

# U. S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Assistant Secretary for Governmental and Public Affairs  
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Secretary of Transportation Neil Goldschmidt Press Briefing Statement  
on Enforcement of President Carter's Order Curtailing Soviet Fishing,  
Washington, D.C., January 8, 1980

Certain actions are being taken today to carry out President Carter's  
directive to curtail Soviet fishing in United States waters.

Our actions are not punitive. As the President has said, no nation  
that is committed to world peace can conduct business as usual with  
the Soviet Union in the face of armed aggression.

The normal procedure on fishing permits is that the Soviet Union  
applies to the Secretary of Commerce through the Secretary of State.  
In pursuit of those procedures, we estimate that there are as many as  
24 Russian trawlers in United States 200-mile waters. Eighteen of those  
have in fact reported in as they have crossed into the waters. Others  
are somewhat widely dispersed.

All of those which are not in the Gulf of Alaska, or are without  
Gulf of Alaska fishing permits, are being notified through State Department  
channels and through Coast Guard channels to cease fishing immediately.

To make sure that the message is received and that the message  
is understood, we are dispatching two Coast Guard cutters from the West  
Coast in San Francisco -- the MIDGETT and the RUSH -- to the Bering  
Sea. We will as well, provide increased air surveillance and this began  
yesterday.

We have notified, in addition, the Soviet Ministry of Merchant  
Marine that the 12th Joint Task Group meeting on environmental concerns  
scheduled for today in Washington has been suspended. Further, a meeting  
on the LORAN navigation system, which was to have been held in Geneva  
the week of the 18th of February, has been postponed.

As many of you no doubt know, there are several other cooperative  
ventures between this department and agencies in the Soviet Union ranging

from railroad technology and aircraft landing systems to driver safety programs. These research programs are the subject of discussions currently within our government and decisions will be made about them soon.

I wish to make two other comments about the Soviet fishing. Because of the season, there are no Soviet fishing vessels known to be operating in U.S. waters on the East Coast.

Soviet fishing now under way in the Gulf of Alaska will be allowed to be completed, where allocations have been approved by the United States government and fees have been paid by the U.S.S.R. We will however, seek to assure that these permits are not over-fished.

I would like now to introduce to you Vice Admiral (Robert) Scarborough, who will present some additional information about what kind of equipment we will have there and what kind of equipment the Soviets are likely to have fishing in the area.

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