



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REPORT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

December 11, 1996

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

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS KING AND TANNER CRAB FISHERIES: After being closed for two years, the Bristol Bay red king crab fishery opened on November 1 with a preseason GHJ of 5 million pounds. A total of 196 vessels, 96 less than the 1993 fishery, participated in the 4 day fishery, harvesting 8.1 million pounds worth \$36 million to the fleet. Approximately 1 million pounds of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab were taken as bycatch during the red crab fishery, with the directed fishery opening 10 days after the closure of the red king crab season. The preseason GHJ for *C. bairdi* was 6.2 million pounds, but only 1 million pounds was harvested by 146 vessels during the directed fishery before being closed November 27 due to poor inseason performance. The 1996 Tanner crab harvest of approximately 2 million pounds had an ex-vessel value of \$4.5 million to the fleet. The 1995 *C. bairdi* fishery harvested 4.2 million pounds valued at \$11.7 million.

The snow crab (*C. opilio*) fishery is scheduled to open January 15, 1997 with a preseason GHJ of 117 million pounds. A total of 64.6 million pounds was harvested during the 1996 season, valued at \$86 million.

STATEWIDE SCALLOP FISHERY: To date, approximately 733,000 pounds of shucked meats have been harvested in the statewide scallop fishery, of which 61,400 pounds came from the state waters only fishery that opened in January of this year. A total of 9 vessels have participated in the 1996 fisheries. Only 2 sections in the Kodiak Area, and the Dutch Harbor and the Bering Sea Areas remain open to scallop fishing for the 1996 season. The remainder of the state areas are closed due to either crab bycatch or achievement of preseason GHJ's. The 1997 Yakutat and Prince William Sound fisheries will open on January 10, 1997.

SALMON TROLL FISHERY: Over 3.3 million salmon were harvested during the 1996 Alaska troll fishery. The catch included 141,000 Chinook, 1.9 million coho, 813,000 pinks, 406,000 chum, and 11,000 sockeye landed by 739 power troll and 414 hand troll permit holders. The total summer troll fishing effort was the lowest since 1981.

The preliminary estimated Alaskan hatchery contribution of Chinook salmon to the troll fishery was 37,750 (27%) fish. A total of 439,000 Alaska hatchery coho were harvested by the troll fleet, amounting to 23% of the total coho troll catch.

The winter troll fishery opened on October 11, 1996, and through November 26 the Chinook harvest totaled 12,000 fish.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEMERSAL SHELF ROCKFISH SABLE AND LINGCOD FISHERIES: The directed DSR fishery reopened November 16, and to date 41 metric tons has been landed from the Southeast Outside area, but most of the fishing effort and production is in the Central Southeast Outside (CESO) area.

The Chatham Strait limited entry sablefish fishery ended on November 8 with a total harvest of 2.95 million dressed pounds

The directed lingcod fishery closed in state waters on December 1. Since October 1, 30,000 pounds has been landed by 19 vessels, primarily from the CSEO area.

STATE WATERS GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT: Alaska Board of Fisheries action on regulations regarding the state's management of state waters groundfish fisheries will be discussed under Item D-1(a). Included under this agenda item is a summary of these actions.