"The continued importation of South African fish not only subsidizes racist institutions abroad, it threatens the survival of the New England fishing industry itself."

don't get hooked

on South African fish imports!

produced by
The Committee to
Save New England Fisheries
120 Boylston, Room 320
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 423-1796
The Committee to Save New England Fisheries was established in April 1977 following the first seizures of Soviet fishing vessels off the Massachusetts coast since the 200-mile limit went into effect. While our initial focus was the robbing of our natural resources by foreign fishing interests, we soon came to realize another, equal threat—that being the increasing capture of our regional consumer market by foreign fishing interests.

This pamphlet is the product of an extensive study by our Committee which documents how the American consumer and the New England fishing industry are being victimized by continued trade with the racist South African Government. It is our hope that you will back our efforts to ban the import of South and Southwest African fish in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In 1950 the United States was one of the leading producers of seafood in the world; by 1973 imports totalled over 60% of all fish consumed in the country. For New England, the problem has not been one of lack of fish as much as it has been the capture of regional consumer markets by foreign fishing interests. It is particularly sad to note that almost half of the frozen and processed fish entering the U.S. are caught in our coastal waters by foreigners.

The presence of Soviet and other foreign fishing trawlers off the New England coast attest to the difficulties which one of New England's major industries is facing. Outside New England foreign fishing interests are circumventing our 200-mile limit by directly buying into American companies; the Soviet Union has been negotiating a joint venture with one of the largest fish and frozen food processors in the Pacific Northwest, while Japan already has about $20 million invested in the Alaskan fishing industry.

The economy of the New England fisheries has traditionally rested on the harvesting of lobster and sardine (herring); it is ironic that South Africa represents the leading competitor to both of these species and that South African
production of these species, especially sardine, has grown at a pace which coincides with production declines in New England. This disturbing trend resulted in New England fish producers requesting an official investigation by the U.S. Tariff Commission in 1969 to determine whether these imports were threatening or causing serious injury to our domestic industry. This investigation confirmed America’s growing dependence on South African fish imports. Closer examination reveals that South Africa’s fishing industry is subsidized by the United States Government in violation of international law and U.N. decrees. This conflict arises due to South Africa’s continued occupation of Southwest Africa (Namibia) which is the actual geographic source of fish harvesting.
In 1971 the International Court of Justice demanded that all States "withhold from their nationals or companies of their nationality not under direct governmental control, government loans, credit guarantees and other forms of financial support that would be used to facilitate trade or commerce with Namibia." States were also directed to "discourage their nationals, or companies of their nationality not under direct governmental control from investing or obtaining concessions in Namibia."

The United Nations has sinceforth declared that the exploitation of fish resources off the Namibian coast is illegal: the Decree adopted by the U.N. Council for Namibia in September 1974 insists that fishing licenses issued by the South African occupation administration in Namibia are null and void, and that the marketing of fish taken from Namibian waters is illegal and subject to confiscation.

Still, Namibian fish can be found on most grocery counters throughout New England and the U.S. This results from illegal contracts by a couple of California-based corporations and several Japanese concerns, as well as from U.S. Government subsidies to three American shipping companies in violation of international law. Government operating-differential contracts with these three shipping companies have totalled almost $500,000,000 in the last five years alone. Meanwhile, the New England fishing industry suffers.

The U.S. balance of trade deficit in fishing products amounted to nearly $1.5 billion in 1974. If imports of foreign fish products were replaced by domestic production it is estimated the additional economic impact on the U.S. economy would approach $3 billion and result in an increase of 200,000 person-years of employment. This estimate comes not from New England fishing sources but from South African business sources (To The Point International, March 8, 1976).

With the recent acquisition of the 200-mile limit New England now has an opportunity to substantially increase domestic production of marine protein. Unfortunately, our consumer markets are being captured by South African and other foreign interests.
It is a crime for our federal government to subsidize the fishing industry of South Africa while it affords no assistance to the New England fishing industry. It is appalling that American workers are losing their jobs so that a few multinational corporations can profit from South Africa's policies of racial segregation—in which the black majority is denied even the right to vote for their white administrators. African workers in Namibian fishing factories are paid the equivalent of $35 per month, even though the Poverty Datum Line (the sum required to keep a family of five in reasonable health—subsistence) is conservatively calculated to be over $110 per month.

