

We wish it known that adjustments should be considered in tariffs where the import price of seafoods is still 6 to 12¢ lower than the domestically produced fish is sold for. Such a difference gives the play to the imported product. Since there is as good market which can easily absorb both import and domestic fish the wholesale price should be the same for all species. It would be no disadvantage to imports and certainly would do much to encourage our domestic fishing enterprise. The present difference may eventually put some domestic producers out of the industry because they are faced with mounting costs and no increase in income.

Dumping of large amounts of fish as in the past brings about reduced prices on domestic fish products. This practice should be stopped.

Yours truly,

OCTAVIO A. MODESTO,
General Manager.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE JOHANSEN, SECRETARY-TREASURER,
ALASKA FISHERMEN'S UNION

We appreciate the opportunity of submitting a brief on HR 17242, now before your committee. Under certain conditions, the proposed legislation pertaining to ceilings on foreign imports offers a fair and reasonable base upon which the problems of excessive imports can be dealt. The bill will not preclude foreign imports, but will establish certain limits when facts show the necessity of protection. For these reasons, we strongly support and urge favorable action on HR 17242.

The United States fishing industry is one which has suffered extensively from heavy importation of foreign fishery products. While this industry is not one of the giants within the United States industrial community, it is, nevertheless, an important industry—both economically and as a producer of food. Many of our coastal states depend heavily on the income derived from fishery products and the earnings of workers in the fishing industry. Perhaps of primary importance to citizens of the United States is the valuable food supply embodied in the fisheries. Statistics in the government publication, *Fisheries of the United States—1967*, reveal the following:

Fisherman and shore workers employed (approx.)-----	225, 000
Boats used in fishing activities-----	82, 127
Retail value of fishery products sold on the American market (million) -	\$2. 578
Annual consumption, commercial and food (billion pounds)-----	14. 2
Domestic production (billion pounds)-----	4. 061
Foreign imports (billion pounds)-----	10. 2

The last ten years have seen a steady decline in our production of fish and fishery products. In 1957, we produced 67% of our needs and imported 33%. The figures have been completely reversed because in 1967 the United States produced 29% and imported 71%.

Other significant changes should also be noted. World production of fishery products has risen sharply. From a total of about 40 billion pounds in 1940, the figure was 125 billion pounds in 1967. Far from making any gains, our production of four billion pounds in 1967 is comparable to our catches thirty years ago. Prior to World War II and up until 1956, the United States ranked second only to Japan in size of catch. In 1957, the expanding fisheries of mainland China passed us. During this period, Peru was developing its spectacular anchovy fishery, and the Soviet Union was building its large ocean-going fishing fleet. By 1960, the United States had dropped to fifth place. Norway went by us in 1966, and for the first time in our history, the United States is not listed among the first five nations in world fishery production.

In spite of the fact that the statistics on the United States fisheries have shown this industry has been going downhill for a number of years, no help to reverse the trend has been forthcoming. On the contrary, the Kennedy Rounds dealing with tariff and trade agreed to a further reduction in already inadequate fishery tariffs, thus insuring an increased flood of imports in the future.

Recommendations by persons responsible for the handling of fishery affairs on the national level have carefully avoided the real issue, but have instead sought to leave an impression in the public mind that our inability to produce more fish for our own market is due to obsolete, antiquated methods of fishing, poor boats and gear, inability to locate the fish on the grounds, and many other reasons.