

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 1981 - 1983 - ALASKA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PETE GRANGER (WCFDF) AND PUBLICATION IN THE  
FEDERAL REGISTER RECORD OF THE MARCH 1983 SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE HEARING

The renewable resources of the Fishery Conservation Zone off Alaska represent over 90 percent of the entire potential for U.S. fisheries development by displacement of foreign effort. In accordance with the unique situation and needs of Alaska's seafood industry, the projects undertaken by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation have concentrated on obtaining the technology, information and experience necessary to compete effectively in the foreign-dominated groundfish industry.

AFDF's most significant accomplishment has been the development of a new methodology for stimulating growth of the seafood industry. This new approach is embodied in the "Pollock Industry Development Program" begun recently with a pilot project.

The key to the new approach is that it relies on the profit motive of the private sector, forging new business relationships between the U.S. food industry and Alaska's seafood industry that will result in development of new markets and new products.

The new methodology for fisheries development, exemplified by the brochure accompanying this statement, has provoked such a positive response from so many sectors of private industry that the Foundation considers it a major achievement. As a corollary to the integrated nature of the new program, the Foundation's membership and industry participation network has diversified to include food companies, financial institutions, and suppliers of goods and services.

The Model White Fish Processing Facility project being conducted by the Alaska Foundation with sub-contractor Trident Seafoods Corporation, was initiated in January 1982. The \$1.7 million in federal S-K funds invested in the project will carry through June 1984. This one facility has not only generated a tremendous wealth of technical and economic information for use in business planning, but also has added, since June 1982, 11 million pounds of Pacific cod

to the 1982 domestic catch, 18 million pounds to the landings of first quarter 1983, and over 6 million pounds of wet salted split cod to U.S. seafood exports.

Since shore-based processing capacity is the most obvious missing link in the development of Alaska's underutilized fisheries, this plant represents a true pioneering effort. The experiences gained by Trident Seafoods at their remote Akutan Island facility are made accessible via the Foundation's employment of an on-site observer and its compilation, analysis and communication of information for its seafood industry constituents.

Another pioneering venture in Alaska's seafood industry is represented by the groundfish catcher-processor "Arctic Trawler". The Alaska Foundation, with sub-contractor Trans-Pacific International Industries (owner of "Arctic Trawler") has been engaged for a year in a project to identify economically viable uses for portions of Pacific cod and pollock that are normally discarded by such a space-limited processing operation. With assistance from private firms and the National Marine Fisheries Service, several new product concepts have been produced and tested, with production input factors monitored and analyzed. The results of this research will allow greater utilization of the entire fish, which is essential to profitability in processing such low-value species, and are expected to lead to commercial introduction of at least one new product in domestic markets.

Like some other regions of the U.S., Alaska has the problem of over-capitalization, or underutilized capacity, in some sectors of its fishing fleet. Severe problems of this nature are being experienced by the crab fleet, so a Foundation project was aimed at examining the economics of adapting a crabber to longline and process Pacific cod. This experimental venture was not an economic success for the vessel owners but did generate significant technical and economic data to guide similar enterprises.