

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

OF

GARRETT E. BROWN, JR.
ACTING DEPUTY MARITIME
ADMINISTRATOR

ON

BEHALF OF

THE

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE
OF THE
HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE

ON THE

SEVEN BILLS TO CLEAR CERTAIN IMPEDIMENTS TO THE DOCUMENTATION
FOR OPERATION IN THE COASTWISE OR FISHERIES TRADES OF
THE VESSELS SPECIFIED

SEPTEMBER 12, 1985

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD OF GARRETT E. BROWN, JR., ACTING DEPUTY MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE, HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE, ON THE SEVEN BILLS TO CLEAR CERTAIN IMPEDIMENTS TO THE DOCUMENTATION FOR OPERATION IN THE COASTWISE OR FISHERIES TRADES OF THE VESSELS SPECIFIED.

September 12, 1985

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee on Merchant Marine. My name is Garrett E. Brown, Jr., and I am the Deputy Maritime Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation. I am pleased to appear this afternoon to present the views of the Department of Transportation with respect to the seven bills that are the subject of this hearing.

These bills would grant or restore coastwise trading and fisheries privileges to the following vessels:

a. H.R. 485 would extend privileges to the vessel HOLLAND. The HOLLAND, Official Number 636433 (not 637433 as in the bill), is a 133 foot vessel of 293 gross tons that was constructed in the Netherlands in 1964, and currently owned by Holland Associates, a Virginia limited partnership consisting of FASS/HOLLAND, INC. and Fisheries Development Corporation.

b. Both H.R. 735 and H.R. 743 pertain to the JANE E. and DIANE M. The JANE E. (Official Number 315924) and DIANE M. (Official Number 315925) are medium size oceangoing tugs that were

constructed in the United States for the Diamond Manufacturing Co. of Savannah, Georgia, in 1961. Both are of steel construction, 85 feet in length, with a net tonnage of 133 tons. These vessels lost coastwise privileges when they were placed under Bahamian registry. They were purchased in February of 1984 by Maritec Marine of Jacksonville, Florida, for use as tow boats.

c. H.R. 739 would extend privileges to the vessel MARILYN. The MARILYN is a 42 foot schooner that was constructed in Nova Scotia in 1935. Substantial rebuilding was performed at Logan's Marine Service, Crisfield, Maryland.

d. H.R. 2638 would extend privileges to the ROYAL STAR. The ROYAL STAR is a 25-year old, U.S. built, 35-foot Chris Craft, which the owner plans to employ as a charter fishing vessel on Lake Michigan. The owner of the ROYAL STAR is unable to provide evidence of an unbroken chain of United States ownership of the vessel. Evidence of transfer of title from the first to second, and the second to third owners is not available. Two of those individuals are deceased.

e. H.R. 3097 would extend privileges to the ALASKAN SHORES. The vessel was built in Ambridge, Pennsylvania in 1945 and was subsequently sold to a noncitizen and/or placed under foreign registry. The vessel is 428 gross tons and measures 125 feet in length.

Finally, H.R. (to be introduced) pertains to the SHEARWATER. The SHEARWATER (Official Number 260827) was constructed in Seattle, Washington in 1942 as a Navy ferry boat. It is 58 gross tons and 62.1 feet in length. It was removed from documentation on March 18, 1976, and possibly sold to a non-citizen and/or placed under foreign registry.

Mr. Chairman. The Department of Transportation is unable to support these bills. As you know, since the founding of the Republic, coastwise trading and fisheries restrictions have been enacted to protect and foster the U.S. maritime industry. Absent some compelling reason, we oppose any relaxation of this longstanding policy. At the present time, we are unaware of any such reason with respect to any of these vessels. As far as we can determine, these bills would bestow certain economic benefits on the owners of the specified vessels without a concomitant benefit to the U.S. maritime industry.