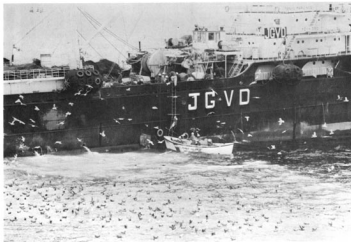


"BOARDINGS"



ALASKA FISHERIES PATROL WHY ALASKA?

Alaska is where the fish are. The Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska are two of the richest fishing grounds in the world. Each year, millions of tons of fish are caught by hundreds of boats ranging from seventy-five to six hundred feet. The majority of the fishing boats are foreign - primarily Russian, Taiwanese, Japanese, and Korean, but with smaller numbers of Polish, Mexican, West German and others.

To guard against the depletion of fish, the Fisheries Conservation Management Act (FCMA) was passed by Congress in 1976. In this bill, the United States claimed the right to regulate the quantity of fish caught on the continental shelf adjacent to the United States, and within 200 miles of the U.S. seacoast. Foreign governments respected this claim.

The National Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for administering the FCMA. All foreign vessels that desire to fish within the Fisheries Conservation Zone (FCZ), commonly called the 200 mile limit, must apply to NMFS for a permit. The permit specifies what fisheries the vessel may engage in, and in which areas. In addition, NMFS grants a yearly quota to each country of how many tons of fish that country's boats can catch. The country then subdivides the quota among the various fishing companies and boats that desire to fish in the FCZ. When a foreign fishing vessel receives a permit and comes to fish in the FCZ, it agrees to catch only the amount of fish in its quota, and abide by the administrative rule of the FCMA. All foreign fishing vessels must keep certain records, have proper markings on the hull and decks, submit reports, and allow U. S. Law Enforcement Officers to board the vessel.