



Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

RFE Pollock: Fishery Improvement Partnership (FIP)

Subj: FIP Background Report

Date: May 2009

Executive Summary:

Russian pollock fisheries are a globally significant source of whitefish. The fisheries take place in the West Bering Sea and Sea of Okhotsk, two of the most productive and diverse global seas and SFP is running a project to improve the management of these fisheries. The RFE Pollock Fishery Improvement Partnership (FIP) was created as a vehicle for seafood companies to work together to assure long-term supplies of seafood and to maintain the health of these critical ecosystems. Formally launched in September 2009, the partnership is lead by BAMR-ROLIZ, BirdsEye-Iglo Group and SFP, together with Highliner, FRoSTA, Royal Greenland, Findus, Pickenpack, Delmar and the Fishin' Company.

The formal launch of the FIP followed the September 2008 announcement that the Russian Pollock Catchers Association is pursuing Full Assessment under the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) program, an independent rigorous sustainability certification. The FIP brings together resources and expertise to support the Pollock Catchers Association in their efforts to meet the requirements of the MSC.

Goals and Objectives:

The goal of the Russian Far East (RFE) Pollock Fishery Improvement Partnership is to improve the fishery by pressing for better policies and management while voluntarily changing purchasing and fishing practices to reduce problems like IUU, bycatch etc., and to help meet market demands for sustainability.

The objectives of the Partnership are to:

1. Promote sustainability in fishery management and fishing operations.
2. Implement changes in purchasing and fishing practices, if necessary, to reduce problems such as IUU, bycatch etc. in a realistic, effective and low-cost manner.
3. Promote the long-term supply security of seafood producers and buyers.
4. Press for improvements in the Fishery.
5. Based on the results of MSC pre-assessment, help implement corrective action if required both in the Fishery and private fishing practices.
6. Ensure that stakeholders are aware of the improvements.

FIP Funding:

The amount that is requested of the Participants in each FIP varies upon the budget and is voted on by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee approves the line item budget and votes on a new level of participation as the budget dictates for as long as the FIP exists. SFP staff engaged in FIPs are funded 100% by foundations; the corporate contributions fund

only coordinating and holding meetings, running pilot projects, and hiring external consultants and experts, as agreed with the FIP participants.