



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

JUNE 21, 1993

Fisheries managed under delegated authority to the State of Alaska since the last council meeting include crab, salmon and demersal rock fish.

BERING SEA TANNER CRAB FISHERIES: The Bering Sea C. bairdi fishery closed on March 31 by regulation with a total harvest of 35.1 million pounds and was valued at over \$55.6 million to the fleet. The C. opilio season closed March 15 with a total harvest of 230.8 million pounds valued at over \$149.0 million to the fleet. A total of 294 vessels participated in these fisheries during the 1992/93 season.

ALEUTIAN ISLAND KING CRAB FISHERY: Since the closure of the Bering Sea Tanner crab fisheries, small effort, 16 vessels have entered the Adak brown king crab fishery. To date, 3.4 million pounds have been harvested, compared to a total harvest of 6.3 million pounds taken during the 1991/92 fishery. This fishery is expected to produce approximately 5 million pounds and should continue until closed by regulation on August 15.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON FISHERIES: The 1993 season began on October 11, 1992. The winter catch was 62,126 including 3,834 chinook salmon from Alaskan hatcheries.

Chinook salmon experimental and terminal fisheries began in late May. Approximately 5,500 fish have been taken through June 11. These fisheries will be managed not to exceed approximately 10,000 treaty chinook salmon through June 29.

Since there was no agreement under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Alaska will manage for a ceiling of 263,000 treaty chinook salmon. A Biological Opinion (BO) has been issued by NMFS for the 1993 season. The BO was necessary to assure that the Southeast Alaska fisheries reduce their impact on Snake River Fall Chinook (SRFC) by 5% from a 1986-1990 base period. The BO requires that Alaska eliminate the June Hatchery Access fishery for 1993, and that following the summer chinook fishery, a 5 day closure take place. The purpose of elimination of the June Hatchery Access fishery is to move 25,000 chinook that would normally be taken during June into the summer fishery. This will extend the length of the summer

season and consequently reduce the number of chinook non-retention days. Following the 5 day closure, the fishery will be managed for coho salmon. If any chinook salmon remain to be taken following the initial opening, it will take place following any coho closure.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEMERSAL SHELF ROCK FISH FISHERY: The remaining portion of the East Yakutat District was closed on May 14 to directed fishing for demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) when the projected seasonal fishing allocation was reached.

Emergency Orders changed the state directed fishing standards (DFS) for rockfish to be consistent to the Federal DFS in the offshore areas of the Eastern Gulf, and closed the territorial waters of the Eastern Gulf to longlining for all species except DSR, consistent with the halibut PSC closure in the adjacent EEZ. The territorial waters of the state's outside districts were opened and closed to sablefish fishing concurrent to the seasons in the adjacent EEZ.

The Southeast Outside Districts demersal shelf rockfish fishery (DSR) was reopened for 24 hours concurrent with the halibut opening, to allow full retention of DSR taken incidental to the halibut fishery. This action was necessary since the Federal DFS restricts bycatch of DSR to less than 10% when the directed DSR fishery is closed.

By regulation, the lingcod fishery reopened inside the surfline on June 1. The area off Sitka Sound and Druzoff Island remains closed to directed fishing. Approximately 3/5 of the annual lingcod quota has been taken in the Southeast District, and the department is evaluating catch data to determine if additional closures are needed in the areas of concentrated effort.

The annual sablefish stock assessment survey was completed in the Southern Southeast Inside Subdistrict. The sablefish season has been set for 57 hours beginning at noon June 25 and ending at 9:00 p.m. June 27.