

# U. S. Department of Transportation

# news:



Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20590

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT AT A PRESS BREIFING ON ENFORCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S ORDER CURTAILING SOVIET FISHING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1980.

Certain actions are being taken today to carry out President Carter's directive to curtail soviet fishing in U.S. territorial 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 oppression.

We estimate that there are 14 Russian trawlers in U.S. territorial waters of the Bering Sea. These vessels are being notified through State department channels to leave immediately. To make sure that message is received and understood, we are dispatching two Coast Guard cutters -- the Midgett and the Rush -- from the west coast to the Bering Sea.

We have notified the Soviet Ministry of Merchant Marine that the 12th Joint Task Group Meeting on environmental concerns -- scheduled for today in Washington -- has been cancelled.

The meeting on the Loran navigation system to be held in Geneva is also cancelled.

As you know, there are several other cooperative ventures between this Department and agencies of the Soviet Union ranging from railroad technology and aircraft landing systems to driver safety programs.

These research activities will be the subject of discussions within the government, and there is no decision to curtail them at this time.

Two other comments on Soviet fishing:

1) Because of the season, there are no Soviet fishing vessels known to be operating in territorial waters on the east coast.

2) Soviet fishing now underway in the Gulf of Alaska will be allowed to be completed where allocations had been approved and fees paid by the USSR.

#####