

ADF&G: Fred Gaffney

Good morning, I believe there is a table in Section E-1 which is accumulative groundfish catch for this first quarter of the year. I'd like to start with groundfish first. Since about April 17, there has been no groundfish actually purchased in Kodiak. There were 3 or 4 vessels primarily fishing in Shelikof straits area delivering and they are probably out of business until another market can be found. There is some Pacific cod being processed in another cannery, it's a smaller operation. I believe in Mr. Chitwood's report he will be talking about the joint venture operations, they are adding another processing vessel so there will be 2, one in the Bering Sea and one in Kodiak, near Shelikof Straits area. Information in various publications such as the Pacific Fishing magazine, they are still talking about 7 vessels starting salting operation.

on codfish, either in the Bering Sea or Gulf of Alaska. We still don't have any information on that. There's a rumor going around and I mentioned that last time and I hope to follow that up.

Lokken: Domestic or

Gaffney: Again, I'm not sure on that.

Tillion: I do know that it's being considered by a number of vessels, one came thru Juneau the other day with the tubs and salt, ice in the hold and everything and was heading up to, that's strictly domestic, yeah,

Jensen: There were two, the Torjenskold and the ? up to Aleutians.

Tillion: Yeah ~~that should be the area~~ the Shumagin area, and start from there west I believe and ah one of the Van C's crew has gone on his own and came thru with a small boat and was gonna try it alone.

Lokken; This is something that's going to be used in conjunction with the Halibut opening date. as I understand it. There's a month between the first and the second opening which will be used for this purpose as well I think its a combination.

Tillion: Yes, one of them was going to go up and fish crab bait for one of the canneries and until he got that stock filled One of the m was going to into the halibut season and at the end of that had his tubs and stuff and was going to the canneries and pick them up, start salting cod in tubs, not?... liquid.

Gaffney: IN southeastern, the sablefish prices have gone down again. Last year large dressed sablefish were selling as high as 90¢ a pound. For a while it was around 45¢ a pound it's dropped to 35¢ a pound. For the first quarter of the reporting year, that the sablefish catches are up some 12 times what they were last year. It's quite deceiving. there's only some 300 and some odd thousand pounds that have been landed this year. but there's some 208 vessels that participated in sablefish last year.

Right now we only have 12 vessels that have participated in the fishery

major groundfish in Kodiak area w/ description of small canneries
TV - 1/15/85
1/35



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so far this year and there's around 8 vessels that are currently fishing.

Quite a bit of new gear was bought in preparation for the season this year and it's still a little early to tell that if the market conditions don't improve or what's going to happen as far as obtaining the optimum yield which we indicated in the last report that it appeared that the OY would probably be taken this year for SE and Yakutat sablefish. There are marketing considerations such as sablefish that are being taken off Oregon right now. Should have more info on that in subsequent reports.

There's still a small inshore rockfish fishery going on off Sitka. This is for a jig fishery. There's some 60 to 80 thousand pounds have been taken from that area. Just a couple of vessels involved in that one.

Pollock fishery is over for the year. Only one vessel was actually harvesting pollock this year compared to 3 last year although the overall catch was similar to last year's level. In

In our shellfish fisheries, in the western region, catches thru April 13 in the Kodiak area primarily most of the area's closed. We reported last time there were several emergency field orders that were issued closing various portions of the fishery. ~~To date we have a rather~~ April 18, we have 18 1/2 mil pound tanner crabs that have been taken. There's still a couple small outlying ~~Along~~ areas that are open. The season's total will probably be around 20 mil pounds for the Kodiak area. South peninsula is still fishing, 5.6 mil lbs.

have been taken. Chignik 2.8, the eastern and western Aleutians, less than a mil pounds each. In the Bering Sea our bairdi catch is 2.9 mil pds. opilio 5.8 mil lbs., in the Pribilof/Bering sea catch excuse me. The Pribilof bairdi catch is less than half a mil pounds and the opilio catch in the Pribilof islands is zero to date. As you are probably aware there was a 2 week strike on the price of opilio out in Dutch Harbor. This was settled April 11, at 21¢ a pound. This is still below they were receiving for that crab last year. The CPUE information we got the most recent is quite variable because of the long soaks due to the 2 week strike. so it will probably be towards the end of the month before we get somewhat a true picture of what the CPUE will be. in this fish or what it is presently.