Nor can we in New England provide justification for the disruption of the natural environment off the coast of Namibia. Pollution from the fishing factories in Namibia is presently exterminating the phytoplankton which serves as the main food of most fish species off the Namibian coast. This process, accompanied by the exploitation of the fish resources, subsequently deprives several seabird species of their primary food source.

It is also clear that the import of South African and Namibian fish constitutes a potential health hazard to American consumers since African workers, in their continuous effort to regain their independence, often have sabotaged the fishing plants.

The U.S. Constitution gives States the right to control their fisheries and prevents the federal government from regulating fishing except outside territorial waters. We must bring our case before those elected officials we have chosen to represent us; State Representative Melvin King has already stepped forward to insure that a bill barring South African fish from the Commonwealth is introduced into the Legislature. With your support this bill can become a reality in 1978.
1. No person or entity, whether a body corporate or unincorporated, may search for, prospect for, explore for, take, extract, mine, process, refine, use, sell, export, or distribute any natural resource, whether animal or mineral, situated or found to be situated within the territorial limits of Namibia without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or any person authorized to act on its behalf for the purpose of giving such permission or such consent.

2. Any permission, concession or licence for all or any of the purposes specified in paragraph 1 above whenever granted by any person or entity, including any body purporting to act under the authority of the Government of the Republic of South Africa or the "Administration of South West Africa" or their predecessors, is null, void and of no force or effect.

3. No animal resource, mineral, or other natural resource produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia may be taken from the said Territory by any means whatsoever to any place whatsoever outside the territorial limits of Namibia by any person or body, whether corporate or unincorporated, without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council.

4. Any animal, mineral or other natural resource produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia which shall be taken from the said Territory without the consent and written authority of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council may be seized and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia:

5. Any vehicle, ship or container found to be carrying animal, mineral or other natural resources produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia shall also be subject to seizure and forfeiture by or on behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia:

6. Any person, entity or corporation which contravenes the present decree in respect of Namibia may be held liable in damages by the future Government of an independent Namibia:

7. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and in order to give effect to this decree, the United Nations Council for Namibia hereby authorizes the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, in accordance with resolution 2248 (S-V), to take the necessary steps after consultations with the President.

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AN ACT RELATING TO THE SALE OF NATIVE LOBSTER AND SARDINE, AND THEIR REPRESENTATION FOR PURPOSE OF SALE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 51 of Chapter 130 of the General Laws is hereby amended to be titled Section 51-A of Chapter 130.

Section 2. Chapter 130 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 51-A the following section:

Section 51-B. No person shall sell, or represent for the purpose of sale, any sardine, as a native sardine unless the same shall have been originally caught or taken in the coastal waters; nor shall any person so sell, or represent for the purpose of sale, any clupeoid as a sardine so long as the same violates United States trade laws, United Nations decrees, or legal judgments to which the United States is bound; nor shall any person so sell, or represent for the purpose of sale, any meat as sardine meat unless such meat is wholly from clupeoids of such species which do not violate any provision of this section. Violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine not less than 1000 nor more than 5000 dollars.

Section 3. Section 51-B of Chapter 130 shall become effective 30 days following enactment.
THE IMPORT OF SOUTH & SOUTHWEST AFRICAN FISH PRODUCTS:

1) adversely affects the New England fishing industry
2) violates international law
3) violates UN decrees and resolutions
4) subsidizes South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia
5) supports South Africa's "contract labor system"
   which contravenes international standards of justice
   and deprives Namibians of their basic human rights
6) adversely affects organized labor in the U.S.
7) associates America with support of racism
8) represents potential threat to health of Americans
9) adversely affects our relationships with foreign countries
10) contributes to disequilibrium of global ecosystem

BAN SOUTH AFRICAN FISH IN OUR COMMONWEALTH

SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES

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