

# Polish Trawler Wins a Point

By Drew McKillips

A federal judge yesterday ordered the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Modoc and its crew not to leave San Francisco until representatives from a seized Polish fishing trawler inspect the cutter's radar, log books and charts.

The trawler was seized off of Monterey on Saturday.

At a special hearing before U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peckham yesterday, attorney Lester Clark charged that the Modoc was about to leave for Coos Bay, Ore., where it was going to "trade in its present radar equipment for new radar."

U.S. Attorney James L. Browning Jr. conceded this was true but said it was a standard procedure. He later told reporters the Modoc's radar had been calibrated at Yerba Buena Island only yesterday and found to be in good working order.

In his order yesterday, Peckham said no repairs could be made to equipment on the Modoc or changes made in the ship's log books or records until after the inspection.

The accuracy of the radar on both the Modoc and the Kalmar took on added importance yesterday.

The Kalmar's captain, Stanislaus Szczepara, held an impromptu press conference in which he insisted he

never was closer than 12.5 nautical miles from the U.S. coastline.

The government claims the Kalmar was caught with its fishing nets down exactly 10.8 nautical miles from the shore — well inside the 12-mile limit set by an international fishing treaty.

Szczepara spoke through an interpreter — attorney Alexander Karst, who was born in Poland.

Asked if he had ever been in trouble before, Szczepara vigorously shook his head and took his two index fingers and crossed them back and forth, as though rubbing two sticks of wood together

Translating, Karst said: "I have never been in trouble before, never a collision, not even a scrape."

At the hearing before Peckham, Clark said he would ask the U.S. government for permission to have the Kalmar's sister ship, the Mors, come into port in San Francisco.

Clark said the Mors was near the Kalmar and its officers could testify that the Kalmar was outside the 12-mile limit when seized.

Peckham set a tentative trial date of June 6, at which time testimony would be taken on whether or not the Kalmar violated the coastal limits.