Last year with the price of ^{opilio} bairdi at 30¢ a pound and at the conclusion of the bairdi season, the opilio season continued for another 3 weeks before it became either unprofitable or undesirable to continue fishing. The bairdi season this year will probably close somewhere around the middle of May. if the same trend is true, the fishery will probably last another 3 weeks for the opilio fishery for either the vessels stop fishing of lack of interest or marketing conditions. so ah probably some time in June, the fishery will probably stop for opilio unless there's a price improvement.

Cook Inlet, closes by regulation April 30 ^{5th} the catch right now is 3.8 mil lbs. got around 15 vessels still fishing in the fishery. PWS closes May 31st, they got a guideline harvest level of 3.7 mil lbs. they've taken about 4 mil pds. to date. and they probably will not reach their 7 million pound ^{harvest level} level of the harvest guidelines. In Yakutat, many of you are aware that the this tanner crab fishery off Yakutat closed by emergency order effective April 15, It was based on a projection that the upper end of the guideline harvest level of 3 mil pods would be achieved at that date. Several of the large vessels that were participating in that fishery were ~~hindering~~ ^{tendering} herring

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they suffered lost fishing time due to that unloading of herring etc. A reevaluation of the catch rates that indicated that probably would not remain der would not be taken by the the 3 mil pounds would not be taken by the 15th so the season was extended to 20th and closed at that time.

In BB Herring, the ice is pretty much gone, the weather is still poor. the latest report we have is 4 processors on location with approx. 20 vessels. There s been no fishing yet and there is no herring , Our spotter aircraft^s the Dept. has and other craft^s out there have not located any herring.

We're still looking at probably one or two weeks before we have a herring fishery begin out there. As a sideline, some of the estimates of the 1980 season as far as the number of vessels participating and the amount of effort hthat we anticipate is there will be somewhere around 30 companies that will probably participate, they've indicated an interest in that fishery up there. 86 tenders, 29 processing ships, in excess of 600 gillnetters and excess of 100 purse seiners, approx 38 aircraft, 14 tramp vessels, foreign vessels, and with that figures around 9,000 short tones per day estimated season capacity around 40,000 short tons. Of course these are all estimates. they're faily reliable as to we did the same thing last year and ah of course ah the ah estimated processing capacity was was not achieved last year because ah of ah poo weather and the herring arriving earlier than anticipated and fleet missing a good portion of the early run herring. This concludes the majority of my report, Mr. Chairman.

Lokken; what's the length of the^xime of the season after the seaoon starts there on herring roughly? 2 weeks, 3 weeks,

Gaffney: Um, I don't know, it lasted I think about 3 weeks something along that line and the fishery proceeds northward and it goes on into the summer months.

It's dependent a great deal on the fish , so it's pretty hard to predict
Tillion: Not/a/great deal of the fish

Gaffney Ta=hat's correct.

Bevan Fred would it be possible to give us a table ..dot? of Aleutian and Bering Sea landings but of Bering Sea/Aleutian domestic catches.

Gaffney: Bering Sea and Aleutian domestic catches. for tanner crab.
Bevan: For all of the groundfish species, you have listed in your table.

Gaffney: OK there are no domestic catches other than the j^v operations.
Bevan: I'm saying including those so that you'd have a total domestic catch, right now as I understand your report and the report that's following of NMFS, we have a very incoplete picture of catch by species in Bering SEa Major component is mising. Wouldn't oyou be able to add that to your domestic figures landings and have a composite domestic catch figure.

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Gaffney: In theory we should be able to do that in actual practice we have not. done that to date. and Chitwood could can speak to that issue. We don't get those figures partly because of confidentiality, I'm skating on thin ice here, perhaps Mr.

Bevan: You don't have the figures.

Gaffney: Correct, I do not have them.

Bevan: The Council doesn't have them and our total report as of you might say a misleading picture of what's going on in the Bering Sea.

Gaffney: The figures that I'm presenting you are for domestic processors

Bevan: Oh I understand. I'm talking about domestic catches, which seems to me is important. We can come to it when Mr. Chitwood makes his report.

Gaffney: We recognize this as a problem, we're working on it right now.

