



Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.

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SEAFOOD BY-PRODUCTS CONFERENCE, APRIL 1990:

PRODUCERS AND BUYERS LOOK TO ALASKA AS RICH STOREHOUSE OF UNUSED PROTEIN

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA -- Fish processors in the North Pacific are using 30% or less of the marketable protein that comes to them from the sea. In the 1.2 million metric-ton groundfish fishery, processors discard nearly 700,000 tons of offal, bones, cheeks, heads, skins and other protein-rich materials that could be used in valuable products. Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation is helping sponsor a conference designed to get better use from North Pacific Fish.

The conference is called "Alaska's Billion Pounds of Protein," and is scheduled April 25-27, 1990 at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska. It's sponsored by the Foundation, the University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, and several seafood firms.

Experts from Europe, Iceland, Japan and both coasts of North America will gather to tell fish processors about the newest technologies and markets for fisheries by-products that now are often discarded. Speakers will talk about how to produce and market aquaculture and animal feeds, medical supplies, food ingredients, and other valuable products. And processors will introduce by-products users to the bountiful protein resource that is the North Pacific.

"Some of the people who will be here base their entire business on by-products similar to those that processors in the North Pacific throw away," said Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation's Peter Moore, chairman of the conference. "This is a match-making conference, on a practical scale. We are bringing in these people who use fish by-products in all kinds of ways, to

introduce them to Alaskan processors. We also hope to acquaint the by-products experts with Alaska, the tremendous fisheries resource within our 200-mile limit, and the business opportunities here."

Speakers will include Oyvind Skaugrud of Protan A/S, a Norwegian company whose Washington plant manufactures chitin and chitosan from shellfish wastes. Chitin is used in several high-value medical applications including surgical sutures for people allergic to cat gut suture. Skaugrud will also discuss how Alaskan processors could supply some of these raw material needs.

Erik Hansen of Atlas Industries, a Danish manufacturer of fish by-product processing equipment, will describe alternatives and economics for smaller-scale processors to capture the profits from their waste streams. "Hansen's presentation should be of particular interest to the seasonal fish processors in small communities up and down the coast of Alaska," said Moore.

Baldur Hjaltason, marketing director for the world's largest cod liver oil processor, will tell local processors how his company profits by refining fish oils. Hjaltason's company, Lysi S/F, buys fish by-products to make several lines of medicinal and veterinary cod liver oils, and a host of other fish oils, hydrolysates and other products for aquaculture and animal feeds and for human consumption.

"Lysi makes all their products from the part of the fish we throw away," Moore said. "Eighty percent of Iceland's gross national product is derived from fisheries. That's primarily because they squeeze the maximum amount out of their fish. Processors operating in Alaska could learn a lot from their experiences."

In all, 33 speakers will give papers or participate in seminars, Moore said. Speakers were chosen for their practical expertise rather than academic knowledge. Moore said that the conference was planned and priced (\$70

registration fee) to encourage processors in the North Pacific to send technical, production and marketing people to the conference. Following the conference will be a one-day tour to the Seward Fisheries plant, which produces 150 tons of fish meal per day.

"Fish processors in Alaska, both onshore and offshore, produce billions of pounds of by-products every year," Moore said, "Only seven on-shore and perhaps as many off-shore processors are making meal and oil. But there hasn't been an opportunity before for the producers, buyers and technologists to come together to look at the raw materials generated in the waters off Alaska, and to talk about market and production possibilities beyond the traditional products."

Booth space will be available throughout the conference to give seafood processors, equipment manufacturers and other technology peddlers a chance to showcase their wares. Companies interested in renting a booth to display equipment or other materials are encouraged to contact Moore immediately.

For more information about "Alaska's Billions of Pounds of Protein," call Peter Moore at Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, (907) 276-7315 or Brenda Melteff, University of Alaska Fairbanks Sea Grant Program, (907) 474-7086.