

**SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE POLLOCK RESOURCES IN THE CENTRAL  
BERING SEA**

September 17-21, 2001 Gdynia, Poland

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Representatives from the six Parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea met in Gdynia, Poland, and continued their cooperative efforts to conserve and manage pollock stocks in the Convention Area.

The Sixth Annual Conference held under terms of the Convention took place 17-21 September 2001. The Conference was chaired by Dr. Tomasz Linkowski of Poland. The Parties to the Convention, Poland, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, agreed on conservation and management measures and reviewed scientific information on the status of pollock stocks. The Scientific and Technical Committee agreed on a plan of work for 2002.

Based on the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee, the Parties agreed that data was insufficient to directly determine the biomass of the pollock stocks in the entire Aleutian Basin. Several of the Parties proposed the establishment of an Allowable Harvest Level (AHL) for 2002, because of the need to obtain further scientific information from fishing operations and the need to sustain existing fishing industries. They emphasized the function of the Annual Conference is to include conservation and management of both fish resources and the fishery sector. Other Parties feel that the moratorium and other related conservation measures have had a positive effect on pollock stocks. Following a thorough discussion, the Parties noted that nine years of moratorium has not achieved pollock stock recovery in the Central Bering Sea. However, Parties to the Convention will continue efforts to verify and confirm the effectiveness of the moratorium as a means to resource management as well as the rationality for maintaining such a harsh measure. The Annual Conference could not reach consensus to set an AHL for a commercial fishery for pollock in the Central Bering Sea during 2002. In such a situation, under the procedure set out in Article VII-2 and Annex Part 1 of this Convention, the AHL for 2002 was set at zero.

Trial fishing by vessels of the Parties to the Convention will be permitted in 2002, under the terms and conditions established by the Annual Conference.

In 2002, member States plan to conduct a coordinated research effort in the Central Bering Sea and the Aleutian Basin. This provides a unique opportunity to study pollock distribution and migration patterns in the Bering Sea. Comprehensive scientific information such as this will allow the Parties to make better informed decisions on the conservation and management of pollock resource.

The Russian Federation invited the Parties to convene the Seventh Annual Conference in mid September 2002 in Moscow.