

## Fishermen Will Fight For Rights

KODIAK, Alaska (UPI) — American fishermen say they are fed up with harassment by foreign fishermen—particularly the Russians—and are ready to fight if necessary to protect their fishing gear and traditional crab grounds.

The Russian fishermen and their destructive practices were on the lips of nearly everyone in this fishing community of 4,500 during the weekend. The atmosphere was like that of a town under siege. A weekly newspaper, the Kodiak Mirror, ran the banner headline—"pirates return."

One skipper told a United Press International reporter, "We can't do much when there are a dozen Russian boats out there at once, but if a single one wanders in and starts cutting up our gear, there's gonna be fireworks."

Several fishermen said in testimony at a hearing that they were going to take matters into their own hands unless action is taken by the government to see that harassment by foreign fishermen—chiefly Russians—is stopped.

During the last week of August and the first week of September, American skippers based here lost 39 crab pots because of Russian activity.

United Press International learned Saturday night that an additional 33 crab pots had been lost by fishermen based at Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands.

Russian fishermen used large net drags called otter trawls to fish for crabs. The nets drag along the bottom of the ocean, scooping up crab and anything else that gets in the way. Including American crab pots.

Testimony was given at a hearing called by former state House Majority Leader Peter M. Deveau, Kodiak, chairman of the local Fish Advisory Board, and Oscar Dyson, Kodiak, a member of the Alaska Fish and Game Board.

Twelve American skippers, in sworn statements, told Alaska Atty. Gen. George N. Hayes that Russian trawlers had deliberately used their nets to sweep through lines of American crab pots, cutting buoy lines so the pots couldn't be retrieved, or damaging them so badly they were useless.

The Russian harassment took place in the waters of the Shelikof Strait, a patch of international water about 300 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska, claims the strait as inland water since it divides two large parts of the strait.

Otter trawling for King crab, such as the Russians do, has been outlawed among American fishermen since 1936 because it is an extremely destructive way to fish for crab.

The testimony at the hearing was recorded and will be sent to Washington for consideration by Congress.

American fishermen want King crab declared creatures of the continental shelf and under U.S. protection.

## AFL-CIO Opens Annual Meeting

EUGENE (UPI) — Taxes and workmen's compensation benefits were two of the principal items on the agenda when the Oregon AFL-CIO opened its annual convention here today.

A move was expected favoring an initiative measure increasing workmen's compensation benefits on the November, 1964, election ballot. An amendment to ban private insurance firms from participating in the program also was under consideration.

The 1963 legislature's tax program and the Oct. 15 referendum also were certain to come up for discussion. Some labor leaders have said they do not like the tax program, but are afraid a special session would result in a worse bill.

A resolution that would move the AFL-CIO state headquarters from Portland to Salem also has been prepared for introduction.

The convention runs through Friday.

## SECRET TALKS HELD

LONDON (UPI) — Communist China has held secret talks with a British aviation firm with a view to buying 10 of Britain's latest and fastest jet airliners, the Daily Herald said today.

The newspaper said the order would be worth \$34 million.



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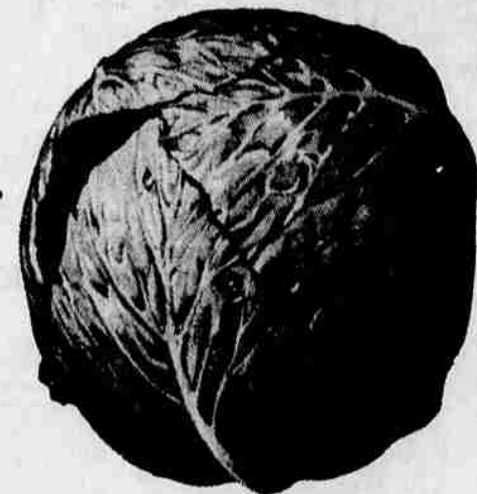
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