association said Tuesday.

Under the agreement, he continued from his Dillingham office, the Sam Yang Fisheries of Seoul, Korea will bring one ship with processing facilities into

Bristol Bay and will purchase from 40,000 to 80,000 fish daily.

Emberg said that the co-op and the Korean company plan to adhere strictly to federal and state regulations and that he expects no trouble either from federal authorities or from Gov. Keith Miller.

Gov. Miller said Tuesday that he had received a telegram signed by 117 Bristol Bay fisherman who support him in his opposition to an agreement with the Korean fishery.

According to Miller's office,

the fishermen said that the South Koreans had violated agreements with the United States by catching Bristol Bay salmon in 1969 and 1970 and that their actions "threaten conservation and protection of Alaska salmon from foreign raiders."

Emberg made no mention of

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any such telegram when spoken with earlier in the day.

The fishermen were forced to turn to the South Koreans for a market because Alaskan canneries are not buying the record catches this year, in sufficient numbers and are thus restricting the earnings of the fishermen.

Emberg explained that the marketing co-op has about 400 members with about 300 boats. Each boat has been limited by the canneries to about 2,000 fish approximately every two days.

The fishermen can catch considerably more and are catching the limit set by the 13 Alaskan canneries in about 2 to 3 hours, the business manager added.

As of Monday, the department of Fish and Game said that the catch totaled about 12 million, and has predicted an unusually large run of 32 million.

The large run has long been expected but it seems that no preparatory measures were taken either by the State or by the canneries.

Recently Miller reacted to the situation by inviting the Japanese processors to buy the surplus, but they refused.

Then Korean fishing firm engaged in catching and processing bottom fish nearby, offered to buy the salmon.

The Koreans are currently going to bring only one ship into Bristol Bay, Emberg said, because that is all they could make available on such short time. Even at that, their bottom fishing efforts will be handicapped he added.

If the run lasts about 10 more days, he continued, "we expect the firm to buy from 800,000 to one million fish."

These sales will take up some of the surplus, he said, but it still does not solve the problem of a good many setnetters whose nets are along the shore and who have no means of delivering the fish to the Korean ship.

Several candidates in the August primary have become involved in the situation.

Miller, who, as governor, is up for reelection, has, as stated before, opposed Korean involvement and said that the season is not a disaster but rather is one of the most successful in recent history.

Democratic candidate for governor, Larry Carr has called the situation a disaster and asked for a legislative investigation into the State's handling of it.

Congressman Howard K. Pollock, Republican running for governor, has supported the Korean agreement and, Emberg said, has contacted him about efforts to clear the matter with the Governor's office.

Joe Josephson, D-Anchorage candidate for the U.S. Senate, was reportedly at Bristol Bay probing the situation.

Charles Sassara, D-Anchorage and candidate for Secretary of State, said that he went to Bristol Bay and worked with the fishing co-op and the Koreans in the negotiations and that he plans to return to the area to see that there are no economic reprisals against the fisherman by the canneries.

"Our first obligation," the former commercial fisherman said, is to the fisherman—to make sure that he is able to make a decent living and sell all of his fish."