MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

 PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Congressional Group on Fisheries
[Congressional Delegation Regarding the 200-mile Limit]
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

 DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 7, 1975
10:30 a.m.

 PLACE: The Cabinet Room
The White House

The President: This is our second exposure to Law of the Sea today. I have heard a vivid presentation from some of you.

Edwin B. Forsythe: (R., New Jersey) We had to leave the meeting with Moore before it really got started. If you would permit Young and Emery to say a few words.

Young: You heard my Senator this morning. This is an issue where 99% of the Alaskan people -- from left to right -- support this bill. Feeling against State is rampant on this.

Look at the bill. It just gives us the right to manage fishing resources. People won’t understand why you are worried over foreign policy on an issue which hits us so hard.

The President: How about a triggering mechanism?

Del Clausen: (R., Calif.) It has one -- July 1, 1976.

Forsythe: This will would be superseded by a Law of the Sea Treaty.

One thing which surprised me was Secretary Kissinger saying if you could just give him two sessions next year, he would no longer oppose it.
The President: Is there any chance of moving the date back to January 1.

Forsythe: Not on the floor today. But we would be willing to look favorably on a compromise like that if it came to conference on the Senate bill.

Clausen: A lot of people think the 200-mile limit issue is being held hostage to the seabed regime.

Forsythe: I think if we could work out something on triggering in conference, that might be possible.

David F. Emery: (R., Maine) This is the first bill I introduced. The feelings are high that Maine fishermen are starting to carry rifles. I agree that multilateral action is preferable to balkanizing the ocean, but no action is being taken.

[Examples of how we don't protest other countries doing it and even protect them. Soviet Union -- scallops; Brazil -- shrimp.]

William S. Cohen: (R., Maine) These people are good Republicans. They just don't know why the State Department doesn't protect our fish. Why do they give them away and make us then buy them back. No one is interested in helping people who just want to work hard for a living. More than anything else, I want to accomplish is the passage of this bill. Let it pass and we will work out the sticky details to take care of your problems.

Clausen: All the Democratic Presidential candidates are supporting this bill. All the conservative groups are back of it. There is a chance of getting Dellenback sent back, but there is no way if they don't think you are with them. This bill only deals with the protection of species. We will fight the 200-mile territorial sea with you. We will fight with you for freedom of the seas. We unilaterally declared a 12-mile fishing zone in '66. We need to do the same thing again.

The President: It's clear that we are in favor of the concept. The only question is how you achieve it. We would prefer it not be triggered until after the second Law of the Sea meeting.

Cohen: If we could be sure it would be solved next year, that would be fine, but it has been going on for years.
The President: How would you enforce it?

Forsythe: We think we would get agreement. We don't advocate a picket line and use of force.

Cohen: We think the Japanese and the Soviet Union will go along. The Coast Guard is concerned about enforcement. But the Navy flies ASW patrols. The could cooperate.

The President: We would prefer an amendment which would extend the effective date past the two sessions.
P/Conq Camp on Fisheries
Tues. 7 Oct 75

This was our 2nd approach this Friday. I had a formal presentation from some engaging
Fishermen who had been waiting to show their stuff
It really got started. If you would read
Young & Young, they say a few words.

You said my Smith is very coming.
Toni was very close when 99% if a Chinese
people from left to right expect this bill. Fishing against State is urgent

Please lend me, it is not given at the
tomorrow fishing season. Right now
Management why you can use our
F P from some which hints to us to hunt

P. Hammett a new hearing mechanism

Donna, 1st move out, July 76.

Fingers This will not be responsible by the

event

One thing which surprised me was
buying of your child just goes back
in 2 seasons except yours, the world
and danger agree.

P. Has any chance of winning a little round to

farming ??

Fingers different from today. But we would be
willing to settle financially on a compromise
like that if it came to any on a Senate
bill.

Clarkson A lot of people. Thank you much and thank you.
being held hostage to the Sea fowl Union.

Ferry me, I think if we could work out something

are happening in any that might be faulty.

This is very well intended. Feeding and

a high that would have a performance and starting

to carry within. I agree that unlimited

action is preferable to leaving the

ocean. A small action is being taken.

Examples of these are just about eight

action recently doing it with women and

than 50,000 horses bought through.

Three people are good distribution. They

just don't know why they lay it across

protection of fish. Why do they give them

away and make them try their head.

We are interested in helping eight

who just want to work hard for a

living. What does anything else I

want to accomplish is a pry of

this kind, but it pays we will work

and everybody unite to study early

young fish.

Clansman, M. A. D. M. Redistrict Committee

are supporting this bill. All seventeen

groups are back of the Maine

of getting all the extra seat to it, don't

them it was very necessary they don't

you are without. This will only help if

protection of species. We will fight
We must understand the issue. We will fight for your freedom.

We'll inevitably declare this war.

P. S. It is clear that we are in a race against the clock. Our position is clear. If our factories are not supplied with these resources, we shall fail.

On the other hand, if our factories can be supplied, it would be feasible to keep pace with that which would be fine, but it has been going on for years.

Every day, we think we would put a distant

We don't understand a picture-drawn

We think a picture of that will produce

The cost is enormous. A careful

This is very important. But we worry about

As we've pointed out, they cannot continue.

We would prefer an amendment which

Would result in a different bill just