Bevan: You do not have the figures.

Gaffney: I do not have the figures, that's right.

Tillion: Further questions?

Duina: ~~Donato~~ Fred would you just go thru those statistics on that herring fishery again, starting with the 30 companies, the estimates, just run those by again, please.

Gaffney: OK, we're looking I'll give you the figures that I have. 31 companies. 86 tenders, 29 processing ships, and 14 tramp vessels (these are foreign packer vessels) we have 639 gillnetters that we could identify, 117 purse seiners 38 aircraft.

Duina: Thank you.

: Is anybody worrying about a traffic management plan

Tillion: Yes, you can believe it or not we've had a couple of mid air collisions.

Duina: I'm concerned.

Gaffney: As I understand the FAA had meetings on this and there were some conclusions from that meeting, certain distances, ah having extra passengers you know actual spotters rather than just a single individual on aircraft. Monitoring the same frequency and so on and so forth. Ah not only traffic from the air, there's a considerable congestion problem on the water and and there has been discussions between the Dept. and the Coast Guard concerning some of these problems as well.

Duina: Who have you talked to?

Gaffney: I believe Commander BUsick and was talking with our Deputy Director Ken Parke

Branson: Fred I understand from talking to ADF&G mgmt biologistst in the Yakutat area at the last meeting, the incidental catch of halibut in the tanner crab fishery off Yakutat was perhaps quite large, for at least part of that fishery.

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Do you have any information on that/

Gaffney: No we're trying to follow that up, As you are aware the Dept does not have an active dockside sampling program for the shellfish fisheries in Yakutat. We do have sampling in Cordova. A lot of the catch did go to Cordova. Some of the information that you are talking about came from interviews with the different crews that there were halibut being taken. As ou are ware, halibut are tkaen in cra b pots thooht out its the fishery in Alaska. It's a continually problem. In Yakutat, thi s is one of the areas where the largst

concentration of halibut occurs, so naturally, there is a problem that would be particular problem in that area. We do not have any hard data on that Right now there's a fe w observations , some allegations and so froth, we're trying to check this out.

Branson: Mr. Chairman, this leads into a matter that I'd like to bring before the Council at this time. really for informational purposes. I was called last week by Don McCaughren, the Director for IPHC who asked if the Council would be interested in working with them on a research program that would try and pin down the incidental catch of halibut in crab pots and if possible determine whether or not some types of crab pots caught more halibut than others. In other words, were the conical pots for instance might be much more effective in a tanner crab fishery ~~and~~ they took frewer halibut and perhaps as many tanner crab. I assured him I thought the Council would be very interested in such a research program. But whether they would be intersted enought to comit any money to it, would depend on what sort of research program IPHC came up with and what money was available, of course. So I would suspect that we should have something like that before us from that public commission in the near future.

Tillion; Very good, I appreciate your' opening the question
I'm sure your correct in advising him we are intersted

Mace: Fred, we've gone thru 5 months of the fishing year here . On a composite for all these fisheries, how much would you anticipate should be taken of the total DAH in that 5 month period. Would it be 10-20,30 percent? during the winter months, what would be your estimate.

Gaffney: Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid I'm not prepared really to project what that's going to be . I'l l try to go to the area biologists

Mase: The point I'm making, Fred, is that they've taken about 2,000 tons out of just a rough estimate about 45 thousand which is less than 5 the DAH that was allocated in a 5 monthsl period. and it doesn't seem to be very good performance in respect to the domestic fishery. You pointed out you had some market problems, but in your judgment, it's prett low isn't it.

Gaffney: This goes back to the point that Dr. Bevan raised about having the JV operations, their catches included in this it would be a more meaningful number. and ah procedurally, I can understand your confusion but I can't answer your questions

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Meacham; Of course the weather factor has been very serious when one looks at the record over here on the monthly basis, like November, December, and January it starts increasing in February, March, and I think you'll see that increase on but during the weather months, it's virtually impossible for our side size commercial vessels to cope with the weather and I think you'll see that increase I'm that's part of the answer, I'm not saying it's a full part. or full answer.

Tillion: Any further questions?
Thank you very much.

