



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME APRIL 1999
REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

Fisheries managed under delegated authority of the State of Alaska since the last council meeting include crab, salmon, Southeast demersal shelf rockfish, and state waters Pacific cod.

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES: Since February 1 the Bering Sea snow crab fishery closed on March 22 at noon. Open access

GHL was 186.2 million, the fleet harvested 184 million. A total of 241 vessels participated during the season. 236 vessels participated at the start of the fishery; an additional 5 vessels crossed over after pollock closed. The total landings from the eastern area was 135.9 million and 47.8 million pounds from the western area. Overall fishery CPUE was approximately 115 crab per pot for the season, a reduction from the record high CPUE of 200 in 1998. Price was \$.95/pound making the fishery worth about 174.6 million dollars. Currently, just over 20 vessels are fishing in the Bering Sea CDQ snow crab fishery for the six groups. Their allocation (5% of the total harvest) is 9.7 million pounds. We are requiring only one observer per group this year, down from 100% observer coverage last year. We will see how successful we are at getting those observers moved around the fleet. If not successful, we will go back to 100% coverage.

Three vessels now fishing in the Aleutian Islands golden crab fishery in the open area (west of 174° W. Long.). We also have 2-3 vessels fishing the special permit golden crab fishery in the Bering Sea. This is a commissioner's permit fishery, and at this time king crab pot limits apply.

SALMON TROLL FISHERY: The Southeast-Alaska winter troll fishery was conducted from October 11, 1998 through April 14, 1999, and harvested a projected 30,000 chinook salmon. Since January 1, the projected catch is about 15,000 fish (13,650 treaty fish+ 1,350 Alaska hatchery fish) on 1,500 landings.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH AND OTHER GROUND FISH FISHERIES: Southeast Alaska Demersal Shelf Rockfish and other Groundfish Fisheries: The winter directed DSR fishery (January 1-March 15) landed 435,865 pounds (round weight) of the 474,075 pound quota for the Southeast District in 1999. Between January 1 and April 16, 1999 a total of 93,506 pounds (round weight) of lingcod, 417,623 and 4,032 pounds of black rockfish, of 2,119 pounds of pelagic

rockfish, 417,623 pounds of Pacific cod, and 26,975 pounds of other rockfish were landed in the Southeast District.

STATE WATERS PACIFIC COD FISHERY: The South Alaska Peninsula Area opened at noon on March 15, seven days after the closure of the Western Gulf of Alaska. The Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Kodiak areas opened at noon on March 21, 1999, seven days after the federal closure of the Central Gulf of Alaska. The Chignik area opened on April 15 by regulation. The following is an inseason update through April 11, 1999.

Prince William Sound The Prince William Sound Area GHL is 0.930 million pounds which is 25% of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of cod. The state waters fishery opened at noon March 21 and the harvest, taken entirely by pot gear, is confidential due to the low number of participants.

Cook Inlet The Cook Inlet Area GHL is 2.6 million pounds which is 2.25% of the Central Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of cod. The state waters fishery opened at noon March 21 and harvest through April 11, is 612,917 pounds of which 11,594 pounds were taken by 5 jig vessels and 601,323 pounds by 13 pot vessels. Fishing with pot gear will close by regulation from 12:00 noon May 1 through June 14. The jig fishery will remain open until the allocation is taken.

Kodiak The Kodiak Area GHL is 11.7 million pounds which is 10% of the Central Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of cod. The guideline is split equally between pot and jig gear. The fishery opened on March 21, and the harvest to date is 2,518,192 pounds. Fifty four pot vessels and 41 jig vessels are registered. Jig harvest has been minimal.

Chignik The Chignik area GHL is 8.2 million pounds which is 7% of the Central Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of cod. Twenty three pot vessels are registered. The season opened April 15.

South Alaska Peninsula The South Alaska Peninsula Area GHL is 13.0 million pounds which is 20% of the Western Gulf of Alaska total allowable harvest of cod. The South Alaska Peninsula Area closed on April 11, 1999 to pot gear. Fifty three pot vessels and 6 jig vessels are registered. Through April 11, 10.4 million pounds were landed mainly from pot gear. Jig harvest has been minimal.