

CHAPITRE XII/CHAPTER XII
PÊCHE DU FLÉTAN DU PACIFIQUE
PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY

754.

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*Note de la Direction des États-Unis
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from United States Division
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], May 7, 1962

SOVIET FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN

On October 4, 1961, our Ambassador in Moscow delivered a Note to the Soviet Union expressing concern about the possibility of an expansion of Soviet fishing activities in the North Pacific Ocean, in view of the development of the halibut fishery in this area by Canada and the United States through strict conservation measures. The Note concluded:

“The Government of Canada is aware that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is sympathetic to the objectives of conservation programmes for marine resources. It is hoped, therefore, that if the Soviet Government decides to proceed with a further expansion of its trawl fishing operations in the Pacific Ocean or with experimental fishing for halibut, the Soviet Government will take into account the considerations outlined above. Accordingly, the Canadian Government hopes that any such expansion of Soviet fishing operations will take place in areas other than those in which conservation measures are being undertaken by the International Pacific Halibut Commission.”

A similar note was delivered by the United States Ambassador in Moscow.

2. The Japanese abstain from fishing halibut in the same area under the terms of the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean, signed by Japan, Canada and the United States in 1952. The abstention provisions of this Convention have never been popular with the Japanese, who could, under the terms of the Convention, give a one year notice of termination in June, 1962. You will recall that the Japanese sent a trawling fleet into the area this winter to fish for species other than halibut and salmon. They would not agree to postponing this operation until the problems could be discussed within the framework of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (Canada, Japan, U.S.A.). This caused considerable concern to Canadian and United States Fisheries officials. We had previously informed the Japanese of our efforts to discourage the expansion of Soviet fishing activities in the same area.

3. The text of the Soviet reply to our Note of October 4, 1961 is given in the attached telegram no. 104 of February 27 from Moscow.†

4. Briefly, the Soviet Government rejected, fairly vigorously, any suggestion that its rights to fish in the High Seas can be affected by a bilateral agreement between Canada and the United States. However, it states that U.S.S.R. “always proceeds from the need for international cooperation between States in the matter of the rational conduct of fisheries ...” and concludes:

“At the present time, Soviet fishing organizations are not conducting large-scale halibut fisheries in northern part of Pacific Ocean. For the time being, these operations are limited to the study of the reserves, the habitat, and the seasonal migration of the halibut. If in