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GROUND FISH
GULF OF ALASKA
1980 CUMULATIVE DOMESTIC LANDINGS

Reporting Period: Nov. 1979 - Oct. 1980
Landings Thru March 31, 1980

Species	DAH	Landings	
		Metric Tons	Pounds
Pollock	(21,310 mt)	842.6	1,857,000
Flounder	(3,180 mt)	394.0	868,000
Cod	(10,000 mt)	188.8	416,000
Pacific Ocean Perch Rockfish	(3,815 mt)	31.4	69,000
Sablefish	(6,480 mt)	150.4	331,000 (1)
Rattail	(1,332 mt)	0	0
Atka Mackerel	(1,440 mt)	0	0
Squid	(150 mt)	0	0
Idiot Rockfish	(6 mt)	0	0
Other	(1,560 mt)	30.6	67,000
Unspecified		453.1	999,000
TOTAL		2,090.9	4,608,000

(1) Dressed Weight

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau, Alaska 99801
18 April 1980

GROUND FISH
BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
1980 CUMULATIVE DOMESTIC LANDINGS

Reporting Period: Jan. 1980 - Dec. 1980
Landings Thru March 31, 1980

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Landings</u>	<u>Metric Tons</u>
Pacific Cod	3,260,000		1,479.1
Yellowfin Sole	0		0
Other Flounders	80,000		36.3
Pollock	195,000		88.7
Pacific Ocean Perch	0		0
Sablefish	0		0
Other	0		0
Unspecified	30,000		13.8
Total	3,565,000		1,617.9

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - EASTERN
 DOMESTIC LANDINGS - Nov. 1978 thru OCT. 1980
 METRIC TONS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 2,215	0	0	1.6	249.6	172.6								423.8
Cod DAH= 2,070	1.6	0.6	T	6.6	32.7								41.5
Flounder DAH= 1,360	44.8	49.3	50.6	0.1	0.3								145.1
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 1,315													
Other Rockfish DAH= 575	6.5	2.8	1.3	7.3	10.6								28.5
Sablefish DAH= 4,990	26.5	7.1	19.1	49.5	34.3								136.5
Atka Mackerel DAH=70	0	0	0	0	0								0
Squid DAH= 60	0	0	0	0	0								0
Rattails DAH= 1,266	0	0	0	0	0								0
Other DAH= 540	0.4	0.5	0.4	2.2	3.4								6.9
Unspecified	25.4	30.9	4.9	51.2	37.8								150.2
Total	105.2	91.2	77.9	366.5	291.7								932.5

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 18 April 1980

GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - CENTRAL
 DOMESTIC LANDINGS - NOV. 1979 thru OCT. 1980
 METRIC TONS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 13,320	10.4	3.2	121.7	88.9	194.6								418.8
Cod DAH= 6,050	6.1	2.5	87.7	57.8	198.4								352.5
Flounder DAH= 1,120	2.5	5.1	3.7	16.5	15.9								43.7
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 1,225													
Other Rockfish DAH= 250	0	0	0	2.9	0								2.9
Sablefish DAH= 1,220	0	0.2	0.3	7.1	6.3								13.9
Atka Mackerel DAH= 1,080	0	0	0	0	0								0
Squid DAH= 60	0	0	0	0	0								0
Rattails DAH= 33	0	0	0	0	0								0
Other DAH= 620	4.9	10.5	3.3	2.1	2.9								23.7
Unspecified	0.7	0	102.8	128.5	70.9								302.9
Total	24.6	21.5	319.5	303.8	489.0								1,158.4

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GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH - WESTERN
 DOMESTIC LANDINGS - NOV 1979 thru OCT. 1980
 METRIC TONS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Catch To Date
Pollock DAH= 5,775	0	0	0	0	0								0
Cod DAH= 1,880	0	0	0	0	0								0
Flounder DAH= 700	0	0	0	0	0								0
Pacific Ocean Perch DAH= 345	0	0	0	0	0								0
Other Rockfish DAH= 75	0	0	0	0	0								0
Sablefish DAH= 270	0	0	0	0	0								0
Atka Mackerel DAH= 290	0	0	0	0	0								0
Squid DAH= 30	0	0	0	0	0								0
Rattails DAH= 33	0	0	0	0	0								0
Other DAH= 400	0	0	0	0	0								0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	0								0
Total	0	0	0	0	0								0

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